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FIRST PHASE OF LS POLLS: WILL MODI-YOGI POPULARITY OVERRIDE CASTE EQUATIONS IN UP? - PAGE - 9

Lalu Yadav and Tejashwi to join Ulgulan Nyay Rally in Ranchi

Mail News Service

Ranchi, April 18: Ranchi is gearing up for the Ulgulan Nyay rally organized by the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha, with leaders from the India Alliance expected to attend. Among them, RJD national president Lalu Yadav and former Deputy Chief Minister Tejashwi Yadav will participate, as confirmed by RJD leader Ranjan Kumar Yadav. Scheduled for April 21st at Prabhat Tara Ground, Dhurva, Ranchi, the rally aims to address various issues, drawing support from opposition leaders across the country. Preparations for the rally kick off today, with Ranchi

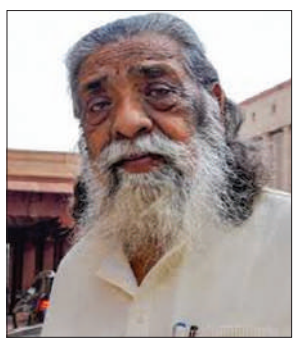


set to be adorned with posters and banners promoting the event. JMM plans to display banners and hoardings from Ranchi Airport to key locations like Morhabadi, Ratu Road, Harmu Road, Kokar, and Lalpur, featuring leaders like Shibu Soren, Hemant Soren, Kalpana Soren, Champai Soren, and other notable figures. Additionally, images of Jharkhand's brave martyrs and leaders of the India Alliance will be showcased. All eyes will be on Kalpana Murmu Soren during the rally, observing her reception of senior alliance leaders and her stance on pertinent issues, including Hemant Soren's arrest. Kalpana has previously voiced strong opinions against the Soren government and the BJP in Mumbai and Delhi, accusing the central government of dictatorship and advocating for change. Her speeches, invoking the name of Shri Ram and emphasizing qualities like mercy, compassion, tolerance, and patience, have garnered attention. Now, anticipation builds regarding her address in her stronghold of Jharkhand. (w/nkm)

Preparation in full swing for Ulgulan Nyay Rally on Apr 21

Mail News Service

Ranchi, April 18: Preparations for Ulgulan Nyay Maharally scheduled on April 21 in Ranchi will start from today. The entire capital will be covered with posters and banners regarding the rally. JMM will put up hoardings and posters in the entire city. Banners and hoardings regarding the rally will be put up from Ranchi Airport to Morhabadi, Ratu Road, Harmu Road, Kokar, Lalpur and all the major



intersections of the city.

The hoardings will have pictures of Shibu Soren, Hemant Soren, Kalpana Soren and Champai Soren. Along with this, photographs of immortal brave martyrs of Jharkhand state will also be put up. Pictures of all the leaders of INDIA bloc will also be displayed in many hoardings.

Earlier, in Mumbai and Delhi during INDIA bloc rallies, Kalpana Murmu Soren had accused the Central Government of dictatorship and appealed to the people for change.

Significantly, Jharkhand Mukti Morcha claimed that all opposition leaders will reach this rally.

PMLA court sends JMM leader and 3 others to 5-day remand

Mail News Service

Ranchi, April 18: The PMLA court has handed over the remand of four people, including JMM leader Antu Tirkey, arrested in the land scam case related to former Chief Minister Hemant Soren to the ED.

The court has given five days' remand to ED. ED had demanded remand of seven days from the court but the court gave remand of only five days.

On Tuesday morning the places of these people were raided in Bariatu and Kokar. ED again took them with them where the accused were arrested on Tuesday night.

These people are accused of illegally selling 1.16 acres of Badagai's 8.86 acres of land to non-tribals.

Fake documents were prepared to sell the land which was executed by the Saddam-Afsar gang. Irshad Akhtar used to give fake documents to the fraudster gang from the registry office of Calcutta. It is alleged that Antu Tirkey had taken money from Saddam in this purchase and sale of land. In this land scam case, ED had arrested all the accused including JMM leader Antu Tirkey and presented them before the court. The court again sent him to jail till the next hearing. After which, today on Thursday, the court has sent all the accused on ED remand for five days.

ED attaches property in MNREGA scam

Mail News Service

Ranchi, April 18: Enforcement Directorate (ED) has taken major action in the MNREGA scam case. The agency has temporarily attached four immovable properties worth Rs 22.47 lakh of Shashi Prakash and Jai Kishore Choudhary (both executive engineers) in the Jharkhand MNREGA scam case in Ranchi. The total attachment in this case is Rs. 106.86 crores.

Incidentally, during ED probe, it had come to light that fake purchases were made in all the districts of the state in the name of MNREGA schemes. Many materials were purchased at very high rates. There are speculations about the involvement of many senior officers in this scam.

The entire matter is related to MNREGA scam of Rs 18.06 crore in Khunti district of Jharkhand.

Under the provisions recorded in the PMLA Act, the premises related to all the engineers and the premises related to the then Deputy Commissioner of Khunti Pooja Singhal were searched. In this raid, ED then found Rs 19.58 crore in cash, which was confiscated by ED. Pooja Singhal, the then secretary of mines and geology department, arrested in the MNREGA scam in May 2022, remained in Birsa Munda Central Jail Hotwar, Ranchi for a few days after her arrest. She is undergoing treatment at RIMS under judicial custody.

SC reserves judgment on pleas for 100% EVM-VVPAT verification

SC asks if voters can get VVPAT slip, Poll Body flags big risk

New Delhi. April 18 (IANS): The Supreme Court on Thursday reserved its verdict on a batch of pleas seeking complete cross-verification of votes cast using EVMs with Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT).

A bench of Justices Sanjiv Khanna and Dipankar Datta reserved its verdict after hearing the response of Election Commission on the pleas.

The petitioners have also sought reversal of the poll panel's 2017 decision to replace the transparent glass on VVPAT machines with an opaque glass through which a voter can see the slip only when the light is on for seven seconds.

Senior advocate Maninder Singh, appearing for the Election Commission, explained the process of how an EVM functions. Advocate Prashant Bhushan and senior advocate Gopal Sankararanarayanan appeared for the petitioners. Other lawyers represented the intervenors.



Appearing for one of the petitioners, Advocate Nizam Pasha said a voter should be allowed to take the VVPAT slip after he votes and deposit it in a ballot box. When Justice Khanna asked if such a process won't affect the voter's privacy, Mr Pasha replied, "Voter privacy cannot be used to defeat voter's rights."

Advocate Prashant Bhushan then said that the light on the VVPAT machine should remain on at all times -- it now stays on for seven seconds. "One possible solution is if they can't change glass at this stage, at least the light should remain on at all times, so I can see the slip cutting and falling. No privacy will be compromised."

When the court asked if there was any software in the VVPAT printer, the poll body replied in the negative. "There is a 4 megabyte flash memory in every PAT which stores symbols. The returning officer prepares electronic ballot, which is loaded into the symbol loading unit. It will give a serial number, name of the candidate and symbol. Nothing is preloaded. It's not data, it's image format."

Reports of EVMs showing one extra vote during mock poll in Kasaragod in Kerala false: ECI to SC

New Delhi. April 18 (IANS): The Election Commission of India on Thursday informed the Supreme Court that allegations of Electronic Voting Machines (EVM) showing one extra vote during a mock poll in Kerala's Kasaragod were false. The top court was hearing a batch of pleas seeking complete cross-verification of votes cast using EVMs with Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT), an independent vote verification system which enables an elector to see whether his vote was cast correctly. "These news reports are false. We have verified the allegation from the district collector and it appears that they are false. We will submit a detailed report to the court," senior deputy election commissioner Nitesh Kumar Vyas told a bench of Justices Sanjiv Khanna and Dipankar Datta. Vyas was present in the courtroom to apprise the bench about the functioning of EVMs. Bhushan, who is appearing for petitioner NGO 'Association for Democratic Reforms', told the court that there were reports about EVMs showing one extra vote during a mock poll exercise.

Election fever grips nation, first phase of high-stakes Lok Sabha polls begins today

New Delhi. April 18 (IANS): The BJP is making its most audacious attempt to win more seats in the South with Prime Minister Narendra Modi extensively campaigning in the five Southern states. The primary focus has been Tamil Nadu which, the BJP feels, is a fertile ground for its politics in the future. The 39 Lok Sabha constituencies in Tamil Nadu will go to polls on Friday, in the first phase of polling.

In all, 102 seats spread over 21 states will go to polls on Friday, marking the beginning of the intensely fought polls. By the same evening, most of the parties will have a fair idea about which way the wind is blowing, allowing them to tweak their campaigns for the remaining six phases.

The contest is being framed as 'Modi ki Guarantee' versus promises made by the opposition, including the Congress, which has given its set of own guarantees. 'Modi ki Guarantee' seeks to scale up existing schemes, ensuring that they reach everyone. Other promises of the BJP include UCC and 'one nation, one election'. The Congress manifesto has 25 guarantees promising cash transfers, and increased wages.



The first phase will decide the future of some of the high-profile candidates, including Union ministers Nitin Gadkari and Bhupendra Yadav, Tamil Nadu BJP chief K. Annamalai, Nakul Nath, former Telangana governor Tamilisai Soundararajan, Sarbananda Sonowal, Sanjeev Balyan, Jitin Prasada, and Gaurav Gogoi.

Three major players-the BJP, SP, and the BSP-are vying for dominance in the politically important Uttar Pradesh. The seats that will go to polls in the state are Saharanpur, Moradabad, Kairana, Rampur, Bijnor Muzaffarnagar, Pilibhit and Nagina. These seats are spread across nine districts in the state. The BJP's tie-up with Jayant Chaudhary-led RLP will be tested in the region which has a lot of farmers and Jat voters.

In the 2019 polls, the UPA had won more seats than the NDA from the 102 constituencies that will go to polls on Friday. Among these 102 seats are all the seats in Tamil Nadu, Uttarakhand, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Puducherry, Mizoram, Sikkim, Nagaland and Lakshadweep.

Will JMM attack Sita Soren next: Babulal

Ranchi, April 18: Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) candidate from Dumka Lok Sabha seat, Nalin Soren, said that the attack against BJP candidate Geeta Koda is not surprising because if any opposition candidate speaks against JMM, he will have to face a similar situation. After this statement of Nalin Soren, BJP state president Babulal Marandi has has written on social media that "Sita Soren ji served the party as JMM MLA for almost one and a half decade. If she left the party in protest against the disrespectful treatment and conspiracy being meted out to her, will JMM launch a deadly attack on her? Babulal said that "This statement of a





senior leader like Nalin Soren also exposes the internal bloody mentality of JMM, in which deadly attacks can be carried out on those who oppose Hemant Soren. The death of Durga Soren ji is also similar to this bloody incident." Babulal Marandi, while replying to Nalin Soren on his statement, has said that "Whatever the reason, JMM's threat to attack women candidates of BJP shows their cowardice and defeat even before the elections," He also requested Election Commission and Jharkhand police to ensure that similar attack does not take place against Sita Soren. On Sunday, BJP candidate from Singhbhum Lok Sabha constituency Geeta Koda was surrounded by people with traditional weapons like bow, arrow, sword, sticks and sticks while campaigning at Mohanpur of Gamharia block in Seraikela.

Kejriwal eating food high in sugar despite type 2 diabetes to make grounds for bail, ED tells court

New Delhi. April 18 (IANS): Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, arrested in an excise scam case, is eating food high in sugar like mangoes and sweets every day despite having type 2 diabetes to create grounds for medical bail, the ED claimed before a court here on Thursday.



The Enforcement Directorate (ED) made the claim before special judge for CBI and ED cases, Kaveri Baweja, who directed the Tihar jail authorities to file a report in the matter, including Kejriwal's diet chart. Kejriwal has moved the court seeking permission to consult his regular doctor via video conference because of fluctuating sugar levels. The judge directed the authorities concerned to file the report by tomorrow, when the court is likely to take up the matter again. "Arvind Kejriwal is eating high sugar content food despite having type 2 diabetes. He is consuming 'aloo poori', mango, sweets, daily. This is being done to make grounds for medical bail," the ED told the court.

Grueling heat fails to suppress Ramnavami Akhara spirit

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, April 18: The sun beat down mercilessly on a grudging mankind with bouts of warm wind making things grimier and unbearable But life had to move on be it at a grunting pace But there are times and occasions when even failing spirits burst out from the shackles of weariness and give the world a festive colour The sapping summer conditions suddenly took a backseat as the sun dipped further west and by the time the heat had waned a wee bit, the Akhara drums started beating and the flags along with the crowds emerged.



Big and medium Akhara groups in disciplined processions set the tone of joy as the immersion fest gained momentum Spectators lined up along both sides of the routes Akhara teams displayed various exhibitions of stick wielding and mock fights; models dressed as various deities added colour to the growing excitement.

Several social and religious organizations had set up refreshment booths for procession participants and the general people from where sherbet, cold water and grams were served With the onset of evening, the crowds grew but there was no trace of any chaos The processions moved along set routes in clockwork precision The district and police administrations were always alert and it was their laudable acumen that prevented any traffic chaos or unruly conditions.

Processions passed along till late into the evening The crowds that had grown were witness to exciting exhibition in mock martial combats presented by members of the various participating Akhara units. The riverbanks along Kharkai, Sonari Swarnrekha-Kharkai confluence and Swarnrekha were also scenes of crowds where people watched the ritualistic immersion of the flags. The physical toll of Thursday's heat conditions did have its say but with the approach of the evening and the emerging excitement of the Ramnavami fervor, all the groans, grunts and curses were packed away for another day under the summer sun The Ramnavami pulse is such that all misgivings are banished People live the passing moments of the festive spirit spread by the passing Akharas. (w/gsd)

MLA prays for community welfare in Shri Hari Sankirtan



Mail News Service

Seraikela, April 18: The Shri Shri Hari Sankirtan Committee of Murup village in Seraikela block has been conducting a 24-hour Shri Shri Radha Govind Akhand Yugal Naam Yagya in the Hari temple premises. The Sankirtan, initiated on Tuesday by priests Devanand Das and Shravan Das, commenced with Gandhadhivas and progressed into Radha Govind Akhand Naam Yagya, continuing uninterrupted for twenty-four hours. The event is scheduled to conclude with Dhulaut on Saturday, April 20th. Various kirtan troupes from different regions, including West Bengal's Purulia and Medinipur, have been contributing to the Sankirtan. Notable attendees include MLA Dashrath Gagrai from the Kharsawan Assembly Constituency, who visited Shri Hari to pray for the well-being of the area's residents. JMM district vice president Sanjay Pradhan, along with other JMM leaders, local officials, and hundreds of Hari devotees from nearby villages, also participated in the event. During the Sankirtan, Prasad and other offerings were distributed among the devotees, and a Bhandara was organized. The successful organization of this religious ritual was made possible by the dedicated efforts of the Sankirtan Committee and the cooperation of the villagers. (w/nkm)

Union Minister Arjun Munda engages in Harinam Sankirtan

Mail News Service



Seraikela, April 18: Union Minister and local MP Arjun Munda actively participated in the Harinam Sankirtan organized in Supaisai and Padampur villages of Kharsawan block. Engaging with the Sankirtan groups, Arjun Munda circled Shri Radha Krishna while playing the Mridang. He offered prayers for the happiness, peace, and prosperity of the area, and interacted with the local people. Siddharth Honhaga, Khuntapani Block Chief and Central Organization Secretary of JBKSS, also joined the Hari Sankirtan in Bada Supaisai village. Sankirtan troupes from various regions of West Bengal participated in the event. Additionally, formal worship was conducted at the temple of Bajrangbali, followed by the distribution of Bhandara among devotees. District President Uday Singhdev, former MLA Mangal Singh Soy, MP representative Vijay Mahato, Dilip Pradhan, Dr. Pankaj Pradhan, Panchanand Pradhan, Sachindra Pradhan, and others were present during the occasion. (w/nkm)

Shyam Mitra Mandal serves refreshments during Ramnavami



Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, April 18: Socio religious organization Shri Shyam Mitra Mandal Mango, organized a service camp near Shyam Bhawan on Mango New Purulia Road on Thursday. Thousands of Shri Ram devotees participating in the Ramnavami Akhara immersion procession were served refreshments under the leadership of the organization's president, Mahavir Agarwal. Cold sherbet, water, and prasad of gram and jaggery were distributed among devotees.

Bhog and sherbet distributed



Jamshedpur, April 18: The Bajrang Seva Samiti organized a distribution of bhog and sherbet at the square of Kadma Bazar Main Road during the immersion procession. Thousands of devotees partook in the offerings. The event commenced with the garlanding and worship of the idol of Bajrang Bali. Sumit Mahapatra, Vikash Sahay, Arjun Singh, Preet Pal Singh, Pitu, Ramesh, Atish Mishra, Nayan Pandia, Raja Chaudhary, Chandan, Milap Singh, Rakesh, GD, and other committee members played pivotal roles in ensuring the success of the event. (w/nkm)

Traditional Maa Basanti Puja concludes in Tantoposi



Seraikela, April 18: The Sri Sri 108 Basanti Puja Committee in Tantoposi village concluded the traditional Maa Basanti Puja with Mahadashami celebrations on Thursday. Under the guidance of Organizing Committee Chairman Nirmal Acharya, Secretary Manas Acharya, Treasurer Hiralal Satapathy, and Abhishek Acharya, the Vratopanayan Sanskar was conducted, marking the Upanayana Sanskar of 10 children with Vedic mantras chanted by priests Sashithar Acharya, Gopal Satpati, and Neelkamal Tiwari.

Union Minister and local MP Arjun Munda paid his respects to Mother Goddess Mars and prayed for the well-being of all. Dozens of devotees participated in the puja, seeking blessings for themselves and their families. The festivities included the distribution of Prasad and the immersion of Kalash. The Maa Basanti Puja has been a revered tradition in Tantoposi village since 1984, attracting devotees from the village and surrounding rural areas who hold deep faith in the festivities. (w/nkm)

Voter awareness boosted through street plays

Seraikela, April 18: In preparation for the upcoming Lok Sabha elections of 2024, voter awareness initiatives are underway across the district. Recently, Chhavi Dramatic Art Society performed street plays in Kamargora of Chandil block, Lok Kala Manch in Gomiadih, and Chhota Segai under Kuchai block, aiming to inspire maximum voter turnout. Through engaging dramas, artists conveyed messages such as 'Behkave mein tum kabhi naa aana, soch samajhkar button dabana,' 'Chhodkar apne saare kaam, pehle chalo karein matdaan' and "Vote dena garv hai, janta ka yeh parv hai.' (w/nkm)

Congress Guarantee Card initiative introduced in Kharsawan

Mail News Service



Seraikela, April 18: Following the directives of Congress candidate Kalicharan Munda for the Khunti Lok Sabha seat, Congress members unveiled the Congress Guarantee Card in Kharsawan on Thursday. Led by Kharsawan Block President Kondo Kumbhkar, Congress leaders and workers came together to introduce the Congress Guarantee Card schemes to the public. The guarantee cards issued by the Congress Party encompass Youth Justice, Women Justice, Farmer Justice, Labor Justice, and Share Justice. Block President Kumbhkar emphasized that the Congress Party has issued the guarantee card with considerations for people from every section, highlighting the party's commitment to its promises. He emphasized that the upcoming election is a choice between Congress's guarantees and slogans of Modi. Mushahid Khan, Balbhadra Mahato, Shankar Lowada, Kanhaiyalal Samad, Saurav Tanti, Ramchandra Lohar, Budhraj Diggi, Ratho Kumhar, Rajaram Padeya, Arjun Bankira, Ishwar Banra, Shaukat Ali, Niranjan Das, Ashok Pradhan, and others were present during the occasion. (w/nkm)

Deenbandhu Trust facilitates dowry-free marriage for needy girl

Jamshedpur, April 18: The Deenbandhu Trust recently extended a helping hand to a poor family residing in Mango by assisting in their daughter's marriage, sans dowry. Officials from the organization visited the girl's home and provided ration supplies as part of the dowry-free marriage initiative. Uttam Chakraborty, the President of the organization, announced plans to launch an awareness campaign promoting the concept of ideal, dowry-free marriages across different areas of the city. The Trust also intends to recognize and honor individuals who opt for such marriages. Expressing concern over the extravagance often associated with weddings, including lavish decorations, elaborate feasts, and costly dowry items, Chakraborty likened these practices to a contagious disease. He emphasized the detrimental impact of such expenses, which can plunge families into debt or exhaust their life savings. Chakraborty urged for a shift away from ostentation, suggesting that redirecting funds towards the marriage of daughters from poor and middle-class families would be more meaningful. The Trust is committed to spreading awareness and advocating for dowry-free marriages, with key contributors including others (w/nkm)

Minister urges support for Joba Manjhi in Lok Sabha Elections

Mail News Service



Chaibasa, April 18: Minister cum in-charge Deepak Biruwa emphasized that the victory of India Alliance's Lok Sabha candidate, Joba Manjhi, in the upcoming elections would serve as a fitting tribute to Jharkhand's agitators and brave martyrs. He made these remarks during the inauguration ceremony of the election office in Jagannathpur under the Jagannathpur Assembly. Biruwa called for the liberation of Jharkhand from the BJP, asserting that the India Alliance is steadfastly committed to securing victory in the elections. He expressed confidence in their success and urged voters to cast their ballots in favor of Joba Manjhi. Candidate Joba Manjhi, present at the event, appealed to voters to support him in upholding their rights and the nation's Constitution. Mazgaon MLA Niral Purti, Chakradharpur MLA Sukhram Oraon, Congress MLA Sonaram Sinku, and other speakers echoed similar sentiments, rallying India Alliance officials and workers for the Lok Sabha elections. They highlighted concerns over the current political landscape, emphasizing the perceived threats to the Constitution and the rights of agitators, tribals, and indigenous communities. They underscored the need to liberate Jharkhand from the BJP and voiced confidence in the India Alliance's vision for the state's development. The inauguration of the Lok Sabha election office in Jagannathpur witnessed a warm reception for the candidate and guests, with enthusiastic participation from JMM supporters. The event also saw numerous youths joining JMM under the leadership of youth leader Raju Laguri. Notable attendees included JIP member Lakshmi Soren, JMM leader Bamiya Manjhi, agitator Jwala Koda, and several others. (w/nkm)

High-tech voter awareness vehicle launched



Chaibasa, April 18: In Chaibasa today, a cutting-edge vehicle boasting a TV screen, VR device, GPS, and loudspeaker was inaugurated by District Election Officer cum Deputy Commissioner Kuldeep Choudhary at the District Collectorate premises.

Joined by Deputy Development Commissioner Sandeep Kumar Meena, Sub-Divisional Officer Sadar Chaibasa Animesh Ranjan, Sub-Divisional Officer Chakradharpur Reena Hansda, and Assistant Collector Shruti Rajalakshmi, the officials donned VR devices to experience an election-related film. This innovative vehicle is set to traverse the 10 Singhbhum Lok Sabha constituencies, aiming to motivate voters for the polling day on May 13. Equipped with state-of-the-art technology including a TV screen, VR device, GPS, and loudspeaker, it will engage voters and encourage them to exercise their franchise. (w/nkm)

Licensees of Ram Navami Akhara honored

Mail News Service



Jamshedpur, April 18: In collaboration with the Azadnagar Police Station Peace Committee and the Human Welfare Trust, Ram Navami Akhara welcomed licensee Nitin Chandra of Trivedi Akhara and Tarun, as well as licensee Sanjay Mukherjee of Pardih Shramik Ekta Bajrang Akhara and their members. The camp, located near Pardih Chepapul, celebrated the occasion by presenting turbans and garlands to the honored individuals. The event was graced by Apoorva Pal of the Pardih Durga Puja Committee, President of the Human Welfare Trust Matinul Haq Ansari, and members including Syed Asif Akhtar and Sardar Gurcharan Singh. Also present were Mukhtar Alam Khan, Syed Alam, and other members of the Azadnagar Police Station Peace Committee, along with central Peace Committee member Dr. Nidhi Srivastava and others. The camp, facilitated by contributions from Partho Bose, Amarjeet Singh, Mohammad Ayub, and others, provided amenities such as gram, jaggery, sherbet, and mineral water for the devotees attending the Ram Navami Akhara. Additionally, a medical help desk was set up to ensure the safety and well-being of all participants and to prevent any untoward incidents. (w/nkm)

'Ram Navami embodies love, sacrifice, patience, dedication, and bravery'

Amarpreet Singh Kale leads festivities and service initiatives on Ram Navami

Mail News Service



Jamshedpur, April 18: The vibrant spirit of Ram Navami was on full display as various Akharas of the city organized a magnificent flag procession on Thursday. The event witnessed a massive turnout, with residents from across the city gathering to witness the grand spectacle of the flag immersion procession. The procession featured a plethora of entertaining and attractive religious programs, including captivating tableaux, displays of traditional weapons and games, and mesmerizing dance performances infused with devotional fervor. Acrobats from different Akharas showcased their skills, leaving the audience in awe with their amazing stunts. Amarpreet Singh Kale, the founder and former state spokesperson of Har Har Mahadev Seva Sangh, marked the occasion by inaugurating several service camps and distributing chana sarbat among the devotees. Kale's presence added to the auspiciousness of the event as he visited prominent religious institutions such as Shri Shri Hanuman Mandir Samiti New Market Telco, Shri Shri Veer Bajrangbali Mandir Bhuinyadih, and several others, extending greetings and best wishes to officials and committee members. The celebration saw active participation from various organizations, including Akhil Bhartiya Poorv Sainik Seva Parishad, Sarva Dharma Sah Sadbhavna Samiti, and Hauslon Ki Udaan Sharing Caring Helping, who contributed to the festivities by organizing service camps and providing assistance to the attendees.

Reflecting on the significance of Ram Navami, Amarpreet Singh Kale emphasized the profound cultural importance of Lord Ram, stating that his name illuminates the soul of the nation and fills both inner and outer realms with light. The event witnessed the presence of numerous individuals, including Akhilesh Pandey, Jugun Pandey, and others, who actively participated and contributed to the joyous atmosphere with their enthusiastic presence and support. (w/nkm)

AFFIDAVIT

Through an affidavit of 18.04.2024 from Notary Public, East Singhbhum, Jamshedpur, I, **SIMRAN SABHARWAL**, wife of Mr. Arush Sabharwal and daughter of Mr. Shiv Raj Gupta, at present resident of House No. 7A, Road No.11, Sai Temple, Circuit House Area, North East, P.O.: Bistupur, P.S.: Bistupur, District: East Singhbhum, Jamshedpur, Jharkhand, India-831001, declare that my maiden name **SIMRAN GUPTA** has been mentioned in my Passport bearing No. W2143170 and other documents. That I got married to Mr. Arush Sabharwal on 23.11.2023 and my marriage has been registered in the Registration Department, Jharkhand, before marriage officer for Jamshedpur, bearing Certificate No. 69/2024 dt. 31.01.2024. That after my marriage my surname has changed from GUPTA to SABHARWAL as per rites and customs of our Hindu religion and since then I knew as **SIMRAN SABHARWAL**. That **SIMRAN GUPTA** and **SIMRAN SABHARWAL** is the one and same person i.e. myself only.

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Bitcoin scam case: ED attaches assets worth over Rs 97 cr of Raj Kundra, Shilpa Shetty

New Delhi, April 18 (IANS) The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has attached immovable and movable properties worth Rs 97.79 crore belonging to Ripu Sudan Kundra aka Raj Kundra, businessman, and husband of Bollywood actor Shilpa Shetty, under the provisions of Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002.

The attached properties include a residential flat in Juhu, which is in the name of Shilpa Shetty, another residential bungalow in Pune and equity shares in Raj Kundra's name.

The financial probe agency had initiated an investigation based on multiple FIRs registered by Maharashtra Police and Delhi Police against Variable Tech Pte Ltd, Late Amit Bhardwaj, Ajay Bhardwaj, Vivek Bhardwaj, Simpy Bhardwaj, Mahender Bhardwaj and a number of MLM agents.

It has been alleged that they had collected huge amounts of funds in the form of Bitcoins (worth Rs 6,600 crore in 2017 itself) from the public with false promises of a 10 per cent per month return in the form of Bitcoins.

The collected Bitcoins were supposed to be utilised for Bitcoin mining, and investors were to get



huge returns in Crypto assets.

"But the promoters cheated the investors and have been concealing the ill-gotten Bitcoins in obscure online wallets. The probe also revealed that Raj Kundra received 285 Bitcoins from the mastermind and promoter of Gain Bitcoin Ponzi Scam, Amit Bhardwaj, for setting up a Bitcoin mining farm in Ukraine," ED said in a statement issued on Thursday.

The said Bitcoins were sourced out of proceeds of crime collected by Amit Bhardwaj from gullible investors.

"Since the deal didn't materialise, Kundra is still in possession and enjoyment of 285 Bitcoins which are presently valued at more than Rs. 150 Crore," said the ED official.

During the investigation, multiple search operations were carried out in this case and three persons were arrested.

"Simpy Bhardwaj was arrested on December 17, 2023, Nitin Gaur on December 29, 2023, and Nikhil Mahajan on January 16, 2023. All of them are presently in judicial custody as of date," said the official.

However, the main accused Ajay Bhardwaj and Mahendra Bhardwaj are still absconding.

Earlier, ED had attached properties worth Rs 69 crore. The Prosecution Complaint in this was filed on June 11, 2019, and the Supplementary Prosecution Complaint on February 14, 2024. "The Special PMLA court has taken cognizance of the same. Further investigation is under progress," the official added.

Ludhiana court awards death penalty to woman for burying alive toddler

Chandigarh, April 18 (IANS) A Ludhiana court in Punjab on Thursday awarded a death sentence to a woman for the horrific murder of a two-and-a-half-year-old girl by burying her alive. Sessions judge Munish Singal convicted the 35-year-old woman, Neelam, a resident of the Shimlapuri area, last week for killing the child. The court held her guilty on the charges of kidnapping and brutal murder of the child on November 28, 2021. The accused had buried the child alive and she died due to suffocation.

The quantum of the sentence was pronounced on Thursday. According to the police, Neelam buried the child in a pit she dug in the Salem Tabri area on November 28, 2021. An old rivalry with the victim's family was the cause behind the crime. When the court held her guilty, the prosecution raised the demand for the death penalty, while the convict's counsel sought the plea of leniency.

CCTV cameras recorded the crime in which the convict was taking away the child. On interrogation, she confessed to the murder. Neelam and her parents had sold their house when the crime took place and were shifting to another locality.

Mamata blames EC for Ram Navami clashes at Murshidabad



Kolkata, April 18 (IANS) West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, on Thursday, blamed the Election Commission (EC) for the stray incidence of clashes during Ram Navami processions at Murshidabad on Wednesday evening in which some persons were reportedly injured.

"The commission replaced the deputy inspector general of Murshidabad Range just before the Ram Navami festival. What was the reason for doing so. He was well acquainted with the entire district. There was no justification for replacing him. These are very sensitive states. We have to toil hard to keep things under control here," the Chief Minister said while addressing an election rally at Raiganj in North Dinajpur district. Recently, DIG (Murshidabad Range) Mukesh Kumar was replaced by Syed Waquar Raza, a 2008-batch Indian Police Service officer. Mukesh was removed reportedly after opposition parties accused him of not playing an unbiased role since the model code of conduct for the Lok Sabha polls had been in place. Speaking at the election rally, the Chief Minister further said that in the clashes on Wednesday evening, even some officials of the district police were injured. Targeting the BJP, she claimed that they would first create problems in an area and then complain against Trinamool Congress holding it responsible. Incidentally, the Leader of the Opposition in the West Bengal assembly Suvendu Adhikari informed on Tuesday, that he had written a letter to West Bengal Governor C.V. Ananda Bose and requested him to take up the matter with the Commission so that the latter can take action against the Chief Minister for provoking the tension on Ram Navami procession through her speeches during the last few days.

Excise policy case: Delhi court extends Manish Sisodia's judicial custody till April 26

New Delhi, April 18 (IANS) A Delhi court on Thursday extended AAP leader and former deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia's judicial custody till April 26 in connection with a money laundering case related to the alleged excise policy scam.

Sisodia was produced before Special Judge Kaveri Baweja of Rouse Avenue Court on the expiry of his previously extended judicial custody.

On Monday, the court said that it will continue hearing the AAP leader's bail application on April 20.

Judge Baweja had heard the arguments of Sisodia's counsel, and the counsel appearing for the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and the Enforcement Directorate (ED).

Earlier, the ED had accused Sisodia and the other accused persons of delaying the trial in the case. Sisodia's bail application was filed by his counsel Mohit Mathur alleging delay in completing the probe into



the case, claiming that no evidence has been found linking his client to the alleged bribe money.

He had argued that the alleged proceeds of crime were not proven to cause any loss to the exchequer or private consumers. Mathur also stressed the delay in the trial, stating that the Supreme Court's order allowing Sisodia to approach the court is six months old, and the investigation should have been completed by now.

Citing the bail granted to another accused in the case, Benoy Babu, Mathur had argued for Sisodia's bail, saying that he no longer holds a position of influence.

He had also stressed that Sisodia met the triple test for bail, as outlined by the Supreme Court, and urged for a speedy trial.

Mathur had further said that Sisodia's eligibility for bail is established, given the fulfillment of all the necessary conditions and the absence of any misuse of liberties, as per the Supreme Court's guidelines.

Earlier, the CBI counsel had told the court that the investigation was at a critical stage and releasing Sisodia on bail might impede the ongoing probe.

Trinamool files complaint with EC against Bengal Governor

Kolkata, April 18 (IANS) Trinamool Congress, on Thursday, filed a complaint with the Election Commission against West Bengal Governor C.V. Ananda Bose, accusing the latter of trying to interfere and influence the first phase of polling for three Lok Sabha constituencies in the state.

Sources said the complaint from the ruling party is pertaining to the information surfacing on Wednesday that on Friday the Governor will be camping at Cooch Behar, one of the three Lok Sabha constituencies going for polls on Friday.

However, soon after the information surfaced, the Commission, on Wednesday only,



sent a communique to the office of the Governor to refrain from going to Cooch Behar on the polling day since that would amount to a violation of the model code of conduct.

Sources in the CEO's office said that Trinamool Congress had pointed out that the Governor had expressed a wish to be at Cooch Behar during the "silence period" starting from the end of the campaign phase on Wednesday afternoon till the beginning of the polling on Friday morning.

The sources further said that in the complaint the ruling party has expressed apprehension that if the Governor is allowed to visit the constituencies concerned during the polling day or the silence period, he will hold meetings with the BJP leaders there. To recall, on March 16, the day the Election Commission announced the polling schedule, the Governor said that he would be on the field from day one.

Bengal LOP writes to Guv regarding violence over Ram Navami processions

Kolkata, April 18 (IANS) The Leader of Opposition (LOP) in West Bengal Assembly, Suvendu Adhikari, on Thursday morning, informed that he has written a letter to West Bengal Governor C. V. Ananda Bose, and complained about the scattered events of violence in two pockets of the state since Wednesday evening, during the processions of Ram Navami.

The LOP has accused West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee of provoking such instances of violence.

"I have written a letter to the Governor apprising him regarding the attacks on the Processions taken out on the occasion of Ram Navami on Wednesday, and requested him to immediately intervene in order to control the failing law and order situation, as well as getting the incidents investigated by the National Investigation Agency," the LOP said. In the letter to the Governor, a copy of which is available with IANS, the LOP claimed that on Wednesday, violence broke out at Shaktipur in the Beldanga area of Murshidabad following pelting of stones and hurling of bombs on a Ram Navami procession, resulting in injuries of some persons. "Similar incident has taken place at Egra, in East Midnapore district and already, five participants in the rally have been severely injured and are receiving treatment at Egra Super Speciality Hospital," the letter read. In the letter, he has also accused the police personnel present there of remaining inactive and not taking action against the attackers. However, as of now, neither there had been any reaction from the district administration of Murshidabad and East Midnapore nor from the ruling Trinamool Congress on the events of violence alleged by the LOP.

Nestle adds sugar to baby food sold in India but not in Europe

New Delhi, April 19 (IANS) The baby-food brands sold by global giant Nestle in India contain high levels of added sugar, while such products are sugar-free in the United Kingdom, Germany Switzerland, and other developed nations, an investigation by Public Eye, a Swiss organisation and the International Baby Food Action Network (IBFAN) has revealed.

Findings showed that in India, all Cerelac baby products contain an average of nearly 3 grams of sugar per serving. The same product is being sold with no added sugar in Germany and the UK, while in Ethiopia and Thailand, it contains nearly 6 grams, the study said.

The report said that Nestle adds sugar to infant milk and cereal products in several countries which is a violation of international guidelines aimed at preventing obesity and chronic diseases. Violations were found only in Asian, African, and Latin American countries.



However, a Nestle India Ltd spokesperson said the company has reduced the total amount of added sugars in its infant cereals portfolio by 30 per cent over the past five years and it continues to "review" and "reformulate" products to reduce them further. "We believe in the nutritional quality of our products for early childhood and prioritise using high-quality ingredients." On Wednesday, the leading UK paper The Guardian reported that the Swiss food giant adds sugar and honey to infant milk and cereal products sold in "poorer countries". It cited data from Public Eye and IBFAN that examined Nestle baby food brands sold in these markets. Public Eye examined 115 products sold in Nestle's main markets in Africa, Asia and Latin America across two key brands -- Cerelac and Nodi. In India, all Cerelac baby cereal products examined by Public Eye contained added sugar -- on average nearly 3 gm per serving. "Almost all the Cerelac infant cereals examined contain added sugar -- nearly 4 grams per serving on average, equal to roughly a sugar cube -- although they are targeted at babies from six months of age. The highest amount -- 7.3 grams per serving -- was detected in a product sold in the Philippines," the report said. WHO expert Nigel Rollins was cited in media reports as saying that "this is a double standard that cannot be justified."

Bihar man shot dead by terrorists in J&K's Anantnag

Srinagar, April 17 (IANS) A man from Bihar succumbed to his injuries after being shot at in a terrorist attack in J&K's Anantnag district on Wednesday evening, officials said. Officials said that terrorists fired at the man from close range in the Bijbehera area of Anantnag. "Terrorists fired at a non-local identified as Raja Shah of Bihar from close range in the Bijbehara area. He was shifted to hospital in a critical condition and found to have suffered injuries in the neck and the abdomen. He succumbed to critical injuries in the hospital, an official said.

Another case booked against KCR's nephew

Hyderabad, April 18 (IANS) Hyderabad police have booked another case against former Telangana chief minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao's nephew Kalvakuntla Tejeshwar Rao alias Kanna Rao, who was arrested earlier this month in connection with an alleged land-grabbing scam. A case has been registered against Kanna Rao, a businessman, and five others on a complaint by a software employee. The techie complained that the accused locked him in a guest house and assaulted him.



Vijay Vardhan Rao told police that he had approached Kanna Rao for his help to settle a land dispute with a relative in 2018. On learning from one Bindu Madhuri alias Nandini that the techie has cash and gold, Kanna Rao, Nandini and others illegally detained him at a guest house. He alleged that they robbed him of cash and gold.

The complainant said Kanna Rao threatened him and resorted to extortion by taking the names of police officers Bhujanga Rao and ACP Katta Sambaiah. Police registered a case of kidnapping, extortion and criminal intimidation and took up an investigation. On April 2, Adibatla police arrested Kanna Rao on allegations of land grabbing.

A case against Kanna Rao and 37 others was booked last month at Adibatla Police Station under Rachakonda Police Commissionerate in connection with a land dispute.

Sexual harassment case: Delhi Court defers hearing on framing of charges against ex-WFI chief

New Delhi, April 18 (IANS) A Delhi court on Thursday deferred a hearing concerning the framing of charges against BJP MP and former Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) chief, Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, in an alleged sexual harassment case by six women wrestlers.

The decision to defer came after Singh submitted an application seeking further examination of evidence concerning his whereabouts on the alleged date of the incident, September 7, 2022.

He told the court that he was not in Delhi when one of the complainant wrestlers was allegedly sexually harassed.

Presiding over the case, Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Priyanka Rajpoot of Rouse Avenue Court, deferred the pronouncement of the order and will hear the matter on April 26.

The application argues for a detailed investigation into Singh's claims of being abroad when the incident purportedly took place. The application also demanded that the Delhi Police produce the Call Detail Record (CDR).

APP Atul Srivastava, representing the Delhi Police, opposed the application, arguing that the timing of the request was strategic and intended to prolong the case.

He stressed the potential legal ramifications of reopening the investigation at this stage. Meanwhile, the legal counsel for the complainants criticised the application as a tactic to delay the proceedings.

They argued that the necessary documents should have been procured earlier under Section 207 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), which deals with the communication of evidence to the accused.

In February, Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh had sought to be discharged in the case, citing delay in reporting the alleged offence and contradictions in the complainants' statements. Earlier during the proceedings, the complainants and police had said that there was ample evidence to



proceed with the trial against the accused individuals.

The Delhi Police had refuted the argument of the accused that certain incidents occurred overseas and thus fell outside the jurisdiction of Delhi courts, contending that the alleged acts of sexual harassment, attributed to Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, both abroad and in India, including Delhi, constituted part of the same offence. His counsel had told the court that the incidents were said to have occurred in 2012 but were only reported to the police in 2023.

In addition, he had contended discrepancies in the timing and locations of the alleged incidents, asserting no clear link between them.

The defence had pointed out contradictions between the complainants' affidavits and statements.

The Delhi Police had contended that incidents of alleged sexual harassment, whether occurring overseas or within the country, were interconnected and part of the same transaction. Hence, the police had said that the court had jurisdiction to hear the case.

The BJP MP had earlier questioned the jurisdiction of the Delhi court claiming that there was no action or consequence which happened in India.

Additional Public Prosecutor Atul Srivastava, representing the Delhi Police, had argued that under Section 354 of the IPC, the case is not time-barred, as it carries a maximum punishment of five years.

Addressing the issue of delay in filing complaints, Srivastava had brought up the issue of fear among the women wrestlers, saying that wrestling held immense significance in their lives, and they were hesitant to come forward due to concerns about jeopardising their careers.

The prosecution had argued that Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh's defence, claiming his actions were fatherly, demonstrated awareness of his acts.

The BJP MP's justification that he was checking breathing patterns had contradicted the victims' statements about inappropriate touching.

The police had claimed that there was sufficient prima facie evidence to proceed with the trial against Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh and co-accused Tomar.

The prosecution had earlier said that the act of sexual harassment of the victims was a continuing offence, as it did not stop at any particular time.



Ranchi witnessed a spectacular display of devotion as devotees took part in a vibrant Ram Navami procession on Wednesday . An aerial view captured the awe-inspiring scene, showcasing the fervor of the participants. Notably, the procession featured 700-meter-long Mahavir Flags, symbolizing the spiritual significance of the occasion and the unity of the community in celebrating this auspicious festival.

Campaign launched for 'One House, One Calendar' initiative



Mail News Service

Seraikela, April 18: The Tribal "Ho" Samaj Yuva Mahasabha, in collaboration with the National Tribal Revival Association, initiated a campaign to promote the 'One House, One Calendar' initiative in Bistupaduka, Nuwagaon Panchayat, under the Seraikela block. In a bid to enhance community awareness and social development, villagers were educated on the significance of this endeavor during the recent convention of the Adivasi Ho Samaj Mahasabha. Participants were enlightened about the benefits of active involvement in the annual convention and other social programs, emphasizing the importance of preserving language and culture for future generations. Gabbarsingh Hembram, National General Secretary of the Adivasi Ho Samaj Yuva Mahasabha, urged cooperation and support for the organization's expansion efforts.

He highlighted collaborative endeavors with voluntary organizations such as the National Tribal Revival Association, Singi & Singi Society, and Milan Charitable Trust, aimed at fostering social awareness and promoting language-culture. The distribution of calendars and other materials served to reinforce the campaign's message, with an appeal for adherence to festival schedules. The event was attended by prominent figures including Manki-Munda Sangh District President and former executive District President of Tribal Ho Samaj Mahasabha, Kol Jharkhand Bodra, along with representatives from the National Tribal Revival Association and numerous community members, underlining the collective commitment to social progress and cultural preservation. (w/nkm)

MYM distributes sherbet on Shri Ram Navami



Mail News Service

Seraikela, April 18: In celebration of the Shri Ram Navami puja festival, the Marwari Yuva Manch Seraikela branch extended a refreshing gesture by distributing sherbet and soft drinks among devotees. President Nitish Chaudhary, known as Honey, along with members Akash Aggarwal, Rahul Aggarwal, Anand Aggarwal, Anmol Sekhsaria, Gaurav Chaudhary, Nitin Aggarwal, Saket Sekhsaria, Ankit Aggarwal, Raunak Budhiya, Shubham Aggarwal, Keshav Lohriwal, and Keshav Chaudhary, set up stalls to cater to the devotees' thirst. More than 5000 devotees benefitted from this thoughtful initiative, relishing the cool refreshments amidst the fervor of the festival. The act exemplified the spirit of community service and generosity, adding a touch of sweetness to the auspicious occasion of Shri Ram Navami in Seraikela. (w/nkm)

Intoxicated man pronounced dead in hospital

Jamshedpur, April 18: In Mango, Jamshedpur, a distressing discovery unfolded as an unidentified individual was located unconscious in an intoxicated state near Jeevan Jyoti Hospital on Mango Dimna Road. Concerned citizens promptly alerted the authorities, prompting a swift response from the police. Upon arrival, law enforcement officers swiftly transported the individual to MGM Hospital for urgent medical attention. Tragically, despite efforts from medical personnel, the individual was pronounced dead following an examination. The incident occurred on Wednesday, casting a somber atmosphere over the area. Following the discovery, the deceased underwent a post-mortem examination, and the body was subsequently preserved in cold storage as investigations commenced. Mango Police Station Officer Laldev Mahato provided insight into the events, noting that he was on patrol when alerted by passersby about the unconscious individual near Jeevan Jyoti Hospital. Acting promptly, law enforcement officers retrieved the individual and swiftly transported them to MGM Hospital. Despite medical intervention, the individual's demise was confirmed during the examination. Mahato further revealed that the individual was found in an inebriated state, adding to the complexity of the situation. (w/nkm)

Police paste notice on absconder's house

Jamshedpur, April 18: In a unique bid to locate the absconding murder suspect, Ranju Devi, Sitaramdera police resorted to unconventional tactics in Kalyannagar, Sitaramdera, Jamshedpur. On Wednesday, police officers arrived at the residence of the accused and initiated an attention-grabbing approach by pasting advertisements while playing drums. The posters, conspicuously displayed at the house, served as a public announcement, notifying residents of Ranju Devi's status as a fugitive in connection to a murder case. Authorities urged the community's cooperation in facilitating her prompt appearance in court. Failure to comply could result in the forfeiture of her property. Ranju Devi has been sought in connection with a murder incident that transpired last year, prompting an intensified search effort by law enforcement. The utilization of such unconventional methods underscores the authorities' determination to ensure justice is served in the ongoing investigation. (w/nkm)

25 employees of Tata Motors receive Rs 14 Lakh medical assistance

Jamshedpur, April 18: A recent meeting of the Tata Motors Medical Support Scheme Committee convened on Tuesday yielded significant outcomes for employees in need. Deliberations centered on applications submitted during the months of February and March, resulting in the approval of 25 out of 42 applications reviewed as valid. Approximately Rs 14.2 lakh is earmarked for distribution among the approved beneficiaries as medical assistance. Secretary Amitesh Pandey, alongside committee members Dr. SL Srivastava, HS Saini, Ajay Bhagat, Amit Singh, and Manoj Sharma, presided over the meeting, ensuring a thorough assessment of each case. The beneficiaries slated to receive assistance include Manoj Mukhi, Lata Kumari, Ravi Shankar Tiwari, Avinash Singh, Prabhdeep Singh Panesar, Ashok Kumar, Anil Prasad, Arun Kumar, Nitin Das, Ajay Sharma, Gopal Singh, Manik Chandra Pani, Taraknath Das, Mohit Murmu, Sanju Kumari, Praveen Singh, Santosh Raha, Mahendra Kumar, Pradeep Ghosh, Rajesh Pal, D. Srinivas Rao, Sanjeet Singh, and Bela Adharji. (w/nkm)

District Election Office announces schedule for Lok Sabha General Election 2024

Mail News Service

Chaibasa, April 18: The District Election Officer's Office, West Singhbhum, Chaibasa, has released the schedule for the upcoming Lok Sabha General Election 2024 through a press release dated April 17th, 2024. According to the release, the last date for nomination submission is set for April 25, 2024. Nominations will be accepted daily from 11:00 AM to 03:00 PM, except on public holidays.

The scrutiny of nomination papers will take place on April 26, 2024, starting from 11:00 AM onwards. Candidates will have until April 29, 2024, until 3:00 PM to withdraw their nominations. In addition, the release also specifies that the deadline for logo submission is April 29, 2024, by 3:00 PM.

The voting is scheduled to take place on May 13, 2024, from 7:00 AM to 05:00 PM, with the date of counting set for June 4, 2024. Alongside these key dates, the press release outlines the documents required to be submitted by candidates along with their nominations.



This includes a completely filled Form-2 (Form-A), an affidavit in Form-26 from a First Class Magistrate or Notary Public, and the original Nazir Receipt (NR) for the deposit of nomination fee. Other necessary documents include a caste certificate issued from the competent authority, Form-A and B for candidates of recognized national and state political parties, and an attested copy of the voter list for candidates other than 10-Singhbhum (SC) Lok Sabha constituency.

Candidates are also required to provide a no dues certificate of house rent, electricity bill, water bill, and telephone bill for government accommodation availed in the last 10 years. Additionally, they must submit 15 copies of stamp-sized color photographs (White Background) updated within 3 months and a statement of the latest election account. The press release concludes by providing a helpline number, 1950, for any inquiries or assistance related to the election process. (w/nkm)



On the occasion of Ram Navami, the Lions Club of Jamshedpur, in collaboration with Sambhav Sanstha, organized Bhog distribution at Joda Mandir Bhalubhasa.

Akshay Bhavan sealed, faces imminent demolition by Tatanagar Railway Engineering Dept

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, April 18: In a significant development, the Tatanagar Railway Engineering Department sealed Akshay Bhavan located in Traffic Colony on Tuesday, signaling its impending demolition. Amid apprehensions of potential unrest, RPF jawans were deployed to oversee the sealing process.

The decision to seal Akshay Bhavan follows a legal case concluded in the High Court, culminating in a notice issued by the Tatanagar AEN office to vacate the premises. Shashi Mishra, representing the Jamshedpur Railway Men's Congress, received the notice last Friday. Once a hub for providing various training programs such as computer education, dance, and painting for the children of railway employees, Akshay Bhavan has remained non-operational since 2018.

Despite efforts by Mishra to address the situation by seeking time to remove goods from the premises, the sealing of Akshay Bhavan proceeded.

It has been reported that the land allotted for Akshay Bhavan, along with quarters, was utilized beyond its designated purpose, with a substantial portion covered by a roof instead of a shed. Numerous complaints regarding this violation were reportedly lodged with the South East Zone authorities. (w/nkm)

Bangur Cement launches campaign on right to vote

Jamshedpur, April 18 : Bangur Cement unveiled a new multimedia campaigninspiring the citizens of the nation to exercise their right to vote. The campaign, 'Vote Solid, Desh Solid', highlights the importance of each individual's vote inmaking the nation more solid. The campaign is innovative because it is a sequel to the previous brand launch campaignfeaturing popular Bollywood star Sunny Deol. The key message of the campaign is 'Vote Solid, Desh Solid.' Just as Bangur Cement helps you build a solid home, you can help build a solid nation by exercising your right to vote. Further, the brand encourages citizens to take a pledge to vote, through its "Vote ka Vachan" button onit's websitevotekavachan.bangurcement.com. Bangur Cement has pledged to donate 1 KG of cement for every pledge to vote which would be used for social welfare purposes. Bangur Cement is tying up with relevant NGOs and Self Help Groups to help fulfil this pledge. Speaking about the campaign, Mr Neeraj Akhoury, Managing Director, Shree Cement, said, "Bangur Cement's'Vote Solid Desh Solid'campaign.

Truck carrying goods worth lakhs goes missing

Gamharia, April 18: A truck transporting goods from Pasa Resources Pvt. Ltd. in Gamharia Biko Mod under Adityapur police station, bound for Latehar, has reportedly gone missing along the route. In response, the company's transporter has filed a First Information Report (FIR) against the truck driver at the Adityapur police station. According to reports, the truck departed from the company premises on April 13, laden with goods .

Youth committee organizes Kanya Puja

Mail News Service



Gamharia, April 18: In celebration of the Ram Navami festival, the Youth Committee of Kandra Basti Bajrang Akhara in Gamharia organized a sacred Kanya Puja ceremony. The ceremony involved the worship of nine young girls, conducted with traditional rituals, followed by offerings of food and dakshina to the girls. Additionally, a grand Bhandara feast was arranged to mark the auspicious occasion. As part of the festivities, it was announced that on Mahadashami, an immersion procession for Ram Navami would be conducted after prayers at the Akhara on Thursday. The event was made possible through the dedicated efforts of all committee members, who played pivotal roles in its organization. (w/nkm)

Grand celebration of Ram Navami festival in Kandra and Gamharia

Mail News Service

Gamharia, April 18: In Kandra and Gamharia, the Ram Navami festival was celebrated with great zeal and enthusiasm, marking a significant event in the religious calendar of the region. Devotees from far and wide gathered at various Hanuman temples across the area since dawn to participate in worship ceremonies, embodying the spirit of devotion and reverence.

The festivities were particularly vibrant at locations such as Shivpuri Colony in Gamharia, Block Complex, Usha Mod, Kapidungari in Jagannathpur, and the Bajrangbali Temple in Kandra SKG Colony, and Kandra Bazaar.



Here, elaborate puja rituals were performed with utmost devotion, creating an atmosphere filled with spiritual energy. Saffron flags adorned the surroundings, symbolizing the auspicious occasion, while the air reverberated with the chants of "Veer Bajrangbali" and "Jai Shri Ram," echoing the sentiments of the devout worshippers.

Traditional customs, including the worship of weapons, were meticulously observed by various Akhara committees in the area, adding to the sanctity of the celebrations.

Furthermore, households participated in the festivities by hoisting flags after conducting worship ceremonies, adhering to age-old traditions passed down through generations.

Notably, in Satvahini, Jamalpur of Gamharia, the Sri Sri Mahavir Akhara Youth Committee led by Lord Singh conducted worship ceremonies with sacred mantras, invoking blessings for the prosperity and well-being of the community.

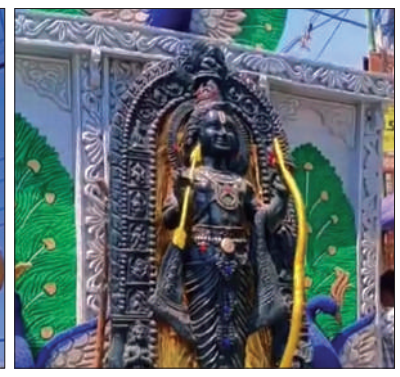
The Mahavir Temple Committee in Kandra Bazaar also organized a grand puja festival, with committee members actively participating in rituals and the ceremonial hoisting of the flag of Veer Bajrangbali amidst the chanting of sacred hymns.

The successful execution of these events was attributed to the collaborative efforts of committee members, including chairman Vinod Rajak, secretary Vijay Sahu, treasurer Sanjay Sao, and others, who worked tirelessly to ensure that the festivities proceeded seamlessly, leaving an indelible mark of devotion and celebration in Kandra and Gamharia. (w/nkm)

Grand Mahaviri Pataka Shobha Yatra brings joy to Seraikela and Sini

Mail News Service






Seraikela, April 18: In Seraikela and Sini, along with surrounding areas, the Mahaviri Pataka Shobha Yatra on Thursday sparked great joy among the residents. The vibrant procession, featuring grand Mahaviri flags, commenced from three akharas in the city area of Seraikela. Devotees gathered at the Mahaviri Akhara in Narodih to pay homage to Bajrangbali, seeking blessings for the prosperity and well-being of the region. They then joined the procession, brandishing swords and showcasing mesmerizing stunts. Amidst chants of 'Ude Ude Bajrang Ude...,' 'Jai Bajrangbali,' 'Jai Siyaram,' and 'Jai Shri Ram,' the procession made its way through the streets, exuding a spirit of celebration. Similar rituals were observed at the Bajrangbali temple in Rajbandh, where worship programs were conducted before the Mahaviri flag procession commenced. Later in the evening, another procession, led by the Akhara Committee President, set out from the Bajrangbali temple at Police Station Chowk, accompanied by musical instruments and acrobatic displays.



Chhotalal Sahu, Raja Jyotishi, Krishna Chandra Rana, Vicky Sahu, and other members of the Akhara Committee, along with local dignitaries, graced the occasion, adding to the festive fervor. The procession culminated with the ceremonial lowering of the Mahaviri flags, marking the conclusion of the Shobha Yatra. (w/nkm)

Tailik Sahu Mahasabha hosts service camp in Mango



Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, April 18: The All India Tailik Sahu Mahasabha, led by Bhola Prasad, organized a service camp near Mango Golchakar. Gram, jaggery, and sharbat were distributed during the event, which saw the participation of various prominent members.

Among those present were District President Rakesh Sahu, District Treasurer Suresh Kumar, District General Secretary Pappu Sahu, District Secretary Ashok Sahu, Sanjay Sahu, Bhola Sao, Rajkumar Sahu, as well as General Secretary of the Dealer Association Pramod Gupta, Rajendra Prasad, Musafir Sao, Bhagwan Sao, and Vijay Kumar. (w/nkm)

Jeen Mata Parivar distributes Bhog and sherbet



Jamshedpur, April 18: Shri Jeen Mata Parivar Tatanagar distributed cold sherbet, water and Khhichdi Bhog among the people at Jalebi Line in Sakchi Bazaar during the Ramnavami Akhara procession on Thursday. Those present on the occasion included Bajrang Lal Agarwal, Shambhu Khanna, Vinod Khanna, Sunil Debuka, Pramod Khanna, Pawan Sharma, Anant Agarwal, Manish Khanna, Ashish Khanna, and others. (w/gsd)

Police raid Sakchi hotel, eight individuals apprehended

Jamshedpur, April 18: A crackdown led by Sakchi police unfolded at Suvidha Hotel in Sakchi on Tuesday night, orchestrated under the oversight of a magistrate. During the operation, authorities apprehended four young men and four girls who were found occupying different rooms within the hotel premises. Upon inspection, liquor bottles and various objectionable items were discovered and subsequently confiscated by the police. The detained individuals were swiftly escorted to the Sakchi police station for further questioning. This incident marks a recurring pattern, as the hotel had previously come under police scrutiny, resulting in the arrest of a young man and a girl during a prior raid. Amid ongoing investigations, authorities are meticulously scrutinizing the hotel's documentation, alongside interrogating the apprehended individuals. Additionally, a hotel employee implicated in the case has been detained and brought in for questioning by the police. (w/nkm)

Truck overturns, disrupts traffic

Gamharia, April 18: A 407 truck encountered a mishap near the Gamharia Ghodababa temple on the Tata-Kandra main road, resulting in the vehicle overturning and its cargo spilling onto the road. The incident disrupted vehicular traffic on the route for a brief period. Reportedly, the freighter, traveling from Gamharia towards Adityapur, lost control near the Ghodababa temple. It is believed that the vehicle ahead suddenly applied brakes, causing the freighter to veer out of control, collide with the divider, and overturn. The scattered goods from the freighter added to the obstruction on the road, necessitating efforts to clear the area and restore normal traffic flow. Authorities responded swiftly to the situation to minimize inconvenience to commuters and ensure the safety of all road users. (w/nkm)



Prateek Sangharsh Foundation members Dhiraj and Ramakrishnan donated SDP blood.

Massive fire engulfs Sonari's garbage dump

Jamshedpur, April 18: A massive fire erupted once again at the garbage dumping yard located at Marine Drive, Sonari, Jamshedpur, unleashing toxic smoke that enveloped the entire city. Residents, including the elderly, struggled to breathe as the poisonous fumes spread across Sonari and surrounding areas. Upon receiving the alert, Municipal Additional Commissioner Krishna Kumar, SDO Parul Singh, and DSP Sanjay Tiwari rushed to the scene, wearing clothes over their noses for protection. Sixteen fire tenders were deployed to combat the blaze, but the fire continued to rage, releasing noxious smoke into the air. This is not the first incident of a fire at the Sonari dumping yard, despite assurances from State Health Minister and local MLA Banna Gupta regarding a resolution to the recurring problem. Efforts to extinguish the fire persisted late into Wednesday night, yet the foul odor from the smoke continued to plague residents in the area. (w/nkm)

Water crisis sparks protest in Subhash Colony, Mango



Jamshedpur, April 18: The onset of summer has brought a severe water crisis to the mango groves of Jamshedpur, particularly affecting Road No. 3C of Subhash Colony. Anger erupted among residents when a 65-year-old woman was spotted transporting water on a bicycle due to the prolonged unavailability of water supply. Outraged locals raised slogans of 'No water, no vote,' declaring their intent to boycott the upcoming elections. In response to the outcry, BJP leader Vikas Singh visited Subhash Colony to assess the situation. Residents informed him that they had experienced minimal water supply for the past two months, with no supply whatsoever in the last twenty days. Witnessing the elderly woman, Chinta Devi, fetching water from a relative's house on a bicycle, Singh expressed disgust at the government's handling of the issue. While urging residents not to boycott the vote, Singh emphasized the importance of democracy and denounced voting abstention as a crime. Due to the Model Code of Conduct, instead of staging a large-scale protest, Singh announced plans to visit the Deputy Commissioner's office on foot with residents to collect water. Residents vowed to display flex banners with the slogan 'No water, no vote' if the situation does not improve within two to four days. The event was attended by numerous residents, including Barmeshwar Kumar Dubey, Santosh Kumar Sharma, Madhuri Devi, and many others, highlighting the widespread concern over the water crisis in Subhash Colony. (w/nkm)

Health workers trained for National Deworming Day preparations

Mail News Service

Gamharia, April 18: A one-day training camp was recently conducted at the auditorium of Community Health Center Gamharia, aimed at preparing ANMs, health workers, Sahiyas, and MPWs for the upcoming National Deworming Day on April 19th. The event provided essential information about programs planned for the significant day, focusing on disease prevention strategies related to iodine deficiency.

Dr. Lakshmi Kumari, the in-charge of the health center, played a pivotal role during the training session. She emphasized the importance of preventing diseases caused by iodine deficiency and provided detailed insights into such conditions. One of the key initiatives discussed was the distribution of iodine tablets to children in both government and private schools across rural and urban areas of the block.

Dr. Kumari elaborated on the significance of administering iodine tablets on April 19th to safeguard children against iodine deficiency-related illnesses. Practical methods for administering these tablets were also discussed during the training session, ensuring that health workers are well-prepared for the upcoming health campaign. (w/nkm)

S. E. RAILWAY TENDER

E-Tender Notice Nos. : (1) CKP-WEST-24-25-01, (2) CKP-WEST-24-25-02, (3) CKP-WEST-24-25-03, dated 17.04.2024. Divisional Railway Manager (Engg.), South Eastern Railway, Chakradharpur for and on behalf of the President of India invites E-Tenders against open tender for the following works. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. **Sl.No., Name of works : (1)** Renewal of Channel sleepers with H-Beam sleepers 244 Nos. under the jurisdiction of SSE(P.Way)/I/BNDM. **(2)** Through Ballast Renewal for 43.478 TKM under the jurisdiction of Sr.DEN/West/CKP (2nd Call). **(3)** (i) Construction of Office Building for RPF out post at Bamra station, (ii) Construction of 15 bedded capacity standard barracks RPF at Laikera. **Tender Value :** ₹ 56,90,175.21 (for Sl.No. 1), ₹ 2,53,47,533.89 (for Sl.No. 2) & ₹ 1,40,30,738.29 (for Sl.No. 3). **EMD :** ₹ 1,13,800/- (for Sl.No. 1), ₹ 2,76,700/- (for Sl.No. 2) & ₹ 2,20,200 (for Sl.No. 3). **Cost of tender form :** ₹ 0.00 for each. **Date of opening :** 14.05.2024 for each. The tender can be viewed at website **http://www.ireps.gov.in** The tenderer/bidders must have Class-III Digital Signature Certificate & must be registered under on IREPS portal. Only registered tenderer/bidder can participate on e-tendering. **Note :** e-Tender forms shall be issued free of cost to all tenderers (Authority - Rly. Bd.'s letter no. 2020/CE-I/CT/3E/GCC/Policy dtd. 16.07.2020).

(PR-54)

Women bid farewell to Goddess Durga with vermilion on Vijayadashami



Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, April 18: Today, on the auspicious occasion of Vijayadashami during Vasanti Durga Puja, women of the Bengali community gathered at Beldih Kali Bari in Jamshedpur to bid farewell to Goddess Durga with vermilion. This tradition was also observed in all the puja pandals across the city. Goddess Durga, the embodiment of power, is worshipped twice a year with elaborate rituals. After nine days of worship during the months of Ashwin and Chaitra, it is customary to bid farewell to her on Vijayadashami. On this day, women offer vermilion to the deity and pray for unending blessings and prosperity. Monu Bhattacharya, the chief priest of Beldih Kali temple, expressed that everyone bids farewell to the goddess with heartfelt emotions, seeking her blessings for continued well-being and prosperity. (w/nkm)

चुनाव का पर्व DESH KA GARV

सुदृढ़ प्रजातंत्र हेतु वृहत्तर सहभागिता

जिला दण्डाधिकारी एवं उपायुक्त का कार्यालय,
पूर्वी सिंहभूम, जमशेदपुर
(जिला निर्वाचन शाखा)

आम सूचना

एतद् द्वारा पूर्वी सिंहभूम जिला के सभी नागरिकों/मतदाताओं को सूचित किया जाता है कि, भारत निर्वाचन आयोग के प्रेस नोट संख्या ECI/PN/23/2024 दिनांक 16.03.2024 द्वारा 9–जमशेदपुर लोकसभा निर्वाचन क्षेत्र के लिए प्राप्त कार्यक्रम जो निम्नवत् है–

विवरणी	तिथि
Issue of Notification:	29.04.2024
Last Date for filing Nominations:	06.05.2024
Scrutiny of Nominations:	07.05.2024
Last date for withdrawal of Candidature:	09.05.2024
Date of Poll :	25.05.2024
Counting of Votes:	04.06.2024
Date before which the election shall be Completed:	06.06.2024

उक्त के आलोक में अपील है कि, जो व्यक्ति 01.04.2024 को 18 वर्ष की आयु पूरी कर चुके है या उससे अधिक है एवं मतदाता सूची में नाम निबंधित कराने की योग्यता रखते है, परन्तु उनका नाम मतदाता सूची में निबंधित नहीं है तो, वे अपना नाम जोड़वाने हेतु, प्रपत्र–6 में अपने सम्बन्धित मतदान केन्द्र के बी.एल.ओ./सहायक निर्वाचक निबंधन पदाधिकारी/निर्वाचक निबंधन पदाधिकारी (सम्बन्धित प्रखण्ड/कार्यालय में) से प्रपत्र (निशुल्क) प्राप्त कर फोटोग्राफ एवं आवश्यक कागजात सहित भरकर उक्त नामित पदाधिकारी को/कार्यालय में जमा कर सकते है अथवा https://voters.eci.gov.in/ Voter Helpline App पर दिनांक 26.04.2024 तक आवेदन कर सकते है।

पुनः अपील है कि, आप अपना नाम मतदाता सूची में अवश्य जाँच करवा लें, जिसके लिए आप https://voters.eci.gov.in/ Voter Help Line App एवं Toll Free No.- (0657)1950 के माध्यम से अथवा अपने सम्बन्धित मतदान केन्द्र के बी.एल.ओ./सहायक निर्वाचक निबंधन पदाधिकारी/निर्वाचक निबंधन पदाधिकारी कार्यालय से भी जाँच करा सकते है।

ह0/–
जिला निर्वाचन पदाधिकारी–सह–उपायुक्त,
पूर्वी सिंहभूम, जमशेदपुर

PR 323887 Election(24-25).D

चुनाव का पर्व DESH KA GARV

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय
भवन निर्माण विभाग, भवन प्रमण्डल, जमशेदपुर।
email id :- eebcdjamshed-jhr@nic.in

अति अल्पकालीन निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना संख्या–01/वर्ष 2024–25

1. विज्ञापनदाता का पदनाम : कार्यपालक अभियंता, भवन प्रमंडल, जमशेदपुर।
2. परिमाण विपत्र बिक्री की तिथि एवं समय : दिनांक 24.04.2024 को 1:00 (एक) बजे अपराह्न तक।
3. निविदा प्राप्ति की तिथि एवं समय : दिनांक 25.04.2024 को 3:00 (तीन) बजे अपराह्न तक।
4. निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय : दिनांक 25.04.2024 को 3:30 (साढ़े तीन) बजे अपराह्न।
5. परिमाण विपत्र बिक्री स्थान : (क) अधीक्षण अभियंता, भवन निर्माण विभाग, छोटानागपुर, अंचल, राँची। (ख) कार्यपालक अभियंता भवन प्रमण्डल, जमशेदपुर।
6. निविदा प्राप्ति का स्थान : (क) अधीक्षण अभियंता, भवन निर्माण विभाग, छोटानागपुर, अंचल, राँची। (ख) पुलिस नियंत्रण कक्ष, साकची, जमशेदपुर।
7. निविदा खोलने का स्थान : (क) अद्योहस्ताक्षरी का कार्यालय।
8. कार्यों की विवरणी :–

क्र. सं.	कार्य का नाम	प्राक्कलित राशि (रू.में)	परिमाण विपत्र का मूल्य (रू. में)	अग्रधन की राशि (रू. में)	कार्य समाप्ति की अवधि
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Preparation of Co unting Hall For Lok -Sabha Election - 2024 at Co-Operative College, Jamshedpur.	18,56,850.00	5,000.00	37,200.00	22 मई तक
2	Preparation of Strong Room For Lok -Sabha Election - 2024 at Co-Operative College, Jamshedpur.	15,48,300.00	5,000.00	31,000.00	15 जून तक
3	E/R to 20 No's Toilet Repairing with Water Proofing of Strong Room (47 -Jugsalai) for Lok -Sabha Election -2024 at Co-Operative College, Jamshedpur.	6,61,900.00	1,250.00	13,300.00	22 मई तक
4	Preparation of Strong Room (Dispatch Centre) at L.B.S.M. Colleg e, Karandih, Jamshedpur for Lok -Sabha Election-2024.	5,62,100.00	1,250.00	11,300.00	22 मई तक

नोट :– यूकैन निबंधित निविदाकार ही निविदा डाल सकते है।
- निविदा की शर्तें अद्योहस्ताक्षरी के कार्यालय के सूचना पट्ट पर उपलब्ध है।
- एक निबंधन पर दो से अधिक कार्यों का परिमाण विपत्र देय नहीं होगा।
- भारतीय स्टेट बैंक द्वारा निर्गत बैंक ड्रॉफ्ट/डिमाण्ड ड्राफ्ट ही मान्य होगा। बैंक ड्रॉफ्ट/डिमाण्ड ड्रॉफ्ट कार्यपालक अभियंता, भवन निर्माण विभाग, भवन प्रमण्डल, जमशेदपुर के पक्ष में एवं भारतीय स्टेट बैंक मुख्य शाखा, जमशेदपुर में भुगतेय होगा, जिसे लौटाया नहीं जायेगा।
- झारखण्ड सरकार, पथ निर्माण विभाग के संकल्प सह ज्ञापांक–2146 (S) राँची, दिनांक–09/09/2020 के आधार पर निविदा का निष्पादन किया जायेगा।
- अग्रधन के रूप में NSC/TD/FD (Validity) 3 Years & Duly Pledged मान्य होगा। जो कार्यपालक अभियंता, भवन प्रमण्डल, जमशेदपुर के नाम से प्रतिज्ञित होगा।
- संवेदक को आवेदन के साथ इस आशय का शपथ–पत्र देना होगा की उनका कोई भी कार्य एकरारित समय सीमा बीत जाने के बाद लंबित नहीं है।

निविदा की शर्तें कार्यालय के सूचना पट्ट पर देखा जा सकता है।

ह0/–
कार्यपालक अभियंता
भवन प्रमंण्डल, जमशेदपुर।

PR 323877 Building(24-25)D

Ambedkar Jayanti celebrations foster education and social responsibility

Mail News Service



Gamharia, April 18: Dugdha Panchayat celebrated Ambedkar Jayanti, with a focus on fostering education and social responsibility. Sharad Kumar Sharma, General Manager of TISCO Growth Shop, graced the occasion with his presence and delivered an inspiring message, emphasizing the importance of struggle in achieving success.

Sharma urged children to persevere in their educational pursuits, highlighting education as the cornerstone of societal development. Addressing the gathering, Sharma underscored the pivotal roles of intellectuals, teachers, social workers, and environmental advocates in driving societal progress.

He affirmed that education is paramount for individual growth and collective advancement.

Pancham Kumar Tank, TGS Manufacturing Chief, commended the pivotal role played by members of Dugdha Panchayat in motivating children to pursue education.

Tank expressed gratitude to Panchayat Deputy Head Dilip Mahato and other members for their dedicated efforts in this regard.

The celebration also included the felicitation of selected students from Navodaya with incentive money, recognizing their academic achievements. Additionally, enlightened individuals who have made notable contributions to society were honored for their exemplary work.

The event witnessed a significant turnout, with local villagers, including Dinesh Upadhyay of TGS, Deputy Chief Dilip Mahato, and Bablu Pradhan, among others, actively participating and contributing to the festivities. (w/nkm)

Navigating the summer heat

As the scorching summer sun beats down, its impact is palpable not only on the weather but also on our daily lives. Across India, citizens are feeling the heat, yet continue to persevere in their work, harnessing the maximum utility of energy. The immense source of energy provided by the sun's rays is both a blessing and a challenge as we navigate through the rising temperatures.

With the summer season approaching its peak, Indians are diligently fulfilling their responsibilities day and night, undeterred by the sweltering heat. However, it is crucial to strike a balance between work and personal well-being. Amidst the changing and intense heat waves, it's essential to prioritize health and safety, especially for vulnerable groups such as children, the elderly, and pregnant women.

The Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) has forecasted that the heat will persist until June, urging precautionary measures to mitigate the risks associated with heat-related illnesses. Heat exhaustion, characterized by symptoms like nausea, vomiting, and fainting, can escalate into heat stroke if left untreated. Hence, it's imperative to recognize the signs and take necessary precautions.

To combat the adverse effects of extreme heat, the Union Health Ministry has issued guidelines, emphasizing the importance of staying cool and hydrated. Simple measures such as keeping homes cool, staying on lower floors during the day, and using fans and wet clothes to cool the body can significantly reduce the risk of heat-related ailments.

Recognizing the signs of heat stroke, such as fatigue, disorientation, and loss of consciousness, is crucial. Heat waves, marked by prolonged periods of high temperatures, pose a significant threat to health, particularly for vulnerable populations. Climate change exacerbates this phenomenon, intensifying the frequency and severity of heat waves.

As caregivers, it's our responsibility to protect ourselves and our loved ones from the adverse effects of extreme heat. Children, in particular, are susceptible to dehydration and heat stress, making it essential to provide them with adequate hydration and protection from the sun.

In conclusion, while the summer heat tests our resilience, it also underscores the importance of prioritizing health and well-being. By taking proactive measures and staying vigilant, we can navigate through the sweltering heat and emerge unscathed. Let's embrace the summer season with caution and care, ensuring the safety and welfare of all.

From the Editorial Desk

In first phase of LS polls, these candidates in UP seek to preserve political legacy



The first phase of polls in Uttar Pradesh on Friday, will see a group of candidates making a bid to preserve the political legacy of their families.

The families of these candidates have been active in politics for decades but in recent years, their political fortunes have dipped to an extent. In these elections, the young generation of these families is making a concerted bid to restore the glory of their families.

Leading the brigade is JitinPrasada, a UP Minister who is contesting the prestigious Pilibhit seat.

JitinPrasada is the son of former Congress stalwart JitendraPrasada and has been given the task of retaining a seat that is known to be the bastion of Gandhis -- Maneka and Varun Gandhi. Varun has been denied a ticket and JitinPrasada is now riding high on the Modi wave.

In 2009, Prasada fought and won the election from Dhaurhara, as his home bastion Shahjahanpur had come into the reserved category. However, he lost the 2014 and 2019 polls from the same constituency. Prasada joined the BharatiyaJanata Party in 2021 and was made a member of VidhanParishad and included in the Yogi cabinet.

Another candidate is IqraHasan who is contesting the Kairana seat on a Samajwadi ticket. Her grandfather AkhtarHasan, father MunawwarHasan, and mother TabbassumHasan have won the seat multiple times.

Her brother NahidHasan is a second-term SP MLA from the Kairana Assembly seat but spent the last few years in jail till he recently got bail.

IqraHasan entered the electoral fray in 2022 when she campaigned for her jailed brother NahidHasan, and ensured his victory in the seat. This time she is in the election arena and is pitted against BJP candidate PradeepChoudhary.

PradeepChoudhary, the sitting BJP MP from KairanaLokSabha seat, is also being supported by RashtriyaLok Dal which is now a part of the NDA.

PradeepChaudhary belongs to a political family. He won the Assembly elections twice from the Gangoh seat of Saharanpur and once from the Nakur seat. In 2019, he was elected MP from KairanaLokSabha seat.

The challenge that IqraHasan faces, therefore, is not small but she is confident in herself.

In Saharanpur, Imran Masood is the Congress candidate from the SP-Congress alliance. He belongs to a political family. His uncle late Qazi Rashid Masood was a member of the LokSabha five times and RajyaSabha four times. He was also the United National Progressive Alliance's candidate for the post of Vice President in the 2007 elections.

Masood family is a resident of Gangoh and the Gangoh Municipal Council has mostly been under the control of this family. Imran Masood's brother Noman was the chairman from 2012 to 2017. The Qazi family has dominated Gangoh Municipality since before Independence.

In 2023, BSP had fielded Khadija Masood, wife of Imran Masood's cousin ShazanMasood, as its candidate for the mayor seat of Saharanpur Municipal Corporation. Imran Masood faces the challenge of saving his uncle's legacy in Saharanpur.

Infighting over selection of candidate big headache for Trinamool in Bardhaman-Purba



Soon after Trinamool Congress announced that it was fielding Dr SharmilaSarkar from the Bardhaman-Purba seat instead of its two-time sitting MP Sunil Kumar Mondal, severe infighting broke out in the LokSabha constituency.

Being denied a ticket after winning twice from the constituency with comfortable margins, a miffed Sunil Kumar Mondal accused the district leadership of misleading the top party leadership, resulting in him being denied re-nomination.

Sunil Kumar Mondal even went to the extent of saying that party supremo and Chief Minister, Mamata Banerjee, often showers affection on those leaders who actually mislead and at times backstab her.

"I am pained that often those people turn out to be treacherous who had been blessed the most by the Chief Minister," he said.

Talking about the new candidate, Mondal said, "She is a fresher. I do not know how she will strike a chord with the district party leadership."

Considering Mondal's influence among the party workers in the constituency, the event of his turning rebel is a real possibility.

Otherwise, going by past records, Bardhaman-Purba is expected to be one of the safest seats for the Trinamool Congress this time as well.

Apart from Mondal's victory with comfortable margins twice in 2014 and 2019, Trinamool Congress candidates won from all the seven constituencies under the Bardhaman-PurbaLokSabha in the 2021 West Bengal Assembly polls.

Bardhaman-Purba is a post-delimitation LokSabha constituency formed before the 2009 General Elections.

The BJP has fielded acclaimed folk singer and sitting party legislator from Haringhata Assembly constituency in Nadia District, Ashim Kumar Sarkar from Bardhaman-Purba this time.

Political observers are of the opinion that fielding Sarkar is a well chalked-out strategy of the BJP, considering the fact that 20 per cent of voters in Bardhaman-Purba belong to the Matua community.

Sarkar himself comes from this Backward Class community that came to West Bengal as refugees from Bangladesh.

Given the celebrations among the people of the community following the recent notification on the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), and his popularity as a folk singer in Katwa, Kalna and Memari pockets of the constituency, it is advantage BJP here.

The CPI(M) has fielded Nirab Khan, basically an organisation man and greenhorn in electoral politics from Bardhaman-Purba this time. He is focusing on the issue of corruption, especially the one related to the multi-crore cash-for-school job case in his door-to-door campaigns.

With a voter strength of over 15 lakh, Bardhaman-Purba is called the 'Granary of Bengal' for the rich varieties of paddy produced there.

IAS officer-turned-Cong leader Sasikanth Senthil in straight fight with DMDK in Tiruvallur seat



IAS officer SasikanthSenthil, who quit the service in September 2019 after the PM Modi regime was re-elected, is the Congress' candidate from the TiruvallurLokSabha constituency for the forthcoming elections.

The Karnataka-cadre IAS officer resigned from the elite service three months after K Annamalai resigned from the IPS and joined the BJP.

Both are now fighting elections in opposing camps. While SasikanthSenthil is the Congress' candidate from Tiruvallur, Annamalai, who is the BJP's Tamil Nadu President, is contesting from the Coimbatore LokSabha seat.

Even though the NaamTamilarKatchi (NTK) and the BJP are in the fray in Tiruvallur, the fight is directly between SasikanthSenthil and K NallaThambi of the DMDK, which is part of the AIADMK alliance.

In the 2019 LokSabha elections, Dr K Jayakumar of the Congress won the Tiruvallur seat after defeating the nearest AIADMK rival Dr P Venugopal by a margin of 3,56,955 votes.

While the DMK-led INDIA bloc has a definite advantage in the constituency, DMDK is banking on the support of AIADMK and other alliance partners.

DMDK General Secretary, Premalatha Vijayakanth wife of late Tamil superstar Vijayakanth told media persons that the party leader, K Nalla Thambi would win the seat.

Speaking to media persons at Tiruvallur she said that in the 2019 LokSabha elections the AIADMK was in alliance with the BJP and hence suffered a huge loss by a margin of 3,56,955 votes.

PremalathaVijayakanth added that the alliance with the AIADMK was perfect and the DMDK preferred it, even though the BJP had tried to coerce it into joining the alliance.

TiruvallurLokSabha constituency comprises Gummidipoondi, Ponneri, Tiruvallur, Poonamalle, Avadi and Madhavaram Assembly constituencies and all six were won by the INDIA bloc in the 2021 Assembly elections.

In the Gummidipoondi Assembly constituency, DMK leader, DJ Govindarajan defeated the PMK candidate, M Prakash by a margin of 50,938 votes.

Ponneri Assembly seat was won by Congress leader, Durai Chandrasekhar who defeated P Balaraman of the AIADMK by a margin of 9,689 votes in 2021.

DMK leader, VG Rajendran won the Thiruvallur seat in the Assembly elections by a margin of 22,701 votes defeating AIADMK leader Ramanah.

In Poonamalle, DMK leader A Krishnaswamy defeated SX Rajamannar of the PMK by a margin of 94,110 votes.

DMK leader, SM Nasar won the Avadi Assembly seat by a margin of 55,275 votes defeating AIADMK leader, K Pandiarajan.

In Madhavaram constituency, DMK leader, S Sudharshanam won the seat by a margin of 57,071 votes defeating AIADMK candidate, V Moorthy.

With all the six Assembly constituencies in the TiruvallurLokSabha constituency being won by the INDIA bloc leaders, SasikanthSenthil has a definite edge.

SasikanthSenthil while speaking to IANS said, "The work done by the DMK government led by Chief Minister MK Stalin during the floods has been accepted by the people. The welfare schemes initiated by the Stalin government have also been well-received by the masses. These factors along with the traditional support base of the Congress and DMK will give us a comfortable win."

BJP candidate Pon V Balaganapathy and the NTK candidate, JagadeeshSundherare also in the fray.

However both the parties don't expect to make any impact in the elections.

MJ Vidyadharan, political analyst told IANS, "Congress candidate SasikanthSenthil has a good lead here and is likely to win the seat. The DMDK candidate is a former MLA and a good organisation man. However the possibility of the DMDK wresting the seat is remote."

Union Minister Anurag Thakur eyeing 5th consecutive term from Hamirpur

Union Minister and sitting BJP MP Anurag Thakur is eyeing to win Himachal Pradesh's HamirpurLokSabha seat for the fifth time in a row, while the Congress is yet to announce its candidate for the parliamentary constituency.

This time, he is aiming to surpass the 2019 historical win with a victory margin of about 4 lakh votes, underscoring the electorate's continued support for BJP in the hill state.

Hamirpur is BJP's bastion from where Anurag Thakur's father and two-time Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Prem Kumar Dhumalwas thrice elected as an MP.

Traditionally, this LokSabha seat, made up of 17 assembly constituencies, has been with the BJP since 1998, when Suresh Chandel was elected as the MP. He continued till 2004.

In 2007 Dhumal became the MP from Hamirpur but he later resigned to take over as the Chief Minister. This necessitated the bypoll and since 2008, Anurag Thakur has been the MP. His maiden electoral victory was at the age of 34.

Ground reports say it will not be a challenge for the Union Minister to retain this seat as legislators of three of five Assembly seats in Hamirpur, the home district of the father-son duo, which were earlier won by the state ruling Congress in December 2022 polls, have switched sides and joined the BJP.

The Congress won four of the five Assembly constituencies in the district while an Independent won the seat, once the stronghold of the Dhumal family.



In the run-up to the vote, RajinderRana, who had won as a Congress legislator from Sujanpur -- from where Anurag Thakur's father Dhumal used to contest, is in the fray as the BJP candidate for the Assembly by-poll.

Likewise, Congress turncoat legislator InderDuttLakhanpal from Badsar is in the fray for the Assembly by-poll as the BJP candidate.

Rana and Lakhanpal were among six MLAs who faced disciplinary action from the Congress for cross-voting after the BJP won the lone RajyaSabha seat in the state.

Independent legislator Ashish Sharma from Hamirpur has also extended support to the BJP in the RajyaSabha poll.

"The Congress is facing a challenge to win the BJP's bastion, despite the Chief Minister, for the first time in history, belongs to Hamirpur district," a political observer told IANS on Wednesday.

The parliamentary constituency has a significantly high literacy rate. It consists of 17 Assembly segments, which include all five segments of Una district, five from Hamirpur, four from Bilaspur, two from Kangra and one Assembly segment from Mandi district.

Banking on the NarendraModi factor, Anurag Thakur believes when "you work and deliver there is no question of anti-incumbency, rather there is pro-incumbency".

The Congress, which last won the Hamirpur seat in 1996, in 2019, pitted then-sitting legislator Ram Lal Thakur against Anurag Thakur. The latter got elected that too with a record margin of about four lakh votes, with a vote share of 69 per cent.

In every parliamentary election in the state, which witnesses a bipolar contest between the Congress and the BJP, Hamirpur has been witnessing more aggressive campaigning as compared to the other three LokSabha constituencies -- Shimla (reserved), Kangra and Mandi.

In his political pitch, it is always Anurag Thakur's father and two-time Chief Minister Dhumal who plays an important role by devoting maximum time and energy to ensure his son's victory. He has thrice represented the Hamirpur parliamentary constituency and has amazing rapport.

BJP leaders told IANS that even the Union Minister, whenever he got time from his busy schedule in Delhi before the election announcement, has devoted time and energy in his constituency.

Of and on, he's campaigning across the country and seeking votes for Prime Minister NarendraModi's third term.

Back to his "home pitch", the former BCCI chief's dedication to cricket saw him create modern infrastructure in the small hill state that saw India trouncing England by an innings and 64 runs to win the fifth match of the series at the Himachal Pradesh Cricket Association (HPCA) stadium in Dharamsala on March 9.

Interestingly, BJP's National President J.P. Nadda, who has represented the Bilaspur (Sadar) assembly seat thrice also falls under the Hamirpur parliamentary constituency. In December 2022 Assembly polls, the BJP won all three seats in Bilaspur.

The only saving grace for the state ruling party is that BJP-backed Hamirpur Municipal Committee president Manoj Minhas joined the Congress last week along with councillor Raj Kumar. This development comes days after former BJP president of Sujanpur block Rakesh Thakur joined the Congress.

In the 2019 general polls, the BJP had won all four parliamentary seats. Later in the bypoll, the Congress won the Mandi seat.

Speculations are rife that the Congress may field Deputy Chief Minister MukeshAgnihotri's daughter, Aastha, from Hamirpur. This will be her maiden electoral contest.

Agnihotri belongs to Una, which falls under the Hamirpur parliamentary constituency.

Rohit Sharma is a leader, doesn't matter if you name him captain or not: Brian Lara



New Delhi, April 18 (IANS) West Indies cricket legend Brian Lara while sharing his view on what makes Rohit Sharma a special player said the 36-year-old is a leader whether name him captain or not.

He added that Rohit's ability to put both Team India and Mumbai Indians (MI) first sets him apart.

During MI's clash against Chennai Super Kings (CSK), Rohit smashed an unbeaten 105 off 63 balls in a losing cause and in the process the iconic opener achieved two milestones: the most runs by a batter in the MI vs CSK rivalry with 512 runs and counting and the first Indian to hit 500 sixes in T20 cricket.

"When you look at Rohit Sharma, you feel that he connects to the public very well... Spend his entire life from youth to present-day playing for India sometimes not getting the nods from the selectors and having to work his way back and you know. When you have such an image and a statue like Rohit Sharma... sometimes some people don't take the knock-down very well but I think what is very admirable is his ability to put everything aside and put India first and in this case also put Mumbai Indians first and come out and play the cricket the way it should," Lara said on Star Sports."He does not look like a big sulker, which is great. He's a leader, doesn't matter if you name captain or not. At some point in time when you get to a certain age, at a certain level you are a leader. I think he represents that role very well," he added.

Emirates FA Cup: Manchester City, Chelsea gear up for semi-final showdown, Manchester United favourites against Coventry City

London, April 18 (IANS) The oldest football competition in the world - the Emirates FA Cup, is back to keep fans on the edge of their seats in what promises to be an enthralling semi-final stage. In the first semi-final fixture, the reigning champions Manchester City FC take on London giants Chelsea FC in a clash of heavyweights. On the other hand, Championship side Coventry City face silverware hungry Manchester United at Wembley Stadium.

Title-holders Manchester City breezed past Newcastle United in their quarter-final clash in this competition. A solid brace from Portuguese magician Bernardo Silva, saw Pep Guardiola's men book their ticket to Wembley. The team is on an unstoppable run of form, unbeaten in their last 27 games across all competitions.

Meanwhile, the London giants, Chelsea, overcame Leicester City in a thrilling encounter in the quarter-final stage. Late goals from



substitutes Carney Chukwuemeka and Noni Madueke in injury time sent the Blues through to the semi-finals. Attacking sensation Cole Palmer will be in spotlight for the Blues having scored 23 goals and provided 13 assists - the most goals and assists for the club across all competitions this season.

Coventry City, the only non-Premier League side left in this season's competition, have not featured in an FA Cup semi-final since their 1987 triumph and are pitted as the underdogs in this clash. The Sky Blues defeated Wolves in the quarterfinals, thanks to Haji Wright's winning goal late in the 100th minute. Ellis Simms, the joint second-highest scorer this season, has netted the opener for Coventry in four of their last five matches.Meanwhile, 12-time winners Manchester United last lifted this coveted trophy in 2016 and were runners-up last season. In a mega quarter-final showdown, the Red Devils famously outmaneuvered Liverpool FC thanks to an incredible goal in the dying minutes of extra time from Amad Diallo.

IPL 2024: Devon Conway ruled out due to injury, CSK name Richard Gleeson as replacement



Chennai, April 18 (IANS) Chennai Super Kings (CSK) batter Devon Conway has been ruled out of IPL 2024 due to an injury, the franchise confirmed on Thursday.Conway, who represented Chennai Super Kings (CSK) over the course of the last two IPL seasons, played 23 matches and scored 924 runs, which included 9 half-centuries and a highest score of unbeaten 92.The Chennai-based franchise have added Richard Gleeson to the squad for the remainder of the season. The 33-year-old will join CSK for his reserve price of Rs 50 lakh.Gleeson has represented England in 6 T20Is and has 9 wickets against his name. In his debut T20I, the 33-year-old picked up a three-wicket haul against India which included the scalps of Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli, and Rishabh Pant.Additionally, the right-arm pacer has played 90 T20s and picked 101 wickets, including a five-wicket haul. He has also taken 143 wickets in first-class cricket.CSK, currently third in the pint table, will next play fifth-placed Lucknow Super Giants on Friday in Lucknow.

Ex-Australia cricketer Stuart Law named head coach of USA men's cricket team

Dallas, April 18 (IANS) Former Australian cricketer Stuart Law has been appointed as the head coach of its USA men's national cricket team ahead of their T20I series against Bangladesh scheduled next month just before the ICC T20 World Cup, the country's cricket board has announced.Law has had a distinguished coaching career which began when he was appointed assistant coach of Sri Lanka back in 2009. His first head coach assignment was with Bangladesh in 2011-12. He then took over the reins of West Indies from 2017-2018 on a two-year contract.

In 2022, he was named as the Interim head coach of Afghanistan and later that year Law was appointed as the head coach of the Bangladesh U-19 Cricket team. He has also coached the English County side, Middlesex from 2019-21."It is an exciting opportunity to join USA cricket at this time. USA is one of the strongest Associate nations in the sport, and I believe that we can mold a formidable squad going ahead. The first task will be to prepare the team for the series against Bangladesh and then set our sights on our home World Cup, which will be huge," Law was quoted by USA Cricket.As a player, Law made his debut for Australia in 1994. He was the member of the Australian team which finished as the Runners up in the 1996 World Cup.

Champions League: Man City's treble hopes end after losing to Real Madrid in QF

Manchester, April 18 (IANS) Holders Manchester City were beaten 4-3 on penalties by Real Madrid at Etihad Stadium after they had battled back from 1-0 down to draw 4-4 on aggregate, as their hopes of a second successive treble were ended.Real Madrid continued their quest for a 15th UEFA Champions League title after a dramatic penalty shoot-out victory over holders City and booked a fourth successive semifinal appearance.The first ten minutes were a tense answer. The two teams sat back and studied each other like a game of chess until Camavinga had a shot on target. Ederson caught his effort from the edge of the area in the 11th minute, a chance that was to be the prelude to the goal that gave Madrid the lead in the following move.Valverde played a ball behind the defence, Vini Jr. broke down the right wing and crossed low into the box. Rodrygo shot, Ederson saved the Brazilian's initial effort and the forward smashed in the rebound to stun the Etihad Stadium (0-1, 11th minute)That prompted City to go onto the front foot, and the home side went close just seven minutes after going behind when Erling Haaland's looping header smacked against the crossbar.The reigning champions upped the tempo as the match wore on with Jack Grealish twice testing Andriy Lunin either side of the Real Madrid No13 denying Phil Foden.With Guardiola in search of an equaliser, he sent Jeremy Doku into the action with 18 minutes remaining and the Belgian international was integral to the equaliser. When the tricky substitute's cross was only partially cleared by Antonio Rüdiger, De Bruyne was on hand to scoop the ball into the roof of the net.

Bayern edge Arsenal to reach Champions League semifinal

Berlin, April 18 (IANS) Joshua Kimmich's sole goal helped Bayern Munich progress into the UEFA Champions League last four after beating Arsenal 1-0 (3-2 on aggregate) in the second leg.The German giants caught a bright start in front of the home crowd as Harry Kane's volley went just wide in the opening stages before Noussair Mazraoui'a deflected shot missed the target with 23 minutes gone.Arsenal's goalkeeper David Raya was also busy as he had to palm away Jamal Musiala's dangerous effort moments later.

Two-time world champion Kento Momota announces retirement from international badminton

New Delhi, April 18 (IANS) Two-time world champion Kento Momota of Japan announced his retirement from international badminton on Thursday, marking the Thomas & Uber Cup Finals in Chengdu, China as his final tournament on the international circuit.

Momota became the first Japanese man to win the world championship in 2018 in China and the following year he successfully defended his crown in Switzerland.

"I've realized I can no longer get back to the point where I'm aiming to be No. 1 in the world again," Momota said in a press conference in Tokyo as quoted by Japanese news agency Kyodo News.

"I had a very fulfilling career playing for the national team. Now I want to be involved in helping all kinds of people find enjoyment in sports."

In 2019, Momota won a record 11 titles on the BWF Tour and was named the top men's player. However, in January of the following year, after winning the Malaysia Masters title he met with a tragic highway accident in Kuala Lumpur from which he miraculously survived.

The former world no.1



made his competitive return in December the same year but his form has not been the same since then. He also made a disappointing group-stage exit at the Tokyo Olympics and has had just two tour wins since the crash.

"I'm not going to lie, after the accident I've asked myself, Why me? "Honestly, it was one difficult time after another. But I didn't want to blame it on the accident. I wanted to try and beat it.

"Since the accident in January 2020, there was a lot of hardship,. I tried so many things but I just couldn't close the emotional, physical gap between who I used to be and who I am. I felt I couldn't become world No. 1 again."I had eye surgery and I was seeing double. I couldn't move on the court the way I wanted to, I'd get tired like I never used to. I tried. But I just felt it was no longer possible to keep up with the world's best players. I couldn't play badminton the way I wanted to," he said.

Momota's journey, marred by a gambling scandal that cost him his chance to vie for a medal at the 2016 Rio Olympics, had set his sights on competing in the Paris Olympics, but fell short of qualification due to his ranking.

However, the 29-year-old plans to continue to play domestically in the national championships and the professional League.

IPL 2024: Pietersen opines game time is crucial for Pant to be ready for T20 WC



New Delhi, April 18 (IANS) Former England captain Kevin Pietersen lauded Delhi Capitals skipper Rishabh Pant for his fitness and efforts behind the stumps during the match against Gujarat Titans (GT) and said that the game time is crucial for wicketkeeper batter leading into a T20 World Cup, starting from June 1 in Carribean and USA.

In Wednesday's match against GT, Pant took two catches and effected as many stumping. He dived full stretch to his left for taking a low catch of David Miller, followed by successfully changing the decision on review. He also took a high catch of Rashid Khan to ensure GT's last scoring hope was gone before reaching three figures.

"His mobility tonight was something that will give him great encouragement, which will also encourage Team India. Of course, he needs game time, as everyone does when coming back from an injury. He's returning from a horrific injury, so game time is crucial for him.

"To prepare for the T20 World Cup, he should play these 14-15 IPL games because it's significant leading into a T20 World Cup. If he plays that much cricket, he will be ready," said Pietersen on Star Sports Cricket Live

Pant used his bowlers well to ensure GT bowled out for just 89 on a slow black-soil pitch. DC then finished off the chase in 8.5 overs, with Pant being 16 not out to pick the Player of the Match award for a terrific all-round performance.

"Yeah, the first three bowlers actually bowled beautifully this evening and the way that Rishabh Pant marshalled his troops was exceptional because you want to see one bowler bowling one over and another bowling another and they keep changing with five or six bowlers bowling in the first powerplay whereas Rishabh Pant said no, I am going to back my strike bowlers and I'm going to back the guys that are doing well for me, they are very good with the new ball and I want them to really bury GT. And that's exactly what Delhi did, they buried GT in the powerplay," Pietersen further said.

IPL 2024: 'Bumrah aside, MI bowling lacked depth of quality and consistency', says Aaron Finch



New Delhi, April 18 (IANS) Ahead of the Mumbai Indians' (MI) match against Punjab Kings (PBKS), former Australian captain Aaron Finch lashed out at the Hardik Pandya-led side's bowling, highlighting a "lack of depth and consistency" beyond the star pacer Jasprit Bumrah.

MI bowlers were taken to the cleaners during their last encounter against the arch-rivals Chennai Super Kings. MI used seven bowling options, out of which Akash Madhwal, skipper Hardik Pandya and Romario Shepherd conceded runs at an economy of over 12.

Even in their game against Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) on April 11, when all bowlers leaked runs at an economy of over 7 or 10, Bumrah was the only one, who conceded runs at 5.25 runs per over.

Speaking on Star Sports Cricket Live, Finch shared his thoughts on how Mumbai Indians can get back on the winning track, saying, "First and foremost, I think the captain needs to find some form and consistency with bat and ball. We've seen him bowl in some games and not in others, so ideally, some form with both bat and ball. I think that will go a long way. Additionally, their bowling outside of Jasprit Bumrah has lacked depth of quality and consistency."

The Aussie further praised ex-MI skipper Rohit Sharma for his carefree approach to the game. Rohit showcased his prowess by scoring a brilliant century against CSK, though unfortunately, it was not enough to secure victory for his team.

"One thing I love seeing with Rohit Sharma at the moment is how he's playing carefree cricket. He did it throughout the 50-over World Cup, and he's doing it now.

He's taking the game on, looking to have a maximum impact, which will be a great boost to the rest of the Mumbai Indians side. The start he provides along with Ishan Kishan can set up their whole batting innings. If they get on a roll in the second half of the IPL, it will be great for the team," added Finch.

Long jumper Sreeshankar Murali ruled out of Paris Olympics with knee injury

New Delhi, April 18 (IANS) With less than 100 days to go for Paris 2024, ace Indian long jumper Sreeshankar Murali has unfortunately been sidelined from the Olympics due to a knee injury, he sustained during training, which requires surgery.

The Asian Games and Commonwealth Games silver medallist shared the heartbreaking news with a social media post, "All my life, I've had the courage to look at a setback in the eye, accept situations I can't change, and work hard at dictating the outcomes of those I can. Unfortunately, in what feels like a nightmare, but is a reality, my Paris Olympic Games dream is over," the post read.

"To wake up healthy every single day, and watch yourself get into the best shape of your life, is every athlete's dream. I was living it, until this incident. Life writes strange scripts, and sometimes there is courage in accepting it and moving on. That's what I will do," the post further read.

The 25-year-old sealed the Olympics qualification at the Asian Athletics Championships in Bangkok in July last year, clinching silver with a best jump of 8.37m, breaching the automatic qualification mark of 8.27m.

"My journey to a comeback began the minute I injured my knee. This road is going to be long, difficult and will take a lot out of me. The good thing is, I have a lot to give.



I will overcome this, because that's what Mamba Mentality is all about.

"I will need your prayers, love and positive energy. I may jump alone, but it takes a collective push before every leap. This is my biggest one yet," Sreeshankar wrote.

In 2023, Sreeshankar delivered a remarkable season, clinching a silver at the Hangzhou Asian Games and securing the silver medal at the Asian Championships.

Last year, he also became the first Indian long jumper to qualify for the Diamond League final following his fifth-place in the Zurich leg after the third and fifth-place finish in the Paris and Lausanne legs, respectively. But he had skipped the prestigious event to focus on his preparation for the Asian Games.

Addressing beer culture misconception in Indian society



New Delhi, April 18 (IANSlife) Beer as a social beverage has been enjoyed by millions of people for centuries across cultures. Yet in India, its image is often clouded by misconception steaming from long-rooted social beliefs and traditions terming beer to be evil for health.

These myths have been spread from generation to generation, and as a result, many people are missing the opportunities of the multifaceted world of craft beers, not to mention a chance to have a beer with friends.

VedantKedia, Chief Growth Officer of Mount Everest Brewery Limited (MEBL) debunks some of the most common misconceptions about beer culture in Indian society, paving the way for a more informed appreciation of beer.

Misconception 1: Beer is unhealthy altogether

While excessive alcohol intake is unquestionably bad, beer in moderation can provide some benefits. It contains antioxidants, which can be beneficial to fight cell damage, along with B vitamins that contribute to energy production and silicon, which may improve bone mineral density and bone health. Also, Light beers usually have fewer calories and carbohydrates than regular beers anyway, hence making them a potentially healthier choice. But, just like in any other case, moderation is what counts.

Misconception 2: All beers are bitter and bland

This simply is untrue! The Indian craft beer movement has made strides with a variety of beers covering the expansive range of categories where on one side light and refreshing wheat beer with hints of citrus or honey can be seen and on the contrary, on the darker side, brews with roasted malt, coffee, or chocolate flavours may be grouped. In between lies a vast landscape of beers, from crisp pilsners to malty ambers and floral IPAs. Furthermore, Indian breweries are experimenting with local ingredients, creating beers with familiar flavours such as mango, ginger, and even chai spices, making them more accessible.

Misconception 3: Beer is for celebrations only

Beer's versatility extends far beyond celebratory occasions. It's a fantastic drink to share with friends after work, fostering conversation and relaxation. A cold beer can unwind you after a long day, allowing you to de-stress and enjoy the moment. It can elevate a variety of occasions, from casual get-togethers to movie nights or simply enjoying a quiet moment at home.

Misconception 4: Beer is expensive

There is a misconception that imported or high-end craft beers are the only options. While some may be more expensive, there are many reasonably priced variants available at domestic prices.

Indian microbreweries are continually developing and providing high-quality beers at affordable prices. Furthermore, many bars and restaurants provide happy hours with reduced beverages, making it a viable social activity.

Misconception 5: Beer is a "Western" drink and has no place in Indian culture

This myth disregards the historical link between India and beer. According to historical evidence, rice beers were drunk in ancient India, maybe as early as 3000 BC. These indigenous beverages, which are sometimes tied with religious rites, highlight a long brewing tradition that

They are also highly associated with religious ceremonies and showcase a long-standing brewing tradition that predates colonialism. Local names like "Handia" and "Chhang" are a testament to this heritage.

Today, the masters of modern Indian craft brews are re-inventing the old traditions with some twist on their sleeve, introducing to new consumers combined feelings of familiarity and regional ingredients as well as new techniques.

Breaking free from these myths helps us to see beer for what it is: bringing together a collection of different flavours resulting in a beverage that holds an important place in history.

Focusing on health-conscious consumers has been a challenge as caffeinated beverages typically add extra sugar or low-calorie sweeteners to cater to this market. Balancing taste and health is a delicate task that requires creative and innovative solutions.

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A wellness journey in Azerbaijan's great Caucasian Forest



New Delhi, April 18 (IANSlife) This Summer, consider experiencing a wholesome wellness journey at Chenot Palace Gabala, a global award-winning wellness retreat in an idyllic setting of Azerbaijan's great Caucasian Forest overlooking the peaceful Nohur Lake.

This picturesque getaway is perfectly designed for discerning wellness seekers, offering incredible natural beauty, and a unique combination of serenity and energy. A range of 72 well-designed rooms and suites, plus 3 spacious villas with private spas, provide a perfect sanctuary in harmony with nature at Chenot Palace Gabala.

The Chenot Diet

The Chenot Diet Plan is a fundamental aspect of the Chenot Method, carefully crafted to complement other medical treatments and aid in the detoxification, stimulation, and reset of the body. Chenot integrates extensive scientific research into this diet, covering everything from ingredient selection and processing to cooking techniques. Unique detox recipes are formulated to combine the finest ingredients without compromising taste, flavour, or presentation. Factors like low-density calories, acidity, low temperatures, and moisture are meticulously considered.

RamizBayramov, executive chef at Chenot Palace Gabala, follows the Chenot method, which advocates for a plant-based diet.

He says, "We meticulously select products for dishes, considering nuances such as calorie content, fats, proteins, and carbs. The aim is to create dishes that are perfectly balanced and delicious, with each new recipe coordinated with nutritionists. Some vegetables used are grown onsite in their own environmentally friendly garden, without additives.

The menu changes daily, ensuring strict control over quality and quantity. For breakfast, guests can enjoy various types of fruits. Lunch includes a starter, salad, and a choice of two main courses, while dinner offers an appetizer, soup, and a choice between two main courses. This approach ensures a diverse and nutritious dining experience for guests."

Tea For All

At Chenot Palace Gabala, guests can unwind at the Tea Bar, a cozy tearoom that provides a perfect space for guests to relax, read, or enjoy a cup of gourmet Chenot tea. The Tea Bar offers an exquisite selection of natural and herbal teas by Chenot.

Guests can choose from an array of teas that help with feeling fresh, detoxifying, supporting the liver, calming down, boosting metabolism, aiding digestion, and more, each tea has its own special taste and health benefits.

They can also try the richness of Yunnan Pu-erh, which has a high Vitamin C content or indulge in the sweet and romantic notes of Love Story tea. Whether sipping on Sencha for its antioxidant properties or enjoying the gentle flavours of the Romeo and Juliet blend, each cup promises a delightful journey for the senses.

The World-Class Medical Facilities

Chenot Palace Gabala is distinguished by its outstanding medical facilities, ensuring meticulous consultations and employing cutting-edge diagnostics. The implementation of innovative assessments such as Oxidative Stress and Vascular Age Evaluation highlights the retreat's commitment to a sophisticated approach to optimising arterial health.

Spanning an impressive 6,000 square meters, the medical centre is equipped with state-of-the-art technology, featuring the latest advancements in diagnostic techniques for both medical and spa procedures. This comprehensive facility is staffed by expert medical professionals who diligently curate personalised programmes for each guest, tailoring experiences that enhance individual wellness.

IANSlife can be contacted at ianslife@ians.in

'Khushiki Chaupal' in UP's Anganwadi centres

Lucknow, April 18 (IANS) The Uttar Pradesh government has launched a new initiative to improve the learning experience for children in Anganwadi centres (AWCs).

This initiative includes a new book titled "KhushikiChaupal" and an academic manual modelled after those used in public schools.

"KhushikiChaupal" is a collection of stories that use activities to encourage children and their parents to develop positive habits and lead happy lives.

Developed by UNICEF, the book promotes and reinforces responsive parenting practices.

Officials say the government is providing a platform for parents to understand how to use the 'BalPitara' mobile application.

This app, designed for parents of children aged 3-6, includes a 32-week calendar with audio-video resources featuring 384 developmentally appropriate activities, 32 stories and 32 rhymes.

According to the government spokesman, fortnightly meetings will be conducted with parents, using the book as a guide. These meetings will focus on children's developmental goals in foundational literacy and numeracy.

"The book is a holistic approach to responsive caregiving," said the spokesman. "It covers early learning practices, nutrition, health and hygiene practises, and child protection issues."

The book was developed in response to the closure of anganwadis due to Covid-19. It initially focused on responsive caregiving with an emphasis on preschool education. A pilot programme was conducted in the Devipatan division. The programme informed parents about key developmental milestones in early childhood. The book also provides detailed guidelines on activities that parents can use at home to promote their children's development.



Ghee and K-wave cuisine to take center stage in 2024 Indian culinary landscape



New Delhi, April 18 (IANSlife) In an ever-evolving culinary landscape, the theme of Provenance signifies the exploration and amplification of the depth and diversity of Indian cuisine, it not only connects us to the origins of our food but also highlights the need for sustainable practices that preserve our culinary heritage.

Godrej VikhroliCucina, a curated, brand-agnostic, owned media platform hosted a star-studded launch for the highly anticipated Godrej Food Trends Report 2024 at the glamorous Godrej L'Affaire 2024. The report, under the theme 'Provenance', explores the rich tapestry of India's food culture, delving into the diverse origins of ingredients and India's culinary practices.

The report highlights conscientious eaters who seek transparency and authenticity and gravitate towards products that champion the values embedded in their journey from farm to plate.

Commenting on the 2024 edition of the report, Tanya Dubash, Executive Director & Chief Brand Officer, Godrej Industries Limited and Associate Companies, said, "The Godrej Food Trends Report 2024 marks another milestone in our quest to spark conversations and identify trends in the food industry. Consumers are getting savvier about their diets, focusing on mindful nutrition.

With a focus on Provenance, this edition celebrates India's rich culinary heritage and invites readers to explore the myriad flavours and cultures that define our nation. I am confident that readers will be captivated by the depth and diversity of insights offered within this edition, further solidifying India's position as a global leader in the realm of food and gastronomy."

Some key insights from the Godrej Foods Trends Report 2024 are:

Authentic cuisine will drive travel experiences: Experts forecast that 92.3% of travellers will join Culinary site tours to enrich their travels through authentic culinary encounters

Bespoke cocktails will raise the bar: Experts reveal that dedicated menus around Indian-origin spirits will illuminate the bar scene in 2024 by 82.7%

Chocolate will become a sophisticated affair: Indian chocolatiers are increasingly showcasing the unique nuances of Provenance by artfully combining locally grown, high-quality, cacao beans as experts report a 94.2% in artisanal chocolates.

K-food will become mainstream: Korean culture has been garnering a cult following, with its bold flavours and diverse dishes. Korean restaurants will see significant traction, with concepts like teppanyaki, robata, and ramen becoming increasingly prevalent.

Ghee will rise again: From health-conscious millennials to flavour-driven foodies, ghee's natural goodness, will have a renewed appeal by 84.6% as we take inspiration from culinary roots.

Women in food will be in the spotlight: 2024 will illuminate the pivotal role women have played in the culinary landscape of India. From regional custodians to food entrepreneurs, chefs, bartenders and brewers, women will finally get due recognition for their contribution to shaping Indian gastronomy.

"India's soft power is our cuisine and its sheer diversity, and the power of our history, plurality, and continuity.

So, I am happy to see it finally valued for being authentic and unapologetically true to itself. For the longest time, we have been carpet-bombed with a generalized idea of Indian food defined by political boundaries. But whatever prism you use to break it down by, the context for regional cuisines will always be the geography, agriculture, climate, and culture of a place," shares Celebrity Chef Ajay Chopra.

IANSlife can be contacted at ianslife@ians.in

Chandon redefines the Indian culinary landscape

New Delhi, April 18 (IANSlife) Chandon India, from the Nashik region of India, produces world-class, premium quality sparkling wine in two variants - Brut and Rosé.

ChandonAurva stands as the newest entrant in the expansive Moet Hennessy brand portfolio in India, showcasing masterful expertise in harnessing the potential of the Shiraz grape variety.



It embodies the culmination of over six decades of trailblazing winemaking worldwide.

This exceptional red wine, crafted exclusively with 100 percent Shiraz grapes cultivated in Nashik, India, delivers a world-class experience.

Its distinctive notes of berries, oak, or spice offer an exquisite taste that lingers on the palate, creating a true connoisseur's delight.

The Brut and Rosé have been created using the highest level of precision and expertise by winemakers that would add more joy to celebrating every special moment of your life.

The bubbly brings about a rich, decadent aroma of acacia, honey and tropical fruits, with fine persistent bubbles and a smooth finish.

The packaging also includes a new, confident, modern wordmark, vertically placed, that oozes with sophistication and luxury providing the same superior quality sparkling wine to celebrate all your occasions.

ChandonAurva is priced at Rs. 4250/- and is currently available in Mumbai across select retail outlets and five-star properties. It is also available at the winery in Nashik. While the Brut Rose is priced at Rs. 2500/-

IANSlife can be contacted at ianslife@ians.in

SC asks EC to look into media reports on EVM functioning during mock polling in Kerala

New Delhi, April 18 (IANS) The Supreme Court on Thursday orally asked the Election Commission (EC) to look into media reports suggesting that Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) erroneously registered votes in favour of the BJP during mock polling in Kerala's Kasaragod.

A bench of Justices Sanjiv Khanna and Dipankar Datta asked senior advocate Maninder Singh, representing EC, to look into the issue raised by advocate Prashant Bhushan.Amid the ongoing hearing on pleas seeking directions to the poll body to tally every vote cast through EVMs with Voter-Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) slips, Bhushan drew the attention of the apex court towards a news article published on Tuesday where agents of Left Democratic Front (LDF) and the United Democratic Front (UDF) candidates in Kerala alleged that BJP's lotus was getting extra votes during the commissioning of the machines for the polling.

At this, Justice Khanna told ECI's counsel: "Mr. (Maninder) Singh, please check this up."The top court is hearing the public interest litigations (PILs) seeking a direction to the EC to mandatorily cross-verify the votes cast in EVMs with VVPAT as opposed to the current practice of counting VVPAT slips of five randomly selected polling stations in each assembly constituency.

BJP nominates Narayan Rane from Ratnagiri Sindhudurg LS seat

Mumbai, April 18 (IANS) The BJP has nominated Union Minister Narayan Rane from Ratnagiri Sindhudurg Lok Sabha constituency in Maharashtra's Konkan region, thus ending the suspense.Rane's nomination was declared a day ahead of the last date of nomination which falls on April 19. The polling is slated for May 7.He is pitted against the Shiv Sena UBT nominee and sitting MP, Vinayak Raut.incidentally, CM Eknath Shinde, who is the chief leader of Shiv Sena, had staked the party's claim but could not get it.Shiv Sena Minister Uday Samant's brother Kiran Samant, who had started a campaign and stepped up outreach with voters in the last six months, was keen to contest the seat.Rane's term in the Rajya Sabha had ended recently as he was not renominated again though he was tipped off for candidature in the Lok Sabha polls from Ratnagiri Sindhudurg.He had already held party meetings in the constituency and visited almost six Assembly segments. Rane is expected to seek votes riding on the Modi wave and also on the MahaYuti's strength in the Konkan region.On the other hand, Shiv Sena UBT nominee Vinayak Raut, whose nomination was announced a couple of days ago, had completed at least two rounds of outreach with voters in the absence of the declaration of the MahaYuti nominee.

Bengal LS poll: 37 in fray for three seats in 1st phase, Cooch Behar gets maximum security

Kolkata, April 18 (IANS) The fate of as many as 37 candidates, including that of a Union Minister, will be sealed on Friday in the first phase of elections in three Lok Sabha constituencies in West Bengal.Of the three constituencies, Cooch Behar will be under special focus not only because the Union Minister is seeking re-election from there but also because of the sensitivity of the constituency as regards records of poll-related violence.

BJP has sitting MPs from all the three Lok Sabha constituencies -- Cooch Behar Behar, Jalpaiguri and Alipurduar.At Cooch Behar, BJP has re-nominated Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Nisith Pramanik. His closest contestants are Jagadish Chandra Barma Basunia of Trinamool Congress, who is also a sitting party legislator and All India Forward Bloc's Nitish Chandra Roy.The constituency will have 112 companies, the maximum deployment, of Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) on Friday.At Jalpaiguri, BJP has re-nominated its sitting Lok Sabha member Jayanta Kumar Roy, who is pitted against Trinamool Congress's sitting MLA Nirmal Chandra Roy and CPI(M)'s youth leader Debraj Barman. Jalpaiguri will have the deployment of 75 companies of CAPF.At Alipurduar, BJP replaced its sitting Lok Sabha member with Manoj Tigga, who besides being a sitting party MLA is also the chief whip of BJP's legislative party in West Bengal Assembly. Trinamool Congress has fielded its sitting Rajya Sabha member Parkash Chik Baraik. Revolutionary Socialist Party (RSP)'s Mili Oraon is also in the poll fray. A total of 63 companies of CAPF have been deployed at Alipurduar for Friday.Besides 250 companies of CAPF, a total of 10,000 personnel which includes those from state armed police forces, have also been deployed by the Election Commission (ECI) for these three Lok Sabha constituencies.As per the records of the office of the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO), West Bengal, the total number of polling booths in the three Lok Sabha constituencies combined is 5,814, out of which 1,862 have been earmarked as sensitive booths.The polling will start at 7 a.m and continue till 6 6.m.

Mayawati expels her party's candidate from Jhansi

Jhansi (UP), April 18 (IANS) The Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) has expelled Rakesh Kushwaha, its candidate on the Jhansi Lok Sabha seat, from the party on charges of indiscipline.BSP President Mayawati has also taken action against some other office-bearers of the party in Jhansi.

The district BSP president B. K. Gautam said that the new candidate for the Jhansi seat would be announced soon.The date of voting for Jhansi Lok Sabha constituency is 20 May in phase five.

FIR against woman who alleged Ravi Kishan is father of her daughter

Lucknow, April 18 (IANS) An FIR has been registered at the Hazratganj police station in Lucknow against six people, including a woman, who claimed that BJP MP Ravi Kishan is the father of her daughter.The FIR was registered on a complaint by Ravi Kishan's wife Preeti Shukla.Apart from the woman, Aparna Thakur, the FIR also names her husband Rajesh Soni, daughter Shenova Soni, son Sonak Soni, Samajwadi Party leader Vivek Kumar Pandey and a journalist Khurshid Khan.

The accused have been booked under IPC sections 120-B (conspiracy), 195 (giving false evidence), 386 (extortion by intimidation), 388 (extortion by threat), 504 (intentional insult) and 506 (criminal intimidation), police said.

The BJP MP's wife also alleged in the FIR that Aparna Soni aka Aparna Thakur had threatened her, saying that she has links with the underworld.

She had allegedly demanded a ransom of Rs 20 crore and threatened that if her demand was not met, she would tarnish Ravi Kishan's image by implicating him in a false rape case, police said.

The FIR said that a complaint was made to the Mumbai Police in this matter, but Aparna held a Press conference in Lucknow on April 15, making false allegations. The FIR claimed that the others named are also involved in this.

The BJP has re-nominated Ravi Kishan to contest from Gorakhpur for the upcoming Lok Sabha polls.

First phase of LS polls: Will Modi-Yogi popularity override caste equations in UP?

Lucknow, April 18 (IANS) The wave of Prime Minister Modi's popularity, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's stern dealing with the law & order situation and the euphoria over the Ram temple has started overriding the caste equations in Uttar Pradesh.

The state has always witnessed the caste factor come into play whenever elections are to be held, but now it is the popularity of PM Modi and CM Yogi Adityananth that is overtaking all other issues.

In the first phase of elections in western UP, where normally the voting pattern of Muslims and Dalits decides the fate of candidates, this time there is a palpable difference because all that seems to be working is the Modi and Yogi factor.

The performance of Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) candidates in this phase will also decide the party's future.

The BSP has tweaked its strategy when it fielded candidates from castes who, otherwise, are believed to be the core voters of the BJP but apparently, candidates are unable to wean away these votes from the BJP's bag.

For example, in 2014, Muzaffarnagar was won by BJP's Sanjeev Baliyan by a low margin of 6,400 votes, and Meerut was won by BJP's Rajendra Agrawal by a margin of around 4,700 votes.

In Muzaffarnagar, where the Muslims form around 30 per cent of the electorate, the BSP has fielded Dara Singh Prajapati, an OBC hoping to corner the votes of his community as well as the party's traditional Dalit community.

However, the BJP has gained ground in both these constituencies and caste factors have receded into the background.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's rally in Meerut and Yogi Adityanath's rally in Muzaffarnagar has turned the tide completely in BJP's favour.In Meerut, the BSP has Deovrat Tyagi, a Brahmin against BJP's Arun Govil, who played Lord Rama in the serial 'Ramayana'. The BSP nominee is eyeing the support of around 50,000



'Tyagi' voters in Meerut, apart from Dalit and Muslim votes, but sources claim that upper castes and Dalits are preparing to vote for BJP this time.

In an interesting development, this time, the Muslim mood towards the BJP has also softened to an extent and even Dalits are veering towards BJP after being disillusioned by Mayawati's indecision.

Observers believe that, unlike Assembly elections, the Muslim voters will be more tactful this time. They will not blindly choose between the BSP and the SP-Congress alliance but will weigh the benefits they have received from the BJP governments at the centre and state.

Haji Ikhlaq, a trader in Meerut, says, "The BJP is no longer untouchable for us. We have received the benefits of their welfare schemes and there is no reason why we will not vote for them. Muslims are breaking the earlier mindset and the change will be visible in these elections."

In the 2014 Lok Sabha polls and 2017 Assembly elections, the minority voters supported candidates of both SP and BSP leading to the division of votes. The BJP got the maximum number of 71 Lok Sabha in 2014 and 312 Assembly seats in 2022.

In 2022, the minority vote consolidated towards the Samajwadi Party, but it could not cross the 112-seat mark.

It is only the Jatavs among Dalits in the west UP region who are likely to remain loyal to Mayawati.

In Saharanpur, BJP's Raghav Lakhan Pal, a Brahmin is pitted against Congress-SP alliance candidate Imran Masood and BSP's Majid Ali, one of the richest candidates in the fray.Imran Masood is facing a tough challenge from BSP, which could make it easier for BJP to sail through to victory.

In Meerut, SP candidate and former mayor Sunita Verma, a Jatav, is likely to draw support from the voters of her caste which will dent BSP's base.

In Nagina (SC), Azad Samaj Party chief Chandra Shekhar Azad is likely to make some dent in BSP's vote bank.

"If Chandra Shekhar dents BSP, the victory run for BJP will be much easier," said a local leader.

BJP's Kunwar Sarvesh Singh, in Moradabad, could find it easier to reach the victory post as BSP's Israr Saifi is locked in a crucial battle of Muslims and Dalit votes with SP's Ruchi Veera.

However, in Pilibhit, BSP is not a major factor.

In Pilibhit, Lodh Rajputs or Lodhs would be the deciding factor. It is the vote from this community which will decide who will have the last laugh - BJP's Jitin Prasada or SP's Bhagwat Saran Gangwar.

Jitin Prasada, meanwhile, is riding high on the Modi wave and the rallies by the Prime Minister and Yogi Adityanath have strengthened his position in the past week.

In Rampur, a lot will depend on how enthusiastic the voters are on the day of voting. There is a clear division of Muslim votes after SP leader Mohd Azam Khan refused to accept the party's official candidate Muhibullah Nadwi. His supporters are throwing their weight behind Zeeshan Khan of BSP.

The BJP candidate Ghanshyam Lodhi stands safe in his position.

In Kerala rally, Rajnath Singh takes dig at Cong's 'Rahulyaan', hurls 'migration' charge

New Delhi, April 18 (IANS) Union Minister Rajnath Singh, while campaigning for BJP in Kerala's Kottayam district on Thursday, took a dig at Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and said that 'Rahulyaan' is neither getting launched nor finding a suitable landing.

Addressing a big public gathering, Rajnath said that the BJP-led government is preparing to launch Gaganyaan and Adityayaan is already headed towards the Sun, but sadly, Congress is finding it hard to launch its "youth leader."

"Young leader of Congress is not getting launched despite several attempts. Congress party's 'Rahulyaan' is neither getting launched nor landing anywhere," Rajnath said, in a jibe at the party and Gandhi scion.

Rajnath's scathing criticism of the Congress leader comes on the back of



the party's ignominious performances in last two general elections (2014 and 2019). Despite projecting Rahul as its top leader, the party failed to mount any challenge to BJP, and is seen lagging behind in the ongoing campaign.

Rajnath also hurled "migration" charge at Rahul over the party's delay and reluctance in launching its candidate from Amethi Lok Sabha constituency, a pocket borough of Gandhi family until 2019.

He said that the party is not able to muster the courage to announce its Amethi nominee, fearing another setback in 2024.

"Rahul Gandhi migrated from Uttar Pradesh to Kerala. Last time, he lost the elections from Lok Sabha constituency. This time, he is not able to gather the courage to fight elections from its bastion," he said.

He further said that Rahul won't find it "easy" in Wayanad either as people have made up their minds not to elect him as their Member of Parliament this time.

As per insiders, Congress is in dilemma over launching its candidates from Amethi and Rae Bareli Lok Sabha constituencies. Rahul won Amethi seat thrice in 2004, 2009 and 2014 elections, but lost it in 2019 against Smriti Irani, with latter earning the tag of the "giant slayer."

The party is also uncertain about finalising its candidate for Rae Bareli constituency. Sonia Gandhi represented it many times but after she moved to Rajya Sabha, the party is yet to zero in on a "suitable" candidate.

Meanwhile, the Lok Sabha election in Kottayam is expected to have a triangular contest between two Congress factions and Bharath Dharma Jana Sena (BDJS).

NC leader Mian Altaf files nomination for J&K's Anantnag-Rajouri LS seat

Srinagar, April 18 (IANS) Senior Gujjar and Bakarwal leader Mian Altaf Ahmad on Thursday filed nomination papers for the Anantnag-Rajouri Lok Sabha seat.



Accompanied by former Chief Minister and NC vice president, Omar Abdullah, party leaders and scores of supporters, Mian Altaf filed papers at the district development commissioner's office in Anantnag who is the returning officer for the constituency.

Former Chief Minister and PDP president Mehbooba Mufti is also filing her papers from this constituency on Thursday.

J&K Apni Party headed by Syed Altaf Bukhari is fielding Zafar Iqbal Manhas from this seat while former Chief Minister, Ghulam Nabi Azad of Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP) has now decided not to fight elections from this constituency.

BJP has so far not announced its candidates for any of the three Lok Sabha seats in Kashmir nor has the party announced its support to any candidate in this constituency so far.Congress is supporting the NC in all three Lok Sabha seats in the Valley as the NC has supported Congress candidates for the two Lok Sabha seats in the Jammu division.

Bangur Cement launches 'Vote Solid, Desh Solid' campaign

Patna / Muzzafarpur: Bangur Cement has initiated a groundbreaking multimedia campaign aimed at inspiring citizens across the nation to exercise their right to vote during the upcoming elections. Titled "Vote Solid, Desh Solid," the campaign marks a sequel to the highly successful "Solid Ghar" campaign and aims to underscore the significance of each individual's vote in shaping a robust and resilient nation.

The innovative campaign draws parallels between building a solid home with Bangur Cement and contributing to the solidity of the nation through active participation in the democratic process. Spearheaded by the renowned Bollywood star Sunny Deol, the campaign carries a powerful message urging citizens to recognize the impact of their vote on the nation's future.

A key component of the campaign is the "Vote ka Vachan" initiative, accessible through Bangur Cement's website at votekavachan.bangurcement.com. Here, citizens are encouraged to pledge their intent to vote, with Bangur Cement committing to donate 1 KG of cement for every pledge made. The donated cement will be utilized for various social welfare projects, underscoring the brand's commitment to community development.

Commenting on the campaign, Mr. Neeraj Akhoury, Managing Director of Shree Cement, stated, "Bangur Cement's 'Vote Solid Desh Solid' campaign and the 'Vote Ka Vachan' pledge exemplify our dedication to fostering a progressive nation with inclusive growth through our brands, products, and network."

PM Modi took decisive steps to bring peace in Northeast: BJP chief Nadda

Guwahati, April 18 (IANS) BJP President J. P. Nadda has asserted that Prime Minister Narendra Modi took decisive steps to bring peace in the Bodoland area of Assam by signing the Bodo peace accord.Nadda was campaigning for the BJP ally United People's Party Liberal (UPPL) in Kokrajhar on Thursday.He said, "Today, the entire Bodoland area is peaceful because the Prime Minister has taken the initiative to sign the Bodo peace accord. More than 1,500 cadres of proscribed groups surrendered their arms after the peace accord making it one of the most important peace accords in the country."



The senior BJP leader also mentioned that PM Modi has given government projects worth at least Rs 1,500 crore in the Bodoland area."The Prime Minister has given utmost importance to the development of the Northeast. He has taken many initiatives like building new national highways, and airports to bring the northeastern region to the mainstream of the country," he added.Nadda further said that the Prime Minister has implemented the 'Act East' policy which has catered to fast-paced development in this region. He has outlined a slew of government initiatives to bring prosperity to the Northeast.Meanwhile, the senior BJP leader also alleged that Congress was involved in divisive politics in Assam and that the grand old party failed to bring peace to the region.

"We have lifted the Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) from 70 per cent of areas in the region. This is a major step towards bringing peace in the Northeast," he added.

BJP's Aruna, Rajender file nomination papers in Telangana

Hyderabad, April 18 (IANS) BJP National Vice President D. K. Aruna and former state minister Eatala Rajender filed their nominations for Mahabubnagar and Malkajgiri Lok Sabha seats respectively, on Thursday.

Soon after the process for receiving nominations began at 11 a.m. following the poll notification issued by Election Commission of India, Aruna filed her papers before the Returning Officer at Mahabubnagar Collectorate.

BJP MP K. Laxman and other leaders were also present. Aruna performed puja at a temple and signed the nomination papers before leaving for the Collector's office to file her papers.

In 2019, Aruna lost the election from the same seat to Manne Srinivas Reddy of Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) by a margin of over 77,000 votes. BRS has renominated Srinivas Reddy while Challa Vamshi Chand Reddy is once again contesting on a Congress



ticket.

BJP's Eatala Rajender filed his nomination for Malkajgiri Lok Sabha seat at Medchal Collectorate, after performing puja at his residence, together with his family members. He also visited a temple in Shameerpet and placed his nomination papers at the feet of the deity.

Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri visited Rajender's house before the latter left for a rally to file his nomination papers.

Rajender had suffered defeat in Huzurabad Assembly constituency in the recent elections. In 2021, he was re-elected from Huzurabad in a byelection as BJP candidate. He had resigned as MLA and quit BRS after then Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao dropped him from the Cabinet following allegations of land grabbing. He joined BJP and emerged as a key figure after winning the byelection.

In Malkajgiri, Rajender is pitted against Sunitha Mahender Reddy of Congress and Ragidi Laxma Reddy of BRS.

In 2019, the Malkajgiri seat was won by A. Revanth Reddy, who later became the President of state Congress, and recently became the Chief Minister following Congress' victory in Assembly elections.

World Health Day

Boys born to mothers with HIV more vulnerable to death in infancy



New Delhi, April 18 (IANS) Children, especially boys, born to women with HIV infection have an increased risk of immune abnormalities, including a high risk of death, finds a study.

This is because of exposure to maternal HIV viruses in the blood, immune dysfunction, and co-infections during pregnancy revealed by the team from the Queen Mary University of London in the UK.

The study included 726 pregnant women with HIV, and compared blood samples between infants who were HIV-exposed and HIV-unexposed in rural Zimbabwe. The findings showed that the immune development of HIV-exposed babies -- and especially boys -- was different in those who had been exposed.

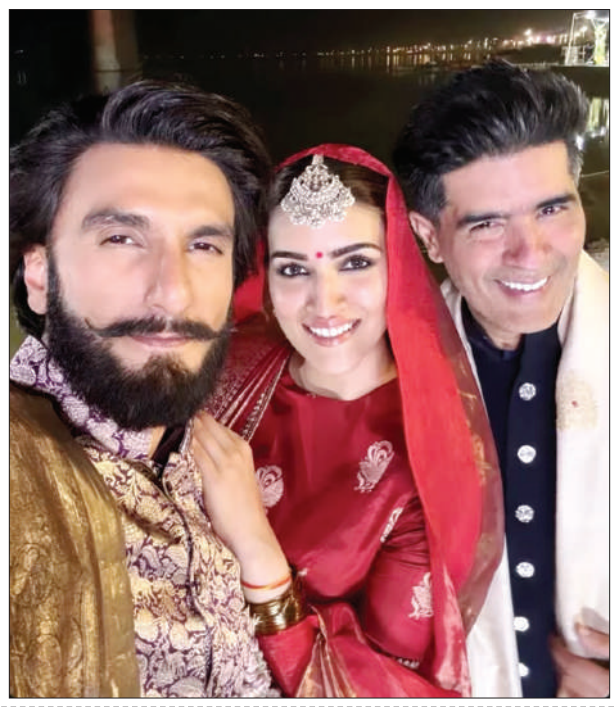
Mortality rates in this group were 41 per cent higher than in infants not exposed to HIV.

"Collectively, the findings show how the skewed immune milieu of women with HIV in pregnancy -- characterised by inflammation, immune dysfunction, and co-infections -- shapes immune development in their offspring," said Dr. Ceri Evans, Clinical Lecturer in Paediatric Infectious Diseases at the University of Liverpool.

Even among the infants who survived and remained HIV-free, the team found impaired growth and development. Worryingly, this is "despite high coverage of maternal antiretroviral therapy (ART) and uptake of exclusive breastfeeding", the researchers said, in the paper published in the journal Nature Communications. Besides systemic inflammation among women with HIV, as measured by C-reactive protein (CRP) in the blood, infection with cytomegalovirus (CMV) -- a co-factor in HIV disease progression -- was also found to be independently associated with infant mortality, as well as impacting on the development of the child's immune system, the researchers explained.

"Inflammation, as indicated by CRP, is inexpensive and simple to measure, offering the immediate opportunity for antenatal point-of-care testing to be used to identify those most at risk of infant mortality, with more support provided for high-risk pregnancies," Evans said.

Kriti surprises fans with pics from Manish Malhotra's Namo Ghat show in Varanasi



Mumbai, April 18 (IANS) Kriti Sanon on Thursday shared some 'divine' images along with Ranveer Singh from ace fashion designer Manish Malhotra's recent fashion show at Namo Ghat in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh.

The show, which was held on April 14, saw the two actors celebrating Indian craftsmanship as they donned traditional wear.

Offering a glimpse into the show, Kriti took to Instagram and posted a series of pictures, showcasing the 'Bareilly Ki Barfi' actress in a red lehenga.

The red choli adorned with silver-coloured flower motifs, paired with an orange and golden-bordered lehenga and dupatta, accentuated her look. She elegantly styled the dupatta on her head.

Complementing the ensemble with a subtle makeup look, highlighted by a red bindi, Kriti accessorised with a silver maang tika, matching earrings, and bangles adorned with gajra.

On the other hand, Ranveer donned a brown and golden sherwani.

The duo is giving striking poses for the cameras, as they shoot with the picturesque backdrop of the Namo Ghat.

Kriti captioned the post: "Soaked in our heritage... Surrounded by divinity... At Namo Ghat, Kashi."

Meanwhile, on the work front, Kriti is basking on the success of her film 'Crew', which also stars Kareena Kapoor Khan and Tabu.

She next has 'Do Patti' in her kitty.

Ranveer will reprise his role of Simmba in the upcoming Rohit Shetty directorial 'Singham Again'. The film also stars his wife, Deepika Padukone, along with Ajay Devgn, Akshay Kumar, Tiger Shroff, and Kareena Kapoor Khan.

Ranveer has 'Don 3' in the pipeline.

Responsible AI key to promote global peace

New Delhi, April 18 (IANS) If used responsibly, Artificial Intelligence (AI) can be an important tool to promote global peace, prevent violent conflict, and safeguard human rights, according to experts on Wednesday.The potential of AI has majorly been overshadowed by its potential for catastrophic harm from powering drone swarms for international warfare to generating deep fakes that spread misinformation and prejudice. But, in their recently published book titled AI for Peace, the authors political scientist Branka Panic and Dr. Paige Arthur from New York .

Teja Sajja plays Super Yodha who aces Japanese Karra Samu stick fight in 'Mirai'



Mumbai, April 18 (IANS) Teja Sajja will be next seen in the upcoming multi-lingual film 'Mirai' based on the fictional story of King Ashoka and his 'Secret 9'.

The title logo of the film, designed in a Japanese font, was unveiled on Thursday.

The first look poster showcases Teja Sajja in a Super Yodha appearance, wielding a Yo (Staff Stick), standing atop an erupting volcano against the backdrop of an eclipse.

Teja's character is tasked with preventing the eclipse from reaching Ashoka's Secret 9. He excels in Karra Samu (stick fights) and other forms of fights.

The cinematography for the film is handled by Karthik Gattamneni, with background score by Gowra.

Karthik has also penned the screenplay, alongside Manibabu Karanam, who has written the dialogues.

The film is bankrolled by TG Vishwa Prasad and People Media Factory.

The makers, through the glimpse, have announced the release of 'Mirai' in Telugu, Hindi, Tamil, Kannada, Malayalam, Bengali, Marathi, and Chinese languages on April 18, 2025.

Ajay Banga, Satya Nadella, Alia Bhat, Sakshi Malik on TIME Magazine's 100 Most Influential People list



Mumbai, April 18 (IANS) Bollywood star Alia Bhatt, World Bank President Ajay Banga, Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella, and British actor with Indian roots, Dev Patel, have made it to Time magazine's '100 Most Influential People' list for 2024.

Another prominent Indian who features in the list is Sakshi Malik, India's only female Olympic medallist in wrestling who led the protest against the alleged sexual harassment of female grapplers by former Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh.

"Proud to be included in the 2024 #TIME100 list," Sakshi wrote on X.

Tom Harper, the director of the streaming film 'Heart of Stone', Alia's first Hollywood project, heaped praises on the actress, calling her a "truly international star".

"Despite her fame, Alia is self-effacing and funny on sets. There is a grace to the way she goes about her work: focused, open to ideas, and willing to take creative risks. One of my favourite moments in the film came from an improvisation at the end of a take where she took the emotional thread and ran with it. "Alia's superpower is her ability to mix movie-star magnetism with authenticity and sensitivity. As an actor, she is luminous, and as a person, she brings the grounded assurance and creativity that make a truly international star."

Third edition of Marathi horror-comedy franchise 'Zapatlela' to go into production by 2024-end



Mumbai, April 18 (IANS) The superhit Marathi franchise 'Zapatlela' is returning with its 3rd instalment. On Wednesday, the makers announced the 3rd part of the franchise with a new poster.

The third part of the horror-comedy franchise will be helmed by actor-director Mahesh Kothare who directed the previous two installments. Actor Addinath Kothare will be seen in the lead role yet again and joining him alongside is mischievous yet loved 'Tatya Vinchu'.

Director Mahesh Kothare said: "After the two successful franchises, we owe it to our audience to deliver a compelling story. With a good story in place, 'Zapatlela 3' is poised to take viewers on an enthralling journey."

The cameras will start rolling on the film by the end of this year.

The film is produced by Rajnish Khanuja of Select Media Holdings along with Mahesh Kothare of Jenma Films International.

'Lord Curzon Ki Haveli' to be closing night film at UK-Asian Film Festival



Mumbai, April 18 (IANS) The upcoming film 'Lord Curzon Ki Haveli', which stars Rasika Dugal and Arjun Mathur, has been selected as the closing film at UK-Asian Film Festival 2024. The film will be screened at the historical Regent Cinema on May 11, and director Anshuman Jha and his leading lady Rasika Dugal are expected to walk the red carpet in London.

The film had its world premiere at IFFM Australia, its North American Premiere at CSAFF Chicago and its Canadian Premiere at ISAFF Vancouver.

Arjun Mathur said: "I found the script of this film to be wacky and weird - from the outset. I think that's what initially attracted me, the fact that I did not get to categorise into any one particular genre and in a good way - is it a thriller, a black comedy, a mystery. I feel that's the experience the audiences around the world are having with the film and liking it. We are excited to have our British Premiere in London at the UK-ASIAN Film Festival 2024."

The film also stars Zoha Rahman, Paresh Pahuja and Tanmay Dhanania.

Anshuman Jha said: "Feels like a full circle. Lord Curzon Ki Haveli is a film about Asians in the UK. We shot it in Yorkshire - four hours from London. And I feel the festival journey of the film over the past nine months through IFFM Australia, CSAFF North America, ISAFF Canada, Razor Reel Europe, Wench & Red Lorry in India - is now rightfully culminating at the UK-Asian Film Festival 2024. We are excited to screen our black comedy thriller as the closing night film to audiences in the UK before it's worldwide release later this year."

Produced by Golden Ratio Films & First Ray Films, the film is a black comedy thriller.

Hrithik flaunts chiselled body, dons turtleneck tee and black military vest in 'War 2' pictures

Mumbai, April 18 (IANS) Shooting of the upcoming spy-universe film 'War 2', is in full-swing. And a picture of Bollywood superstar Hrithik Roshan from the shoot is going viral on social media.

The picture shows Hrithik in his role of RAW agent Major Kabir Dhaliwal. He can be seen wearing a body hugging full sleeves turtleneck t-shirt which he paired with a black military vest jacket and a pair of black cargos.

The actor can be seen sipping on espresso in the picture.

'War 2' is a sequel to the 2019 Hrithik Roshan and Tiger Shroff-starrer 'War'. The film belongs to the fabled spy-universe which also includes films like 'Ek Tha Tiger', 'Tiger Zinda Hai', 'Pathaan' and 'Tiger 3'. Hrithik also made an appearance in the Salman Khan-starrer 'Tiger 3', which released on Diwali last year.



'War' was directed by Siddharth Anand who also directed Hrithik in 'Fighter'. However, for 'War 2' Siddharth Anand took an exit, and the film is now helmed by Ayan Mukerji.

'War 2' also stars NTR Jr. Earlier, this month NTR Jr landed in Mumbai to start shooting for the film.

OTT Picks of the Week: 'All India Rank', 'Tiger', 'Secrets of the Octopus' promise to get viewers hooked



New Delhi, April 18 (IANS) The upcoming week on OTT platforms promises to be a delight for audiences, offering a diverse array of captivating stories ranging from the coming-of-age drama 'All India Rank' to 'Tiger', a tale of conflict, hunger, and survival. Here's a list of five titles that have piqued the interest of IANS --

'All India Rank':

Written and directed by Varun Grover, the coming-of-age comedy-drama 'All India Rank' is produced by Matchbox Shots. It stars Bodhisattva Sharma, Shashi Bhushan, Samta Sudiksha, Geeta Agarwal, and Sheeba Chaddha. The film will be released on Netflix on April 19.

'Rebel Moon-Part 2: The Scargiver':

The American epic space opera film is directed by Zack Snyder. It continues the epic saga of Kora and the surviving warriors as they prepare to sacrifice everything, fighting alongside the brave people of Veldt, to defend a once peaceful village, a newfound homeland for those who have lost their own in the fight against the Motherworld.

It stars Sofia Boutella, Djimon Hounsou, Ed Skrein, Michiel Huisman, Doona Bae, Ray Fisher, Staz Nair, and Fra Fee. It will be released on Netflix on April 19.

'Secrets of the Octopus':

The Emmy Award-winning franchise is narrated by Paul Rudd. The octopus is a master of disguise, capable of camouflaging itself at any moment. On tropical reefs, in frigid waters, from the shoreline to the deep sea, and everywhere in between, the octopus has made a home. It will premiere on April 21 on National Geographic.

'Tiger': Global star Priyanka Chopra will narrate the compelling story, which lifts the veil on our planet's most revered and charismatic animal, inviting viewers to journey alongside Ambar, a young tigress raising her cubs in the fabled forests of India.

Directed by Mark Linfield, co-directed by Vanessa Berlowitz and Rob Sullivan, and produced by Linfield, Berlowitz, and Roy Conli, 'Tiger' is the groundbreaking .

Tarantino scraps his 10th film, 'The Movie Critic', with Brad Pitt; doesn't give reason for action

Los Angeles, April 18 (IANS) Legendary filmmaker Quentin Tarantino, who is known for 'Pulp Fiction', 'Django Unchained', 'Reservoir Dogs', and others, is not interested in making 'The Movie Critic', which he previously said would be his final directorial venture.

The director has given the project a thumbs down, reports 'Variety'.

'The Movie Critic' would have been Tarantino's 10th feature film, but sources say he won't be looking to rewrite the script or revive the project, instead making plans to move on to something new.

As per 'Variety', Brad Pitt had been cast in a lead role in the film. At one point, Tarantino had said the 1977-set film was about a small-time movie critic who wrote smart reviews for a porn magazine. It was also rumoured that Pitt would play some form of his 'Once Upon a Time… in Hollywood' character Cliff Booth, who in Tarantino's novelisation of the feature was a big movie buff.

Tarantino talked briefly about 'The Movie Critic' before an audience at the



Cannes Film Festival last year, saying, "I can't tell you guys (anything) until you see the movie. I'm tempted to do some of the character's monologues right now, but I'm not going to.

Uniqus Consultech raises funds from Nexus Ventures, other investors

New Delhi, April 18 (IANS) Global tech-enabled consulting company Uniqus Consultech, on Thursday, said that it has raised $10 million in Series B funding led by Nexus Ventures with participation from Sorin Investments.

The funding will be used for the next phase of Uniqus' growth, which will be fuelled by the scaling-up of existing solutions, the launch of adjacent service offerings and geographical markets, and continued investments in technology, the company said."The current round of funding will enable us to expand our solutions portfolio, explore new markets, and further accelerate our growth plans," Jamil Khatri, co-founder and CEO of Uniqus, said.

In just over a year of launch, Uniqus has experienced significant growth. The company now has offices in eight cities across the US, India, and the Middle East, with a team of over 350 highly skilled professionals led by 40 partners and directors. They serve more than 150 clients.

Indian electronics industry sees impressive 154 pc growth in hiring, skilling: Report

New Delhi, April 18 (IANS) The electronics industry in India saw a massive 154 per cent growth in hiring and skilling in the last financial year (from March 2023 till March this year) and the telecom domain led the industry, a report showed on Thursday.The telecom vertical accounted for 64 per cent of hiring, closely followed by lighting and automotive sectors, according to research conducted by Quess Corp Ltd, a workforce management solutions provider.The electronics industry also witnessed a significant deployment of women in various roles, particularly in manufacturing."Women are increasingly being deployed as operators, quality assurance professionals, and in testing roles," the findings showed. Women constitute 78 per cent of the industry's workforce.

In terms of geography, Tamil Nadu leads the states with a significant 33 per cent share of electronics hiring demand, followed by Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh and Telangana."The Indian electronics manufacturing sector is on a growth trajectory fuelled by innovation and transformation. Industry experts forecast the creation of 1 million jobs by 2025-2026, and the market size is expected to reach $400 billion by 2025," said Lohit Bhatia, President of Workforce Management at Quess Corp.

Global PC shipments grow 3 pc after 8 quarters of declines: Report

New Delhi, April 18 (IANS) Global PC shipments grew around 3 per cent (year-on-year) in the first quarter (Q1) this year after eight consecutive quarters of declines due to demand slowdown and inventory correction, a report showed on Thursday.According to the latest data from Counterpoint Research, the full year will see 3 per cent YoY growth, "largely driven by AI PC momentum, shipment recovery across different sectors, and a fresh replacement cycle."In the first quarter, Lenovo's PC shipments were up 8 per cent and the company managed to reclaim its 24 per cent share in the market, compared to 23 per cent in Q1 2023.HP and Dell, with market shares of 21 per cent and 16 per cent, respectively, remained flat.

OneVerse Gaming acquires online poker site PokerSaint

New Delhi, April 18 (IANS) Metaverse and gaming technology platform OneVerse, on Thursday, acquired the online poker site PokerSaint for an undisclosed sum.This marks the fourth acquisition by OneVerse."PokerSaint's pioneering gaming strategies and fair market position make them an ideal addition to OneVerse Gaming as we seek to expand our player base and boost shareholder value over the long term," Paul Michael, CEO of OneVerse Gaming, said.According to the company, the acquisition will help OneVerse strengthen its market position and broaden its product portfolio."This partnership will enhance our ability to innovate and expand, bringing unparalleled experiences to our users. With OneVerse's resources and our deep understanding of the poker community, we are set to revolutionise the online poker industry," said Kshitij Anilkumar, founder of PokerSaint.

FIIs sold equities to the tune of Rs 15763 cr in last three days



New Delhi, April 18 (IANS) Nifty declined for the fourth consecutive session on Thursday amid selling pressure in the second half.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) have been heavily selling equities worth Rs 15763 crore in the last three days.

Nifty after opening positive witnessed selling pressure in the second half of the day and closed with the loss of 152 points at 21996 levels.

Siddhartha Khemka, Head - Retail Research, Motilal Oswal Financial Services, said barring IT, metals & PSU banks, all sectors ended in red including mid-cap and small-cap. The market saw some relief at the start of the session on the back of a healthy outlook by the IMF on the Indian Economy. However, it failed to sustain at higher levels amid volatility and declined for the fourth consecutive day.

Strong selling by FIIs of Rs 15763 crore in the last three days due to the uncertain global environment also dampened the sentiments, he said.

"Overall, we expect volatility to continue in the market in the absence of any major positive trigger, while focus will continue on stock-specific action amid earnings season," he said.

Hrishikesh Yedve, AVP Technical and Derivatives Research at Asit C. Mehta Investment Intermediates said the Nifty index concluded the day in negative territory at 21,996, with huge volatility owing to ongoing geopolitical concerns. From a technical standpoint, if the index sustains above 22,000 levels, then a relief rally towards 22,300-22,500 could be possible; conversely, sustaining below 21,950 levels could lead to further weakness towards 21,800-21,700.

UK's Coventry University Group opens India Hub in Delhi



New Delhi, April 18 (IANS) Coventry University Group, on Thursday, announced the launch of an India Hub in the national capital to further intensify its longstanding connections with India.India is sixth in the University Group's network of global hubs after Brussels, Dubai, Africa, China, and Singapore.It will house more than 70 employees in India to support Coventry University Group's admissions, recruitment, and partnerships portfolio in the country."The India Hub represents the university's long-term commitment to build strategic collaborations in India and throughout the region and will be an important addition to Coventry University Group's international presence," said Professor John Latham CBE, Vice-Chancellor at Coventry University."The India Hub will streamline communication and collaboration between the university and organisations in Indian education, business, and government," he added.

HDFC Life logs Rs 1,569 crore PAT, declares final dividend of Rs 2

Chennai, April 18 (IANS) Private life insurer HDFC Life Insurance Company Ltd closed FY24 with a net profit of Rs 1,569 crore, earning a total premium of about Rs 63,076 crore, against Rs 1,360 crore net profit and a total premium of Rs 57,533 crore in FY23.

"Despite the budget changes impacting high ticket sized business this year, we delivered a healthy growth of 20 per cent for Q4 after adjusting for the one-off business of Rs 1,000 crore in March 2023," MD & CEO Vibha Padalkar said.

She said the company logged a growth of 11 per cent, thereby achieving the stated aspiration of double-digit growth.

The life insurer's renewal premium collections grew by 18 per cent year-on-year and the persistency for the 13th month and 61st month was 87 per cent and 53 per cent, respectively.

The company board has recommended a final dividend of Rs 2 per equity share of Rs 10 each for FY24.

Ev2 Ventures, Caret Capital launch $50 million India-focused sustainability fund



New Delhi, April 18 (IANS) Sustainability fund Caret Capital and Ev2 Ventures, an early-stage smart mobility fund, on Thursday announced a $50 million India-focused fund to invest in startups in the mobility, distribution and employment sectors.The 'Caret Capital Fund II' will invest in Pre-Series A startups in the country.According to the VC firms, the new fund would be managed by Pankaj Bansal, Karan Mittal and Prajakt Raut as co-managing partners."As we commence our journey of raising a larger fund, we are fortunate to have found in Karan a partner with shared aspirations, vision, and values," said Bansal and Raut, Co-founders and Managing Partners of Caret Capital (formerly known as Supply Chain Lab).

Mittal has earlier invested in startups like Silvercar, Chow Now, Just Inc, Hopscotch, Euler Motors, Eveez, Alt Mobility and Enmovil, among others.The funds' portfolios will also benefit from the deep expertise and diverse global experience of the expanded base of advisors."Given the size and scale of the opportunities that India has, it was crucial to expand our resources. Combining the collective power of both teams with an outstanding track record gives us the right foundation to create value supporting our thesis," said Mittal, General Partner of Ev2 Ventures.

IREDA's GIFT City branch to give special foreign currency loans for green projects

New Delhi, April 18 (IANS) Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Ltd (IREDA) has opened an office in GIFT City at Gandhinagar which will specialise in providing debt options denominated in foreign currencies to facilitate natural hedging and significantly reduce the financing costs for green hydrogen and renewable energy manufacturing projects, the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy said on Thursday.

The strategic initiative which would contribute to the country's journey towards a greener future was highlighted by IREDA chairman and managing director (CMD) Pradip Kumar Das at a panel discussion on 'Future Growth Opportunities for Long Duration Energy Storage', held at the World Future Energy Summit 2024 in Abu Dhabi on Wednesday.The IREDA CMD emphasised the critical role that energy



storage will play in achieving the National Green Hydrogen Mission's ambitious target of producing over 5 million metric tons of hydrogen per annum by 2030.The CMD emphasised the need to enhance research and development efforts to reduce cost and improve the performance of energy storage solutions. It was necessary to implement policies that strengthen the supply chain network, and providing competitive and tailored financial solutions will encourage investment in energy storage projects, he added.India has taken active steps in this direction, which include the formulation of a storage requirement roadmap up to 2047, technology-agnostic storage tenders, and supportive government interventions for battery manufacturing and pumped storage hydropower projects.

The Central Electricity Authority of India projects a storage requirement of nearly 400 gigawatt-hours (GWh) by 2030-32, with an estimated investment exceeding Rs 3.5 lakh crore.

FOREIGN

3 killed, 3 injured in Israeli strikes in Lebanon



Beirut, April 18 (IANS) Two Hezbollah fighters and one civilian were killed, and three civilians were wounded on Thursday at dawn in a series of Israeli air strikes on villages in southern Lebanon, according to Lebanese military and medical sources.

Lebanese military sources, who spoke anonymously, said that Israeli drones and warplanes carried out six airstrikes on the southeast village of Khiam and three raids on the southeast village of Kafr Kila, resulting in human casualties and material damage, Xinhua news agency reported.

Meanwhile, Hezbollah indicated that its fighters attacked Israeli sites in the occupied Shebaa Farms, al-Motella, and al-Malikiyah sites, and the Gesher Haziv.

The military sources added they monitored the launching of about 40 surface-to-surface missiles from Lebanon into northern Israel at dawn, and Israeli Iron Dome missiles responded to some of them.Tensions along the Lebanon-Israel border escalated on October 8, 2023, following a barrage of rockets launched by the Lebanese armed group Hezbollah toward Israel in solidarity with Hamas' attack on Israel on October 7. Israel then retaliated by firing heavy artillery toward southeastern Lebanon.

The confrontations between Hezbollah and Israel have killed 426 people on the Lebanese side, including 271 Hezbollah members and 76 civilians, according to Lebanese security sources.

S.Korean Health Minister renews commitment to accomplish medical reform



Seoul, April 18 (IANS) South Korean Health Minister Cho Kyoo-hong renewed his vow to accomplish medical reform on Thursday, although a mass walkout by trainee doctors in protest of the reform has crippled public health services for about two months.About 12,000 trainee doctors have left their worksites since February 20 in the walkout against the government's push to hike the annual enrollment of medical students by 2,000 starting next year, Yonhap news agency reported.

"The medical reform is essential to protect the lives and health of the people, to enhance local and essential medical services, and to prepare for future demand," Cho said at a government response meeting.

"We plan to gather reasonable opinions from different sectors and carry out the reform unwaveringly," the Minister added.

The government said it will "unwaveringly" push ahead with the healthcare reform plans and will increase the number of physician assistant (PA) nurses to make up for the shortage of doctors amid their prolonged walkout.

But the plan is expected to face opposition from the country's doctors' association.

PAs, who often assist physicians in operating rooms, are expected to take over part of the duties of junior doctors in hospitals, such as conducting tests and performing partial surgeries.

Croatia's ruling party wins parliamentary elections

Zagreb, April 18 (IANS) The ruling centre-right Croatian Democratic Union (HDZ), led by Croatian Prime Minister Andrej Plenkovic, won most seats in the parliamentary elections a day before, but failed to obtain enough seats to form a government independently.After more than 90 per cent of the votes have been counted, the HDZ secured 60 seats, but fell short of the 76 seats required to form a government, showed preliminary results published by the State Election Commission (SEC) early Thursday morning.Following behind is the alliance of parties led by the centre-left Croatian Social Democratic Party (SDP) with 42 seats, trailed by the Homeland Movement with 14 seats, according to the SEC as quoted by Xinhua news agency report.Meanwhile, the Bridge Party and We Can Party ranked fourth and fifth with 11 and 10 seats respectively, the SEC said.

16 mn Afghans to experience crisis and emergency levels of food insecurity: UN report

Kabul, April 18 (IANS) An estimated 15.8 million people in war-ravaged Afghanistan will experience crisis and emergency levels of food insecurity in 2024, said a United Nations (UN) report released on Thursday.According to the 2023 UN Afghanistan Annual Results Report, the majority of Afghanistan's population is unable to procure basic needs such as healthcare, food, livelihood and housing, Xinhua news agency reported.

"As 2023 began, families across Afghanistan continued to struggle to feed their children. Nine out of 10 people were not consuming an adequate amount of food, the cost of which absorbed an overwhelming 89 per cent of household incomes," it said.According to the 2023 Global Hunger Index, Afghanistan ranked 114th among 125 countries with sufficient data to calculate the index scores.

9 injured after 6.6-magnitude quake hits Japan

Tokyo, April 18 (IANS) At least nine people were injured after an earthquake with a magnitude of 6.6 struck a wide area of western Japan, local authorities said on Thursday.The quake struck at around 11:14 p.m. local time, registering lower 6 on the Japanese seismic intensity scale of 7 in Ehime and Kochi prefectures, both on Shikoku Island, with the epicentre in the Bungo Channel, a strait separating the islands of Kyushu and Shikoku, the Japan Meteorological Agency said as quoted by Xinhua news agency report.According to prefectural governments and local fire departments, six people in Ehime Prefecture and one person in Kochi Prefecture sustained minor injuries, while two were hurt in Oita Prefecture in the Kyushu region, southwestern Japan.A valve defect reduced the power output of the No.3 reactor at the Ikata nuclear complex in Ehime Prefecture by two per cent, though there was no major problem with overall operations, Shikoku Electric Power said.

Kargil War was an 'ill-conceived blunder', admit former Pakistani military officers

Islamabad, April 18 (IANS) One of the many adventures in the Pakistan-India series of conflicts 'Operation Koh Paima', also known as the Kargil operation -- that was hailed as a success story by its architect and Pakistani military dictator Late General (retd) Pervez Musharraf -- is now being labelled as a "strategic blunder" and a "political disaster" by a majority of experts, including former military officers who were serving during the 1999 operation.

"The plan was a blunder and a massive failure. It not only turned out to be a disaster, it also violated the Lahore Summit agreement between India and Pakistan. Also, because the Pakistan Army denied its involvement, even refused to accept the dead bodies of its own soldiers who were later buried by the Indian Armed forces, turned out to be more embarrassing and



attracted more dishonour to the institution," says Colonel (retd) Ashfaq Hussain.

The Kargil conflict happened during May and July 1999. It was a decision, undertaken by some top military heads, who initiated the operation without even taking their own Prime Minister at the time, Nawaz Sharif in confidence.

The main target of the operation was to cut off the link between Kashmir and Ladakh, block the National Highway-1 and force the Indian forces to compromise their positions from the Siachen glacier. The military minds were of the view that the operation would force India to retreat and come to table talks for resolving the Kashmir dispute on Islamabad's terms.

"On one side, Pakistan was faced with international pressure and on the other side, the plan failed miserably as China did not act as per Islamabad's assumptions. Our then Foreign Minister Sartaj Aziz got a cold shoulder from China along with all others because Islamabad's version that it was not its Army but the Kashmir freedom fighters at Kargil, was a story not bought by anyone," Hussain added.

At the time, General Musharraf was leading the operation while his team included Chief of General Staff Lieutenant General Aziz Khan, Commander 10 Corps Lt. General Mahmood Ahmed, and Forces Commander Northern Areas Major General Javed Hassan.

While the plan to execute the Kargil operation was the brainchild of a few military heads, the overall plan was bound to fail as it was based on wrong assumptions which were kept in hiding even from the Pakistani Prime Minister along with the country's Chiefs of Air Force and Navy.

Keeping in view that the normal practice of both Indian and Pakistani forces was to leave their posts at high altitude during the extreme weather conditions of winter snow and reoccupy them at spring, Pakistani forces and their proxies reoccupied the forward positions before the Indians and took control of the strategic heights of Kargil, Drass and Batalik.

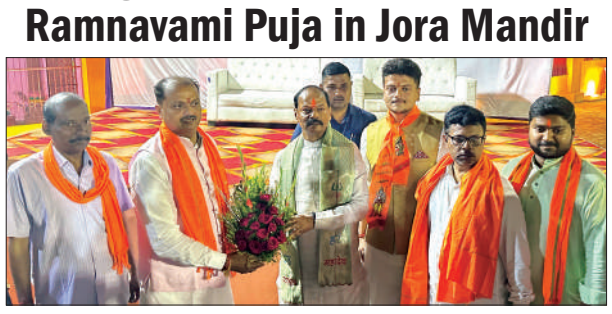
Union minister Arjun Munda meets Odisha Governor Raghubar Das



Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, April 18: In Jamshedpur, Union Minister and BJP candidate for the Khunti Lok Sabha seat, Arjun Munda, recently held a meeting with Odisha Governor Raghubar Das at his residence in Agrico. The closed-door discussion between the two lasted for about half an hour, covering various issues. Both Union Minister Arjun Munda and Governor Raghubar Das are currently in their home constituency of Jamshedpur for a three-day visit. Arjun Munda expressed his pleasure at finally meeting Governor Das, citing the occasion of a festival as the opportune time for their interaction. Earlier, on Wednesday, Union Minister Arjun Munda had raised the Ram Navami flag at his residence. Subsequently, before departing for Khunti on Thursday, he took the opportunity to meet Governor Raghubar Das once again at his Agrico residence, having previously missed the chance to do so during his recent stay in the city. Highlighting the tradition of exchanging greetings during festivals, Arjun Munda underscored the significance of their meeting. Notably, during Arjun Munda's first Lok Sabha election campaign in 2019, Raghubar Das served as the Chief Minister of Jharkhand. Arjun Munda, currently representing Khunti in the Lok Sabha and holding ministerial positions at the Centre, has been re-nominated as the BJP's candidate for the Khunti Lok Sabha seat in the upcoming elections. (w/nkm)

Raghubar Das honoured at Ramnavami Puja in Jora Mandir



Jamshedpur, April 18: Johan Hiralal Akhara organized Ramnavami puja at Jora Mandir in Bhalubasa, where esteemed guest, the Governor of Odisha and former Chief Minister of Jharkhand, Raghubar Das graced the occasion. He was warmly welcomed by the President of Johan Hiralal Akhara, Bharat Singh, and Director Kameshwar Lal. Raghubar Das was felicitated by President Bharat Singh and Director Kameshwar Lal with traditional Angavastram and a bouquet. The ceremony was attended by several committee members, including Kameshwar Lal, Ashok Kumar, Gyan Kumar, Chetan, Saurabh Kumar, Rajesh Singh, Rajesh Kumar, Ayushman Singh, Saurabh Anand, Aditya Kumar, Nitish Dwivedi, Karan Gorai, Rajiv Kumar, and Raju Gorai, along with other officials. The presence of dignitaries at the puja marked the spirit of community and cultural celebration during the auspicious occasion of Ramnavami. (w/gsd)

Basement fire at Kurlus Mall in Azadnagar sparks panic

Jamshedpur, April 18: Panic ensued as a fire erupted suddenly in the electric panel in the basement of Kurlus Mall near Ayesha Merlin, close to Pardih Chepapul in the Azadnagar police station area of Jamshedpur on Thursday. Local residents promptly alerted the Jharkhand Fire Department, prompting their swift response to the scene. Upon arrival, the fire department quickly brought the fire under control, although local residents had already begun efforts to contain it. The cause of the fire is suspected to be either a short circuit or extreme temperatures. Fortunately, there were no casualties reported, but the incident did disrupt power supply in the area. (w/nkm)

Elderly pedestrian fatally struck by biker

Jamshedpur, April 18: Khokha Tanti (94), a resident of Zahira Tola in the Sonari police station area of Jamshedpur, tragically succumbed to injuries after being struck by a bike rider near Marine Drive. The incident occurred late Wednesday evening when the bike rider collided with the elderly man and fled the scene, leaving the bike behind. The PCR van rushed Khokha Tanti to MGM hospital, but he passed away during treatment. His family received the heartbreaking news Thursday morning and promptly identified him. According to his son, Manoj Kumar Tanti, Khokha Tanti had recently moved from Bhagalpur, Bihar, to live with his son in Zahira Tola, Sonari, just 10 days prior to the incident. Police have conducted a post-mortem examination of the deceased and handed over the body to the family for final rites, while investigations into the hit-and-run case are ongoing. (w/nkm)

Colourful processions highlight Ramnavmi celebrations amid tight security measures



Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, April 18: The vibrant spirit of Ramnavmi celebrations illuminated the city streets on Thursday as devotees from various akhara committees showcased their skills amidst tight security arrangements. A spectacle of devotion and daring acts unfolded as thousands participated in the procession, infusing the air with joy and fervor. The procession, adorned with bands and sankirtan parties, attracted devotees not only from the city but also from surrounding districts, adding to the festive atmosphere. With 167 akhara committees participating, the procession traversed through multiple areas before converging on the banks of the Subernarekha River. This traditional route, comprising 25 paths, witnessed a colorful display of faith and tradition. The immersion ceremony, a highlight of the festivities, saw licensed akhara committees carrying immense saffron and red flags to five major ghats along the river. Rathyatras, depicting scenes from the life of Lord Ram, adorned the streets as chariots bearing idols of Ram, Sita, Lakshman, and Hanuman made their way through the city. However, this year saw a notable change as the authorities urged akhara committees to refrain from showcasing dangerous stunts, prioritizing safety. Despite this, members of Sakchi Bal Mandir enthralled onlookers with their daredevilry on two-wheelers, while traditional weapon displays by major akharas added to the spectacle. Adding to the diversity of talent, martial artists from Manipur, summoned by the Sonari-based Lalan akhara, showcased their skills alongside performances by chhau dancers from various committees. The streets reverberated with the beats of drums as devotees danced in jubilation, embodying the festive spirit. In addition to the religious fervor, the celebrations also saw philanthropic endeavors with stalls offering various edibles set up by social and religious organizations. Gates adorned with colorful banners welcomed participants at multiple locations, further enhancing the festive ambiance. Amidst the revelry, stringent security measures were in place to ensure the safety of all participants. Over 3000 personnel, including district police, paramilitary forces, and Rapid Action Police units, were deployed strategically across the city. Riot control vehicles remained on standby at the police control room in Sakchi, ready to respond to any contingencies. To manage the influx of participants and maintain order, key routes for the procession were barricaded, with district traffic police enforcing restrictions on heavy vehicles and limiting the movement of private and commercial vehicles after 2 pm. The Ramnavmi celebrations in Jamshedpur were not just a religious observance but a testament to the city's cultural richness and communal harmony, underscored by the seamless coordination between organizers, authorities, and participants in ensuring a safe and memorable event. (W/pb)



Lord Shri Ram's life offers valuable lessons to be learned: Banna



Jamshedpu, April 18: On the day of Ram Navami's immersion, Minister Banna Gupta actively participated in various Akhara processions across the city. During these events, he received honors at several locations, where he was adorned with a turban and presented with a sword as a mark of respect. Expressing his sentiments on the occasion, Minister Banna Gupta emphasized the timeless lessons to be learned from the life of Lord Shri Ram. He highlighted Lord Ram's teachings as exemplary guidelines for leading an ideal life. Gupta stressed the omnipresence of Ram, stating that the essence of Ram permeates every aspect of existence, transcending boundaries and perpetuating infinity. (w/nkm)

District team ensures orderly Ram Navami Procession



Jamshedpur, April 18: In an effort to ensure the smooth and peaceful conduct of the Ram Navami immersion procession, District Magistrate cum Deputy Commissioner Ananya Mittal and Senior Superintendent of Police Kishore Kaushal conducted a thorough inspection of the procession route. Accompanied by Deputy Development Commissioner Manish Kumar, City SP Mukesh Lunayat, ADM Law and Order Ananth Kumar, and other administrative and police officials, the senior officials emphasized the importance of maintaining law and order during the procession. Directives were issued to the deputed magistrate and police officers to remain vigilant and ensure the procession proceeds without any disruptions.

Additionally, Akhara committees were urged to adhere to the designated route and timing for the procession. To enhance security measures, the authorities have implemented videography, CCTV surveillance, and drone monitoring along the procession route to deter any potential disturbances by anti-social elements. Zonal magistrates and police officers are actively monitoring the procession to ensure its timely completion. (W/pb)

Two children killed, four injured in mud wall collapse

Mail News Service

Chaibasa, April 18: A mud wall under construction fell on sleeping childrenresulting in the death of two and injuries to four others the incident occurred at around 9 pm on Wednesday in the Kumardungi police station area of West Singhbhum. According to information, the incident occurred around 9 pm on Wednesday when several children from the village were sleeping together in the courtyard of



DevanandPaan's house after a dinner. Suddenlythe mud wall under construction gave way, burying the unsuspecting children beneath the debris. In a frantic rescue effort, DevanandPaan managed to pull four children out from under the rubble. However, two children, Shiva Paan and Munna Paan, remained trapped. Despite efforts to provide medical attention, Shiva Paan succumbed to his injuries on the way to the hospital, while Munna Paandied before reaching Chaibasa Sadar Hospital. The injured survivors, identified as DevanandPaan, Sunita Paan, Somnath Paan, and Arjun Paan, were undergoing medical treatment. Authorities were investigating the circumstances leading to the collapse of the wall. (w/gsd)

Son of notorious drug peddler Dolly Parveen shot, hospitalized

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, April 18: The son of infamous drug peddler Dolly Parveen has been shot and is currently admitted to Tata Main Hospital (TMH) in critical condition. The incident occurred late Wednesday night in the Adityapur police station area of Seraikela-Kharsawan district. Reports indicate that the minor son of Kadeem Khan, who is involved in multiple criminal cases, and Dolly Parveen, known for her illegal brown sugar trade, was shot in his left hand in Muslim Basti during the late hours of Wednesday. The injured minor was swiftly admitted to TMH for medical treatment, with the police initiating an investigation into the matter. Sources suggest that Dolly Parveen's elder son may have been responsible for the shooting, following a dispute between the siblings. Both Kadeem and Dolly are currently incarcerated, adding complexity to the ongoing investigation. (w/nkm)

Advocates angered over demolition of park in front of Court

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, April 18: Tension gripped the Jamshedpur District Bar Association as advocates expressed anger over the sudden demolition of a park constructed with MLA funds in front of the court complex. The park, inaugurated by MLA Saryu Roy just two months ago, was vandalized during a court holiday on Wednesday. Upon the reopening of the court on Thursday, lawyers were flummoxed to find the park razed to the ground, sparking immediate outcry. A delegation of lawyers promptly lodged a complaint with the District and Sessions Judge demanding immediate action. The District and Sessions Judge along with the Registrar and other officials, visited the site near the Bar Bhavan to assess the situation and assured the advocates that the park would be



rebuilt. This assurance helped pacify the aggrieved advocates. However, concerns remained as reports suggested that the park site would be replaced with an e-court compound. Advocates lamented that the earlier assurance given to them was not fulfilled and emphasized the need for parking facilities within the court premises. They stressed that the park served as a vital space for accommodating clients and advocates, and its demolition left them deeply distressed. (w/gsd)

New MGM College Students' Union executives sworn in

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, April 18: The MGM College students' Union elections for the academic session 2024-2025 concluded on April 12, 2024, followed by the oath-taking ceremony of the members of the new council. PongshingKonyak was elected as the General Secretary, with Lemdang C Phom as the Assistant General Secretary. ChunchamwilliuNewmai assumed the role of Cultural Secretary, while Roshida Begum Tapadar took charge as Finance Secretary. MihleiKonyak was elected as the Sports Secretary, with Alovika K



Assumi and Bikram Rai representing ANCSU. Disha Das was appointed as the Women Coordinator, and Rangwamzoing took on the responsibilities of Media and Information Secretary. The election process was supervised by Election Commissioner Peter Paoginpu, an Assistant Professor in the Department of Political Science. The Vice Principal graced the oath-taking ceremony, offering support and blessings to the newly elected council members. The event also served as a platform for outgoing executives to share their insights and words of encouragement, fostering a sense of continuity and unity within the student community. (w/gsd)