



NATION Hemant Soren govt wins trust vote



Central Chronicle

If sanctity of NEET exam lost, re-test is must: SC

SC asked NTA to apprise about the centres and city where question paper leak took place.

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Observing that a re-test has to be ordered if sanctity of the NEET-UG 2024 is "lost", the Supreme Court on Monday sought information from the National Testing Agency and the CBI about timing of the question paper leak and duration between the leak and the actual test.

The apex court also sought the number of wrongdoers identified so far and the methodology adopted for the paper leak. "One thing is clear that leak of question paper has taken place," a bench headed by Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud said, adding that extent of question paper leak and the beneficiaries across geographical boundaries have to be ascertained before the court may order re-test in the controversy-ridden medical entrance exam conducted on May 5. Posting



Students at the Supreme Court of India in New Delhi. | Photo: PTI

HIGHLIGHT

● SC sought the number of wrongdoers identified so far and the methodology adopted for the paper leak.

for July 11 the next hearing on a batch of pleas alleging irregularities in the NEET-UG, the court

It is clear that leak of question paper has taken place.

D Y Chandrachud
CJI

directed the investigating officer of the CBI, which is conducting probe into the allegations of malprac-

tices, OMR sheet manipulation, impersonation and cheating, to place before it a report indicating the status of probe.

Referring to legal position on ordering re-test, the top court said it will have to be "scrutinised whether the alleged breach has taken place at systemic level, whether the breach has affected

integrity of the entire exam process and whether it is possible to segregate the beneficiaries of fraud from the untainted students".

"In a situation where breach affects the entirety of process and it is not possible to segregate the beneficiaries from others, it may be necessary to order a re-test," said the bench.

PM in Russia, to review bilateral cooperation with Vladimir Putin

MOSCOW: One of Moscow's landmarks, the Ostankino TV tower, was lit up in the colours of the flags of India and Russia on Monday as Prime Minister Narendra Modi began a two-day high-profile visit to the Russian capital to hold summit talks with President Vladimir Putin.

Rising to 1,771 feet (540m), the Ostankino TV Tower is the world's 4th tallest and Europe's highest of its kind. The

tower was erected in 1967 by the well-known Soviet engineer, Nikolai Nikitin.

As the highest free-standing building in Russia, it is a renowned symbol of Russian broadcasting, as well as a famous landmark and a must-visit destination in Moscow. Earlier, Modi was received at the airport by Russia's First Deputy Prime Minister Denis Manturov. He was accorded a ceremonial welcome.

NEWSLINE

MUMBAI

'Wagh nakh' from London not original: Sawant

The 'wagh nakh' or tiger claw shaped weapon of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj that the Maharashtra government intends to bring from a museum in London is not "original", historian Indrajit Sawant said on Monday and asserted the one used by the legendary emperor remains in the state's Satara itself.



MUMBAI

Industry is in a creative crisis

There are about ten viable actors in Hindi cinema and they are asking for "sun, moon and earth" and they are being paid that amount, says filmmaker Karan Johar, who believes the industry is going through a creative crisis.

MUMBAI

11 teams formed to nab Sena leader's son

Mumbai police formed 11 teams and also roped in the Crime Branch to nab the 24-year-old son of a ruling Shiv Sena leader after a BMW car the youth was driving crashed into a scooter, killing a woman and injuring her husband, an official said.

SRINAGAR

114.57 tons of waste collected from twin routes

About 114.57 tons of waste was collected from the twin routes to the Amarnath shrine in the south Kashmir Himalayas since the beginning of the annual pilgrimage 10 days ago, officials said on Monday, as part of an innovative sanitation measures to ensure an "eco-friendly yatra".



EXCURSION

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Embark on your next adventure with ease by equipping yourself with these must-have travel gadgets. Whether you're navigating a bustling city or exploring remote landscapes, these tools will simplify your journey and enhance your travel experience.

Over 300 mm rainfall paralyses Mumbai, red alert

| RAIN MAYHEM |

Press Trust Of India

The rain mayhem led to inundation of many low-lying areas in the city, impacting vehicular movement.



Flooded Andheri Subway following heavy rainfall, in Mumbai. | Photo: PTI

MUMBAI: Heavy rains pounded Mumbai and adjoining areas, severely affecting the Central Railway's suburban services due to waterlogging on tracks and also hit the airport operations leading to 50 flight cancellations on Monday.

The rain mayhem led to inundation of many low-lying areas in the city, impacting vehicular movement, and people were seen wading through flooded streets.

FACTFILE

● State Govt declared a holiday for all schools in Mumbai, Ratnagiri and Sindhudurg districts.

The state government declared a holiday for all schools in Mumbai, Ratnagiri and Sindhudurg districts.

Some areas in Mumbai received more than 300 mm of rainfall in just six hours ending at 7 am, causing inundation of roads and low-lying areas.

Heavy rains also lashed the city throughout the day, further compounding the woes of residents.

Both houses of the Maharashtra legislature

were adjourned as many members and officials could not reach the Vidhan Bhavan due to the downpour.

Maharashtra Minister for Relief and Disaster Management Anil Patil and NCP MLC Amol Mitkari alighted from the Howrah-Mumbai train and walked on tracks for some distance, a video of which went viral.

"The train was stuck up for about two hours. We got down on the tracks between Dadar and Kurla stations. I walked around 2 to 2.5 km, including on railway tracks, and reached Nehru Nagar police station," Mitkari said, adding some legislators were also stuck in the same train.

4 soldiers killed in terrorist ambush on army convoy

Press Trust Of India

The terrorists hurled a grenade and opened fire targeting Army vehicles.



JAMMU: Four army personnel were killed and six injured on Monday when terrorists ambushed their vehicle in the remote Machedi area of Jammu and Kashmir's Kathua district, officials said.

The terrorists hurled a grenade and opened fire targeting Army vehicles which were on a routine patrol on the Machedi-Kindli-Malhar road at around 3.30 pm near Badnota village in Lohai Malhar, 150 km from Kathua town.

Security forces retaliated but the terrorists fled into the nearby for-

FASTFACTS

● A total of 10 troopers were injured and four of them later succumbed to their injuries.

● Reinforcements have been rushed to the area to neutralise the terrorists.

est, the officials said, adding an intermittent exchange of firing was going on between the terrorists and security forces when the last reports were received.

Naxalite carrying Rs 14 lakh bounty killed

Press Trust Of India

BHOPAL: A Naxalite carrying a bounty of Rs 14 lakh was killed in an encounter with security forces in Madhya Pradesh's Balaghat district on Monday, a senior police official said.

The gun battle occurred in the Kathiatola forest area under Hatta police station, Additional Director General (ADG), anti-

Naxal operations, Jaideep Prasad told reporters here.

The state police's hawk force had received information that some Naxalites had reached Kathiatola village to collect groceries, he said. During the search operation, the hawk force called out a group of 10-12 Naxalites in the forest for interrogation, but they opened fire, the official said.

| POSITIVE STEP |

People collaborate with police for surveillance proj

Press Trust Of India

RAJNANDGAON: Residents have joined hands with the authorities to install hi-tech CCTV cameras and set up a control room in Rajnandgaon city for effective enforcement of traffic regulations and public safety, officials said on Monday.

The Rajnandgaon district administration and police have come out

with 'Trinetra', a project financed by the public, they said. Talking to PTI, Rajnandgaon Superintendent of Police Mohit Garg said, "This first-of-its-kind smart city ITMS (intelligent traffic management system) and surveillance project funded by the public."

The official said as many as 385 cameras, including 25 ANPRs (automatic number plate recognition),



NUMBER

385

● As many as 385 cameras, including 25 ANPRs, 300 varifocal cameras, 10 PTZ (pan-tilt-zoom) cameras and fifty '80/50' meter focus cameras, will be installed at entry points and junctions of the city.

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The city has a population of around 1.50 lakh, he said. Under the initiative, the existing 152 cameras, installed with public cooperation and government funds in the past, will also be maintained, he said.

Raipur



Patwaris' strike during revenue fortnight is embarrassing for govt

Sushil Anand Shukla,
PCC Communication Head.

Fate of Skywalk in city hangs in fire



The controversial Skywalk construction in city still waiting for its fate to be decided by the newly formed BJP government, who constructed it in its earlier term.

EOW lodges fresh FIRs against two IAS officers

The three bureaucrats are in jail in connection with an alleged coal levy scam.

Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: The Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of Chhattisgarh has registered a fresh set of FIRs against Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officers Ranu Sahu and Sameer Vishnoi and state service civil servant Saumya Chaurasia on charges of corruption, officials said on Monday.

The three bureaucrats are in jail in connection with an alleged coal levy scam unearthed during the previous Congress gov-

ernment (2018-2023) in the state. The EOW on July 2 lodged three fresh FIRs -- one each against Vishnoi, Sahu and Chaurasia -- for allegedly amassing assets disproportionate to their known sources of income, an official of the anti-graft agency here said.

They were booked under relevant sections of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988/Amended Act, 2018, he said. According to the FIR against Sahu, a 2010-batch IAS officer, she had allegedly purchased immovable

HIGHLIGHT

• They were booked under relevant sections of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988/Amended Act, 2018.

properties in her and her relatives' names between 2015 and 2022 with an investment of around Rs 3.94 crore. Sahu is learnt to have received around Rs 92 lakh as salary from April 2011 to October 2022, but she illegally amassed wealth and invested

around Rs 3.94 crore in immovable properties. Besides, the IAS officer has also allegedly invested in other immovable properties, insurance politics, shares and mutual funds, which need to be investigated, it said. The FIR against Vishnoi, a 2009-batch IAS officer, stated that he received around Rs 93 lakh as salary from September 2010 to September 2022, but acquired disproportionate movable/immovable assets worth more than Rs 5.12 crore during this period.

Central Finance Commission on state tour from July 10

RAIPUR: A 12-member team led by Central Finance Commission Chairman Arvind Panagariya is reaching Raipur. This team will discuss with Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai and cabinet members and officials on various issues including financial needs of the state, infrastructure development and economic progress. The Finance Commission will also be on a visit to Jagdalpur on July 12 and 13. Along with Central Finance Commission Chairman Panagariya, Commission members Ajay Narayan Jha, Mrs. Annie George Mathew, Manoj Kumar Panda, Dr. Soumya Kanti Ghosh and Commission Secretary Ritwik Ranjanam Pandey, Joint Secretary Kamal Kumar Mishra, Joint Director Raghavendra Singh and other officials will also reach Raipur. Finance Secretary Mukesh Bansal reviewed the preparations at Hotel Mayfair.

Patwaris on indefinite strike over 32-point demands

Central Chronicle News

Despite warnings from Revenue Minister Tankaram Verma, the strike began on Monday

RAIPUR: Patwaris across the state have commenced an indefinite strike in response to their unmet 32-point demands, including a complete boycott of the Revenue Fortnight. Despite warnings from Revenue Minister Tankaram Verma, the strike began on Monday, with Patwaris staging protests at all district headquarters.

The Patwari Union had earlier submitted a memorandum to Minister Verma, stating their intentions to strike if their demands were not addressed by July 8. The union's demands primar-



Patwaris staging protests at all district headquarters.

FACTFILE

• The Patwaris are determined to continue their strike until their demands are met

ily include an increase in grade pay to 2800, and the provision of essential office resources such

as computers, printers, scanners, and internet facilities for online work. They also highlighted issues with the online app Bhuiya, requesting necessary improvements and the appointment of assistant programmers at the district level to address technical problems. The secretary of

the Revenue Patwari Association expressed frustration, stating, "We have been presenting our issues to the government repeatedly, but no efforts have been made to resolve them. This lack of action has forced us into an indefinite strike, supported by the consensus of all district presidents."

ELECTED PRESIDENT |

Abhijeet now President of JCI Raipur MAIC United

Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: JCI Raipur MAIC United has welcomed Abhijeet Agarwal as its new President. Abhijeet Agarwal will now lead this prestigious organization in place of JC Farzan Siddiqui. Abhijeet Agarwal, who has been the former Vice President.

Abhijeet Agarwal, who is known for his organizational skills and leadership abilities, said, "I am very proud to be a part of JCI Raipur MAIC



United. I am ready to carry forward the objectives and values of JCI Raipur MAIC United and look forward to working together with my fellow

members." Under the leadership of Abhijeet Agarwal, JCI Raipur MAIC United has planned new projects and initiatives to fulfill its

mission even more effectively. The organization is known for making significant contributions in the areas of training programs, health, environ-

mental protection and leadership development. JCI Raipur MAIC United members said, "We are very happy with the appointment of Abhijeet Agarwal.

We are confident that under his leadership JCI Raipur MAIC United will touch new heights and bring more positive impact in the society."

Abhijeet Agarwal has appealed to all the members and supporters for cooperation and support in this transformation.

No shortage of funds for city development

RAIPUR: In a significant boost to urban development, Deputy Chief Minister and Urban Administration and Development Minister Arun Sao performed Bhoomi Pujan for 94 development projects worth Rs 14.73 crore. The event took place on Monday at the District Sports Complex of Bilaspur, under the Beltara Assembly constituency. The projects, funded under the 15th Finance Commission, Infrastructure Item, and Body Item initiatives, focus primarily on the construction of CC roads, drainage systems, and street lighting.

MLA Sushant Shukla, who presided over the event, highlighted the successful efforts by Deputy CM Sao and himself in securing the funds. He expressed optimism about the positive changes these projects will bring to the city's infrastructure. During the event, both Sao and Shukla planted neem saplings as part of the 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' campaign, emphasizing the importance of environmental conservation.

Deputy Chief Minister Sao assured the public of the government's commitment to urban development, stating that there will be no shortage of funds for city projects.

Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

COMMITTEE MEETING

BJP's State Working Committee meeting scheduled for July 10

RAIPUR: The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has ramped up its efforts to establish governance in both rural and urban areas of Chhattisgarh. A significant meeting has been scheduled in Raipur on July 10 to finalize the strategy at the state level. Leaders from the state organization, including Mandal and Block Presidents, have been invited to participate. The party aims to kick-start preparations for the upcoming Panchayat and Urban Body elections following this meeting. In the 2019 urban body elections, the BJP faced a setback, losing the mayoral race in all 14 municipal corporations across the state. Determined to change the tide, the party has begun early preparations for the upcoming elections. Party leaders have confirmed that the state working committee meeting will take place in Raipur on July 10, followed by meetings with Panchayat representatives, Mandal, and District Presidents.

GRANTED BAIL

Former IAS Ranu Sahu and Dipesh Tank granted bail by Supreme Court

RAIPUR: Suspended IAS officer Ranu Sahu and Dipesh Tank have been granted interim bail by the Supreme Court in the high-profile coal scam case of Chhattisgarh. The Supreme Court's double bench of Justice Suryakant and Justice Bhuvan issued the order, providing bail to Ranu Sahu and Dipesh Tank until August 7. Ranu Sahu, who had been in jail for one year, and Dipesh Tank, who had been incarcerated for approximately one and a half years, were arrested by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in connection with the money laundering and coal scam case.

However, in a new development, the Economic Offences Wing (EOW) has registered a fresh FIR against suspended IAS officer Ranu Sahu, along with Sameer Bishnoi and Saumya Chaurasia.



Assessed the progress of development works

General Manager Neenu Ittiera inspects Abhanpur, CBD, Mandir Hasaud stations

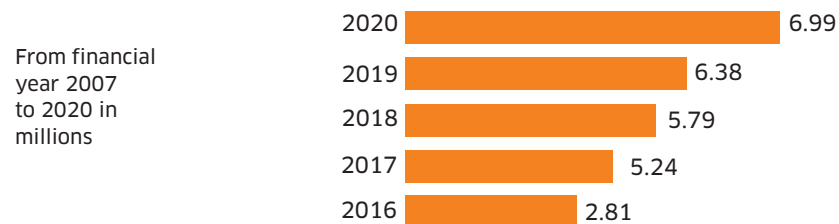


RAIPUR: Neenu Ittiera, General Manager of South East Central Railway, conducted an inspection of Abhanpur, CBD, and Mandir Hasaud stations in the Raipur Railway Division on July 7, 2024. She was accompanied by Divisional Railway Manager Sanjeev Kumar, Senior Divisional Commercial Manager Awadhesh Kumar Trivedi, along with other senior officers and supervisors. The inspection comes in the wake of ongoing projects to convert the narrow gauge line from Kendri to Abhanpur to broad gauge. Ittiera assessed the prog-

ress of these development works and reviewed the station facilities and infrastructure. She emphasized the importance of quality and safety in passenger amenities and redevelopment efforts. At Abhanpur station, Ittiera examined the new station building, ensuring that the necessary infrastructure for passenger convenience and train operations was in place. She also inspected the goods shed, approach road for traffic, CBD station building, and developmental works at Mandir Hasaud station under the Amrut Bharat Station Yojana.

The Day's NUMBERS

NUMBER OF REGISTERED MOTOR VEHICLES ACROSS CG



Source : Statista

HEALTH SCHEME FRAUD

Four private hospitals fined Rs 18.55 lakh for Ayushman Health Scheme fraud

RAIPUR: In a crackdown on fraudulent practices, four private hospitals have been fined a total of Rs 18.55 lakh for embezzling funds from the Ayushman Health Scheme, which mandates free treatment for eligible patients. Additionally, show cause notices have been issued to 17 other hospitals for overcharging patients and manipulating patient records. The malpractice involves blocking Ayushman cards by falsely claiming that general ward patients were admitted to the ICU. Despite previous fines totaling around Rs 40 lakh and ongoing investigations, some hospitals continue to flout the scheme's rules. The latest fines were imposed on: Sai Samartha Hospital, Arang: Rs 4.25 lakh, CMIT Hospital, Shankarnagar: Rs 11.08 lakh, Omkar Hospital, Bilaspur: Rs 1.82 lakh and Ankur Hospital, near Kharora High School: Rs 1.40 lakh. The nodal agency of the Ayushman Health Assistance Scheme has issued notices to the following hospitals, demanding explanations for similar irregularities: City-24 Hospital, Raipur, Patel Hospital, Raipur, Anant Hospital, Raipur, Vignesh Hospital, Raipur, New Vandana Hospital, Raipur.

BLAME

Cong blames BJP Govt. for sub-standard fertilizers and seeds supplied in societies

RAIPUR: The Opposition party in the state Congress has alleged that farmers in the state are not getting good quality fertilizers and seeds.

The senior spokesperson of the state Congress Surendra Verma accused that in the regime of BJP government the sub standard fertilizer and Nano urea are in supply and this harms the farming alarmingly..

Surendra Verma claimed that recently a truck full of duplicate fertilizers was caught in Pakhanjur block of Kanker district. This stock was coming from Rajasthan. Similarly, a case of substandard Nano urea came to light in a local cooperative society in Navagarh tehsil of Bemetara district. It was also known that the entire stock of Nano urea fertilizers stock was expiry, he further claimed. The Congress spokesperson demanded the BJP government to take stern action against the culprit in these cases.



Congress stages protests over power tariff hike

CSERC has hiked the power tariff by 8.35 per cent in all categories of consumers over the existing rate in the state



Former Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel addressing the protestors.

Central Chronicle News

FASTFACTS

RAIPUR: The opposition Congress on Monday staged demonstrations across Chhattisgarh to protest the electricity tariff hike and alleged frequent power cuts in the state.

The Chhattisgarh State Electricity Regulatory Commission (CSERC) has hiked the power tariff by 8.35 per cent in all categories of consumers over the existing rate in the state.

The new tariffs were made effective from June 1. Former chief

● **Congress leaders and workers marched holding lanterns at Rajiv Chowk**

● **Domestic consumers, farmers, industrialists and businessmen were bearing the brunt of increased electricity tariffs and power cuts.**

minister Bhupesh Baghel and Congress's state unit chief Deepak Baij took part in the protests in Raipur.

Other party leaders staged agitations in the district headquarter

Power tariff in state more than neighbouring states: Baghel

Baghel claimed that the power tariff in Chhattisgarh was more than its neighbouring states. Talking to reporters, Baij said the previous Congress government had provided power at cheaper rates, but the BJP hiked the tariff soon after it came to power.

ters and development blocks, a party functionary here said.

Congress leaders and workers marched holding lanterns at Rajiv Chowk here.

Hitting out at the ruling BJP, Baghel said domestic consumers, farmers, industrialists and businessmen were bearing the brunt of

increased electricity tariffs and power cuts.

“Coal is being supplied to half of the country from Chhattisgarh.

The state that supplies energy (coal for power plants) to the rest of the country is itself facing interruptions in power supply,” he told reporters.

Show cause notice to 5 absent officers

BALODABAZAR: Collector Deepak Soni on Monday conducted a surprise inspection of the offices of various departments in the Joint District Office. District Food Officer Vimal Dubey, Labor Officer Azad Singh Patre, Chief Executive Officer Antyavasyai Manharan Kosle, Mineral Officer Awadhesh Barik and Manager Khadi and Village Industries Gore Lal Ratre were found absent in the office. Taking note of their absence Collector instructed for issuance of show cause notices to them. During inspection of the District Food Officer's office, the Collector interacted with the villagers who came to get ration cards made. The collector instructed for arrangements to make ration cards in block headquarters.

Police arrest two accused

RAIPUR: City police arrested two accused Chahak Shukla and Rajesh Chaudhary, who had run away in their car after hitting two cattle on GE road near Amara last night. Both the accused had drunken, told the police. When they hit two street cattle and were running away, couple of local youth rushed behind them and stopped them in Sadar Bazar. The agitated youth damaged their car extensively.

Ch'garh to plant 3.85 cr saplings in non-forest areas

Central Chronicle News

HIGHLIGHT

RAIPUR: The state-level event for “Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam” mega plantation campaign will be organised on July 11 at 4 p.m. at the Biodiversity Park, Atal Nagar, Nava Raipur. Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai will grace the event as chief guest, while Forest Minister Kedar Kashyap will preside over the event. The main objective of the “Ek Ped Maa ke Naam” mega tree plantation drive is to maintain environmental balance by making the state greener through extensive tree planting. Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched this tree plantation drive on World Environment Day, June 5, 2024. Under this campaign, it is proposed to plant 80 crore trees across the country by September 2024 and 140 crore trees by

● **State-level event for the “Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam” mega plantation campaign will be organised on July 11.**

March 2025. As part of the “Ek Ped Maa ke Naam” mega plantation drive, the Forest Department of Chhattisgarh will plant 3 crore 85 lakh saplings in forest and non-forest areas. Chief Minister Sai has called for naming plantation sites after local deities. Tree planting programs will be organised in all districts at village and panchayat levels with the participation of public representatives. Under this scheme, fruit-bearing plants such as mango, jamun, bael, jackfruit, custard apple, pomegranate, mulberry, ber, tendu, and gungai inli are being planted.

NEWSLINE

APPEAL

Water sources must be clean: CS



RAIPUR: Chief Secretary Amitabh Jain has called for keeping water bodies (sources) clean. There should not be any kind of pollution in rivers, ponds and other water sources, he said while addressing the officials in a meeting organized by the Housing and Environment Department in compliance with the order passed by the National Green Tribunal (NGT) at the Ministry Mahanadi Bhawan here today. Officials from Water Resources, Urban Administration and Development, Forest and Climate Change, Panchayat and Rural Development and Chhattisgarh Environment Protection Board attended the meeting. The Chief Secretary directed the officials to work under the action plan to keep the rivers, reservoirs, ponds and other water sources of the state free from pollution.

REVIEW

Replace faulty transformers at earliest: Collector



RAIPUR: Collector Dr Gaurav Singh has expressed displeasure over the slow progress of implementation of the schemes of the electricity department in the district. Collector Dr. Gaurav Singh, while reviewing the works of the power distribution company in the Red Cross conference hall in the Collectorate premises, took information about various schemes of the Project Division and City Construction Division. Collector directed to expedite the works.

The Collector inquired about the progress of the detail of pump works in the district. In the review the officials said that the work of 1029 pumps had been completed out of 1241 pumps. The Collector said that the process of replacing the electricity transformers of the district should be started soon. This should also not disrupt electricity, he said.

OBITUARY

Ponamma Verghese



RAIPUR: Ponamma Verghese, R/o B-16, Sahani Vihar, near Mining Office, Raipur, breathed her last here on Sunday, July 7. The final rites will be held at Christian cemetery in Heerapur, Jaraway, between 10 am to 12 noon on July 9, 2024. She was W/o Late KM Varghese, and mother of Lovely, Lesly and Raju and Libi Varghese and Lisy John.

Raipur District Monsoon League TT Contest concludes

Central Chronicle News

The “Raipur District Monsoon League Table Tennis Competition (Senior/Junior/Cadet)” organized by the Rajdhani Table Tennis Association, at Sapre Shala Table Tennis Hall, Raipur concluded recently.

RAIPUR: Pranay Chauhan, Arjun Malhotra, Kavish Kala and Surabhi Modi, Aarna Khotale, Samaya Pandey have been adjudged winners. Secretary of Rajdhani Table Tennis Association Vinay Baiswada, informed that a total of 95 entries were received in all the categories in the said competition which was played for three days. In the final super league match of all the categories, Pranay Chauhan in Senior Men's Singles category, Surabhi

Modi in Senior Women's Singles category, Arjun Malhotra in Youth UNDER-17 (Junior) Boys Singles category, Aarna Khotale in Youth UNDER-17 (Junior) Girls Singles category and Kavish Kala in Youth UNDER-13 (Cadet) Boys Singles category, Samaya Pandey in Youth UNDER-13 (Cadet) Girls category became the winners. The chief guest on the occasion of the closing of the competition was Vimal Nair, Joint Secretary of Chhattisgarh Table Tennis Association and the program was presided over by Vrinda Tambe, Joint Secretary of Chhattisgarh Table Tennis Association.

Vice President of Chhattisgarh Table Tennis Association, Pradeep Joshi, Secretary of Rajdhani Table Tennis Association, Vinay Baiswada and Chief Judge Pranay Majumdar were present on the stage.

Notice issued to Cong MLA Devendra Yadav

RAIPUR: Balodabazar. Police has issued a notice to Congress MLA Devendra Yadav in the Balodabazar violence case. He has been called for questioning on July 9. Devendra Yadav had arrived for a short while in the demonstration of the community on the day of violence. Police had recently arrested Youth Congress District President Shailendra Banjare in the case of violent clashes and arsoning in Balodabazar. So far 156 people have been arrested in this case. On the intervening night of 15 and 16 May, some anti-social elements vandalized the holy Jaikham, which is a sacred symbol for Satnami community in Giraudhpuri Dham. Meanwhile, Home Minister Vijay Sharma had recently announced a judicial inquiry into the case.

Focus on cleanliness, hygiene in all hospitals, says Jaiswal

Central Chronicle News

Health Minister Shyam Bihari Jaiswal today held a review meeting of the officials of the Health Department at the Ministry Mahanadi Bhawan.

RAIPUR: Various health related topics were reviewed and necessary guidelines were given to the departmental officials. Health Minister Shyam Bihari Jaiswal has issued important instructions regarding the prevention and proper treatment of seasonal diseases in the state.

He directed all government and private hospitals to remain on high alert so that immediate and effective action can be taken in case of any emergency. Jaiswal has



Health Minister Jaiswal discussing health facilities at a review meeting.

given special instructions to ensure the availability of essential medicines in all hospitals and health centers. He said that special care should be taken to ensure that the patients do not face any kind of problem. The health minister instructed to pay special attention to cleanliness and hygiene in all hospitals so that the possibility of spreading infection can be reduced. Jaiswal asked all the concerned officials to give top priority to the health and safety of the citizens

FASTFACTS

● **The Health Minister laid emphasis on improving the quality of health services.**

● **Condition of health centers, availability of medical services, supply of medicines and other important aspects discussed.**

of the state. The Health Minister laid emphasis on improving the quality of health services and

instructed the officials to conduct regular inspection and quick solutions. He discussed the condition of health centers, availability of medical services, supply of medicines and other important aspects. In the meeting, various measures to further improve health services were discussed in detail and the officials were instructed to take immediate action. Health Minister directed the officials to hold review meetings regularly and ensure quick resolution of problems. Additional Chief Secretary Manoj Kumar Pingua, Special Secretary Chandan Kumar, Mission Director Jagdish Sonkar, Food and Drug Controller Kuldeep Sharma, Director AYUSH Iffat Ara, Managing Director CGMCC Padmini Bhoi and other senior officials were present in the meeting.

LACK OF RESPECT |

Congress disrespecting party workers: Sanjay

Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: BJP state general secretary Sanjay Shrivastava charged that the PCC State President Deepak Baij is unable to handle the organisation's works and coming under frustration he is speaking the same language as that of former CM Bhupesh Baghel and calling his party workers greedy for power and all sorts of things. Shrivastava said that party workers are the backbone of any party, but Congress is hell-bent on

disrespecting its own party workers from time-to-time. It is for this reason that Congress has reached to its low in Chhattisgarh and still the party leaders are not having any control over their tongue.

BJP State general secretary said that the Congress by calling its party workers as greedy for power and are indirectly asking them to leave the party and are under the wrong impression that the people who stood with them during struggle are with them. All



● **Party workers are the backbone of any party, but Congress is hell-bent on disrespecting its own party workers.**

Sanjay Shrivastava
BJP General Secy.

because of whom the party lost the VS polls and 10 seats in LS and against whom the

party workers are regularly writing letters. But instead of taking the responsibility for defeat, he is terming them as “Sleeper Cell” and is taking action against them. Shrivastava said that Deepak Baij who himself has lost the VS polls and later it was under his leadership that the Congress lost the VS polls as well. So here failing to save his own constituency, former CM is now threatening the party workers and terming them as greedy for power and all sorts of things.

Rise in women's social status with MVY Raipur

Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: There is tremendous enthusiasm among women in Chhattisgarh regarding the Mahtari Vandana Yojana. Particularly, women from poor, middle, and lower-middle-class backgrounds have found considerable relief from this scheme. Women have expressed that the initiative has strengthened their self-assurance and self-worth. The timely disbursement of funds through the scheme, facilitated by the

good governance of Chief Minister Shri Vishnu Deo Sai, is widely appreciated. This month marks the distribution of the fifth installment of Rs 1,000 each under the scheme, directly into the bank accounts of women via Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT). This financial support has notably increased the status and respect of women within their families. Smt. Hema Sahu, of Dhantari stated “The self-help groups’ women are reaping significant benefits from this scheme.



Along with their studies
students should have
knowledge of New Laws

Sukhnandan Rathore
ASP Durg City

Divyangs apply for financial aid at Jandarshan

A large number of people shared their problems and complaints.



Collector interacting with an applicant at Jandarshan.

Central Chronicle News

FASTFACTS

- 171 applications were received in Jandarshan
- Concerned officials instructed to take immediate action

BHILAI: Collector Richa Prakash Chaudhary met the common people at Jandarshan on Monday. She listened to their problems and instructed the concerned departments to immediately resolve the issues.

A resident of Khursipar sought financial aid to participate in the World Para Arm Wrestling Championship to be organized in Europe in August. Earlier, she has won gold medals in National Championships

held in Maharashtra and Mathura. Due to financial problems, she is unable to participate in the world championship. In another case, a villager of Kauhi applied for a pension for his special daughter. The father had made

Labourers seek unpaid wages

The labourers of the paddy procurement center of village Nipani complained about unpaid wages. The committee transfers a consolidated amount in one bank account for the group of labourers. After paying the first instalment of wages, the committee is not paying the second instalment. The Collector asked the District Cooperative Central Bank to immediately examine the matter and take necessary action.

an application at Gram Panchayat but did not get the benefit. In both the cases, the Collector asked the Social Welfare Department to take action as per the rules. Residents of

village Parsada applied for construction of speed breakers on the road near the school. Due to the absence of speed breakers, there is a possibility of accidents.

126.1 mm rainfall recorded

BHILAI: An average rainfall of 126.1 mm has been recorded in the district from 01 June to 08 July. The highest rainfall of 244.1 mm has been recorded in Patan Tehsil and the lowest 68.4 mm in Bori. Apart from this, 86.6 mm rainfall has been recorded in Durg, 73.4 mm in Dhamdha, 104.0 mm in Bhilai 3 and 180.2 mm in Ahiwara. On July 08, 0.5 mm rainfall was recorded in Durg, 8.4 mm in Dhamdha, 15.1 mm in Patan, 7.0 mm in Bori, 1.6 mm in Bhilai 3 and 12.7 mm in Ahiwara.

Grievance redressal camp

BHILAI: Grievance redressal camps will be organized in different wards in Risali Municipal Corporation area. The first camp is being organized in the community hall of Puraina on July 10 under the guidance of Risali Commissioner Monica Verma. In the camp citizens can submit applications related to encroachment, revenue, cleanliness, street light, building permit, tap connection, pension, Pradhan Mantri Awas, ration card, PM Swanidhi, Lakhpati Didi loan etc.

Rs 20 lakh disaster compensation paid

Central Chronicle News

BHILAI: Collector Richa Prakash Chaudhary has approved disaster compensation of Rs 20 lakh to the families of five deceased. Roshan Sharma, a resident of Gayanagar Durg, died due to drowning on April 14, 2022.

Similarly, Komal Sahu, a resident of Ward 38 Millpara Durg, died due to drowning in Shvsnath river on July 27, 2023.

Vibha Tiwari, a resident of Bajrangpara Supela also died in a fire incident on February 17, 2022.

Ramadhhar Verma, a resident of village Nardhi

(Patan) died on January 05, 2022 in a fire mishap and Rudra Nayak, a resident of village Belodi (Patan) died on September 19, 2022 due

HIGHLIGHT

Under the provisions of Revenue and Disaster Management of the Government

to drowning. In accordance with the provisions of Revenue and Disaster Management of the Government, the Collector has approved financial assistance of Rs 4 lakhs to Shobha Sharma, wife of late Roshan Sharma.

Placement camp for 63 posts on July 12

BHILAI: District Employment and Self-Employment Guidance Center Durg will organize a placement camp on July 12 from 10.30 am at its office to fill 63 vacant posts available by employers. The employer NIIT Private Limited Smriti Nagar Bhilai will recruit 20 posts of Relationship Manager, 10 posts of Branch Relationship Officer, 2 posts of Computer Operator. Similarly, employer Vihaan Iron and Steel Bhilai will recruit 4 posts of Accountant, 3 posts of

Plant Supervisor, 2 each of Auto CAD Designer and Marketing Executive. Employer Fusion Microfinance Limited Raipur will recruit 10 posts of Relationship Manager and Senior Relationship Manager. Deputy Director RK Kurre informed that interested applicants can appear with all original educational certificates and mark sheets, identity card (voter ID, Aadhaar, PAN, driving license, ration card), employment registration, domicile, caste certificate, etc.

Death anniv, former PM observed



Central Chronicle News

BHILAI: A discussion was organised on the 17th death anniversary of former Prime Minister Chandrashekhar at JP Pratishthan HSCL Colony Ruabandha Sector. The chief guest former minister of Chhattisgarh government Badruddin Qureshi and RP Sharma convenor of Bharat Ratna Loknayakan Jayaprakash Narayan Memorial Foundation, Acharya Narendra Dev Smriti Jan Adhikar Abhiyan Samiti and Chandrasekhar Foundation as well as all present garlanded the portrait and paid tributes.

The discussion was on the connotation of

the mandate of 2024. RP Sharma said the people of the country have told that the system will not run with dictatorship and only democratic behavior will take the country forward.

Badruddin Qureshi said that Chandrashekhar's outspokenness in and outside Parliament made him stand out. Qureshi said that the 'implication of the mandate is that we should respect democracy and the Constitution. Senior Advocate Jameel Ahmed said that despite being a minority government, Chandrashekhar remained very vigilant. The things he said in Parliament for public welfare are still relevant today.

Ruffian held with sharp weapon

BHILAI: Police arrested a ruffian on charges of threatening people with a sharp weapon. The accused Kalki alias Koteswar Rao (30) son of Ram Das a resident of Zone 2 Khursipar was arrested under Section 25, 27 of Arms Act. A chopper knife was seized from his possession.

Rice stolen from school in village Jhadmokhli

BHILAI: Unknown thieves trespassed into the kitchen of a school in village Jhadmokhli (Patan) and escaped with 40 kgs rice. Principal Keshav Kumar Verma informed that the rice was stored in the school for the mid day meal. An FIR has been lodged against unknown thieves.

Students understand key aspects of New Criminal Laws

Central Chronicle News

Earlier Law was punishment-oriented but the new amended law is justice-oriented

BHILAI: The Committee for Prevention of Sexual Harassment (CPOSH) of St Thomas College Bhilai organised a lecture cum workshop on "The New Criminal Laws". The Guests of the session were Sukhnandan Rathore, ASP (Durg) City, Satyaprakash Tiwari CSP Bhilai, and Satish Thakur DSP Traffic. Administrator in-charge of the college Rev Fr Reji C Varghese graced the occasion. Principal Dr MG Roymon welcomed the guests and urged staff and students to stay aware of changes in the New Laws.

DSP Traffic Satish Thakur emphasized on traffic rules as our moral and



Participants at the Lecture cum Workshop.

FASTFACTS

- Bhartiya Nyaya Sanhita & Bhartiya Nagrik Suraksha Sanhita replaced IPC & CrPC
- Bhartiya Sakshya Adiniyam has replaced Indian Evidence Act

social responsibility, all should follow the same to minimize road accidents, as road accidents has increased. CSP Satyaprakash Tiwari in his address said the Bhartiya Nyaya Sanhita, Bhartiya Nagrik Suraksha Sanhita and Bhartiya Sakshya Adiniyam has replaced the British era Indian Panel Code, code of

criminal procedure and the Indian evidence act respectively.

ASP Sukhnandan Rathore said that the earlier Law was punishment-oriented but the new amended law is justice-oriented, students should have knowledge of new Laws along with their studies and emphasized on civil safety also.

CULTURAL EVENT |

Interdepartmental Music Competition-2024 concludes

Central Chronicle News

BHILAI: A 5-day-long Inter-Departmental Music (Singing) Competition-2024, was organized from July 02-06, 2024 at Mahatma Gandhi Kala Mandir by SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant's Sports Cultural & Civic Amenities (SC&CA) Department. Pawan Kumar, ED (HR) was the Chief Guest at the Valedictory Ceremony while Suraj Kumar Soni, GM (HR-Non Works), and H Shekhar, GM (HR-ED-HR



Secretariat) were present as Special Guests. The winning participants were felicitated by the chief guest.

Chief Guest in his address, stated that that BSP has been successfully organizing this event for many years now to pro-

vide a platform for the all-round development of its employees and their family members and expression of their talents. It aims to recognize the inherent talent in the employees and provide them with new dimensions in this field.

The Valedictory function was compered by Supriyo Sen from SC&CA Department. The Inter-Departmental Music (Singing) Competition-2024, was organized under the guidance of SR Jakhar, DGM (SCCA), and with the cooperation of Abhijit Bhowmik, Dennis Christie, Dy Mgrs (SC&CS).

Illegal occupants evicted from 27 houses

Central Chronicle News

BHILAI: The Enforcement Squad of BSP Town Services Department conducted a major drive against illegal occupants in Sector-06. In compliance with the decree order passed by the Estate Court, the illegal occupants were evicted from 27 houses of unfit blocks. The windows and doors were removed and the electricity connection was disconnected.

Partial demolition of all these houses has been launched. All the houses

have been declared dangerous by the authorized agency. Enforcement Department is continuously taking action against illegal occupants and land mafia and legal action will also be taken if needed. On Monday, the action was taken by a joint team of BSP's Enforcement Squad and District Police. Those living in unfit blocks have been instructed to vacate BSP houses immediately. BSP Town Services Department has written a letter to the administration and requested to register FIR.

NEWSLINE

TRAFFIC HAZARD

Drunken youths arrested for showing car stunts



BHILAI: Police arrested two persons for performing dangerous car stunts. Later, both of them were found drunk. ASP Sukhnandan Rathore informed that the night patrolling party intercepted two youths who were making videos while performing car stunts on Central Avenue. The youth were brought to the Police Station and on checking, they were found drunk. Police arrested Rakesh Kumar Sahu (27) son of Khomlal Sahu, a resident of Ram Nagar, Supela and his friend Dilip Bhogade (26) son of Laxmi Narayan Bhogade, a resident of Gurunanak Nagar, Supela under Section 281 BNS, 184, 185 MV Act.

ADMIN ACTION

Roka Chheka campaign launched

BHILAI: Bhilai Municipal Corporation launched Roka Chheka campaign to catch the stray cattle which come on roads during rainy season and create threat for commuters. Commissioner Devesh Kumar Dhruv has instructed to initially target the main road and thereafter catch the cattle from inner roads also. Cattle owners have been instructed to keep their animals in their homes. On Monday, stray cattle were caught at Ghadi Chowk, Gada Chowk, Avanti Bai Chowk, Kohka. The animals have been kept at the Gauthan.

SKILL DEVELOPMENT

Applications invited under PMAY

BHILAI: Scheduled Caste unemployed youth can apply for 3 months skill development training under PM Abhyudaya Yojana. Training will be provided for Machine Computer - CNC Lathe, Assistant Electrician Domestic and Industry, Assistant Operator CNC, Computer Hardware and Networking and Machine Operator Assistant Plastic Processing. It will be a free residential training given by MSME Centre Rasmada. Interested youth can collect application forms from the District Antyavasya Office in Durg. Last date of filing applications is July 15.

TRIBUTES

Tributes paid to councillor Doman Barle

BHILAI: The Risali corporation family paid tribute to late Doman Barle, Councillor of Ward No 34, Risali Corporation. A condolence meeting was organized at the main office. Mayor Shashi Sinha, Health Department in-charge Govind Chaturvedi, Commissioner Monica Verma, Executive Engineer Sunil Dubey, Corporation Secretary Rohit Sahu and other officials and employees addressed the condolence meeting.

N-E-W-S



"From 2016 to May 31, 2024, as many as 108 police officials were dismissed from the service for their involvement in criminal activities"

Pinarayi Vijayan
Chief Minister, Kerala

Rain disrupts Mumbai: Streets flooded, commuters struggle



Mumbai Commuters wade through a waterlogged street following rains, in Mumbai, Monday. | Photo: PTI

Incessant rain paralyses daily life, Char Dham Yatra resumes

Incessant rain has lashed Uttarakhand. Flooding rivers have blocked hundreds of rural roads and leaving several villages in Champawat and Udham Singh Nagar districts heavily aterlogged.

Press Trust Of India

DEHRADUN: Incessant rain continued to lash several parts of Uttarakhand on Monday, flooding rivers in the Kumaon region, blocking hundreds of rural motorable roads and leaving several villages in Champawat and Udham Singh Nagar districts heavily waterlogged.

However, the Char Dham Yatra resumed on Monday after remaining suspended for a day in

view of the Met office's prediction of heavy rain following an improvement in the weather in the Garhwal region, Additional Commissioner (Garhwal) Narendra Singh Quiriyal said.

The Kali, Gori and Saryu rivers in Pithoragarh, which received 125.50 mm rainfall, were flowing close to the danger mark while more than 200 rural motorable roads across the state were blocked by debris from landslides, the State

HIGHLIGHT

● However, Char Dham Yatra resumed on Monday after remaining suspended for a day in view of the Met office's prediction of heavy rain following an improvement in the weather

Emergency Operation Centre in Dehradun said.

Heavy waterlogging in the Purnagiri division of Champawat district, besides Khatima and

Sitarganj in Udham Singh Nagar district, prompted police, National Disaster Response Force and State Disaster Response Force personnel to relocate nearly 200 families to safety. They have taken shelter in hotels, wedding halls and their relatives' places. Continuous rain in Pithoragarh district, where Tejam village in the Munsiyari subdivision recorded the maximum 200 mm rainfall, paralysed daily life. The all-weather road from

Tanakpur to Pithoragarh, considered the lifeline of both Pithoragarh and Champawat districts, has been closed several times over the past four days due to heavy rain.

"Over 28 roads, including six border roads and 21 village roads, have been closed following rain in Pithoragarh district. Efforts are underway to open the roads but the continuing rain is a hindrance," the district's Disaster Management Officer BS Mahar said.

Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

CRIME

Woman killed, three injured in late-night attack in UP

UNNAO: A 48-year-old woman was shot dead at home here in the early hours of Monday while her husband and two others of the family were injured when a young man and two accomplices broke in and attacked them, police said. They said the 22-year-old attacker, Anurag Pal, later shot himself dead with a country-made pistol. While local people claimed that Pal had feelings for the daughter of the woman killed in the raid, police said the exact cause could be ascertained only after a probe. The incident took place in Godiyana Kheda village under the Fatehpur Chaurasi police station area around 3 am. Additional Superintendent of Police Prem Chandra said Phoolkumari (48), her husband Putilal (53) and two others of the family, including daughter Reshu, were rushed to a hospital with injuries but Phoolkumari died. **PTI**

OATH TAKING

Ex-CM Champai Soren becomes minister in Hemant Soren Govt.



RANCHI: Former chief minister Champai Soren on Monday took oath as a minister in the Hemant Soren government in Jharkhand.

Ten others will also take oath as ministers along with Champai Soren. Champai had resigned from the post of CM on July 3, a day before JMM executive president Hemant Soren took oath as the 13th chief minister of Jharkhand on July 4. **PTI**

NATURE CREATES DISASTER

Landslides disrupts road connectivity in several Arunachal districts



ITANAGAR: Surface communication to several districts in Arunachal Pradesh was disrupted by landslides triggered by rains, officials said on Monday.

Landslides buried a person in Shi-Yomi district on Friday, according to a report of the state disaster management department. So far four people have died in the state since April due to natural calamities. The Tezu-Hayuliang road remains blocked at Mompani area in Lohit and Anjaw districts, while landslides blocked the Dari-Chambang and the Palin-Taraklengdi via Langdang village PMGSY road in Kra Daadi district, they said. NH 513 also remained

blocked at Geying in East Siang district, a report said. Over 72,900 people and 257 villages have so far been affected by floods and landslides in Arunachal since April this year. Floods and landslides also caused extensive damage to roads, bridges, culverts, power lines, electric poles, transformers and water supply systems.

According to the report, 160 roads, 76 power lines, 30 electric poles, three transformers, nine bridges, 11 culverts, and 147 water supply systems have been damaged so far. Besides, 627 kutcha and 51 pucca houses and 155 huts have been damaged, it said. **PTI**

Emergency evacuation as heavy rains strand tourists at Raigad Fort

MUMBAI: Police and other district authorities have evacuated several tourists and trekkers stranded at the Raigad hill fort near Mumbai following heavy rains, officials said on Monday.

The fort, located around 170 km from Mumbai, has now been closed for visitors till July 31, they said. The Raigad district in Maharashtra's Konkan region witnessed heavy rains over the last 24 hours, due to which a number of visitors were stuck at the fort, a famous monument which was once the capital of Maratha king Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj.

Due to a flood-like situation at the 'Payri Marg' (step way) of the fort, tourists were facing difficulty in walking along that stretch, an official from Mahad police station said.

Assam Floods: 131 wild animal died in Kaziranga Natl. Park

Press Trust Of India

Assam is in the terrible grip of floods wherein Kaziranga National Park is also not spared. Several animals have died because of the constant flooding of the park.

GUWAHATI: At least 131 wild animals have died so far in floods in the Kaziranga National Park while 96 others have been rescued, an official said on Monday.

The dead animals include six rhinos, 117 hog deer, including 98 by drowning, two by vehicle hits and 17 during treatment, two sambar, a rhesus macaque and



Over 100 Wild animals died in Kaziranga park. | Photo: PTI

an otter due to drowning in the park. A total of 25 animals have died during treatment and these include 17 hog deer, one each of swamp deer, Rhesus Macaque and an otter pup. The forest officials rescued 85 hog deer, two each of rhino, sambar and scops owl and one each of swamp deer, Indian hare, Rhesus Macaque, otter, elephant and a jungle

cat. Currently, 25 animals are under medical care while 52 others have been released after treatment, the official said.

The park is experiencing the worst-ever deluge in recent years with the previous large-scale devastation occurring in 2017 when over 350 wildlife died in the flood waters and in vehicle hits while migrating through animal

FACTFILE

● 96 animals have been rescued by wildlife officers who are receiving treatment at the veterinary hospital. Out of these, 25 are still under medical care while 52 have been released back into the wild.

corridors to the highlands. The NH-715 is a corridor for the animals to cross over to the hills of Karbi Anglong.

Meanwhile, Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Monday said that the floods in the state have affected humans and animals alike and "Team Assam is working round the clock to aid everyone".

WAR MEMORIAL

Arunachal CM pays tributes to War heroes

Press Trust Of India

ITANAGAR: Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu visited the Nyukmadung War Memorial near Dirang in West Kameng district and paid floral tributes to the 1962 war heroes.

He laid a wreath in honour of the Sino-India war martyrs on Sunday. "Visited the Nyukma-

dung War Memorial to pay tribute to the brave heroes of the 1962 war. Their valour and sacrifice will continue to inspire us all," Khandu posted on X. The chief minister also inspected the ongoing construction of the cultural and heritage museum at the memorial site, which is a collaborative effort between the 16th Madras Regiment,

Visited the Nyukmadung War Memorial to pay tribute to the brave heroes of the 1962 war.

Prema Khandu
CM, Arunachal Pradesh
the 46th Infantry Brigade, and the Indian Institute of Heritage (IIH). "The



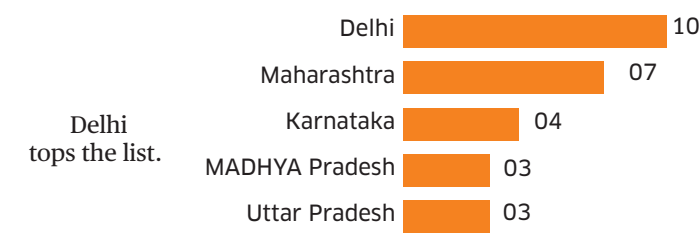
museum will not only chronicle the events and bravery of the 1962 war but also showcase local cultural and historical artefacts. I have suggested

that the collection include items from all tribes of Arunachal to truly reflect the diverse heritage of our state," Khandu said.

Additionally, the museum could highlight the contributions of brave local heroes who aided the army during the 1962 war, ensuring their stories are preserved and honoured, the chief minister added.

The Day's NUMBERS

STATES WITH MAXIMUM NO. OF DEEMED UNIVERSITIES



(source- Agency)

DECISION

ENPO lifts "Public Emergency" in six Nagaland districts

KOHIMA: The Eastern Nagaland Peoples' Organisation (ENPO) has temporarily suspended its "public emergency" declared on February 5 in the six districts of Eastern Nagaland.

The decision to this effect was taken during the ENPO's Central Executive Council (CEC) meeting held on July 3 in Tuensang as a "significant measure aimed at fostering mutual understanding and pursuing a peaceful resolution" regarding the creation of Frontier Nagaland Territory (FNT) by the Government of India, stated a notification by the ENPO here on Sunday evening.

However, the ENPO, an apex body of eight tribes of the region - Chang, Khianiungan, Konyak, Phom, Sangtam, Tikhir, Yimkihung and also Sumi, stated that the suspension is subject to review in the event of compelling circumstances. **PTI**

MISHAP

Mini bus overturns in Haryana leaving 50 passengers injured



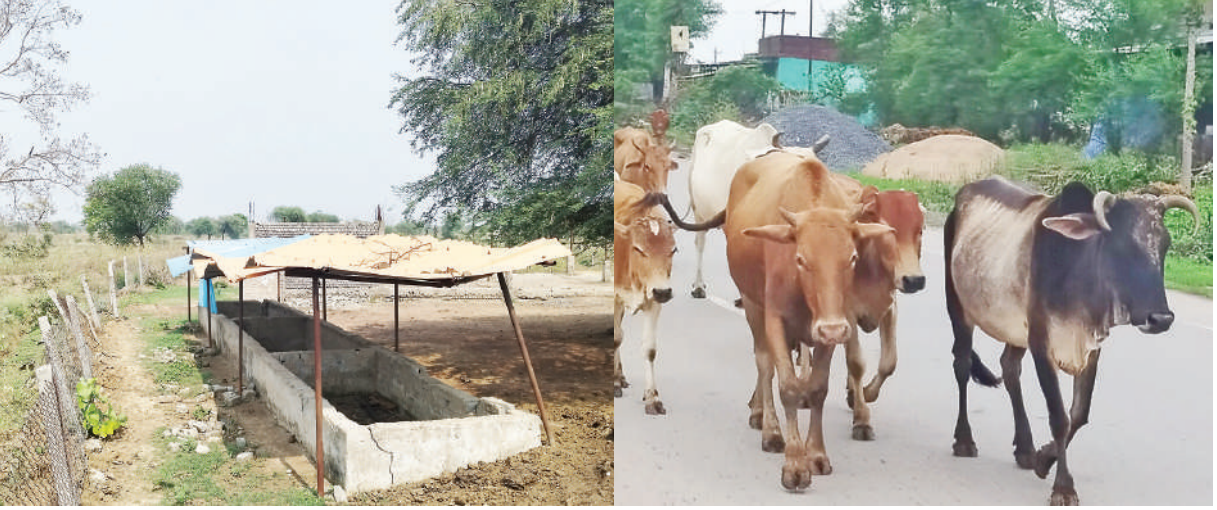
CHANDIGARH: An overloaded Haryana Roadways mini bus overturned near Pinjore on Monday, leaving 50 injured, most of them school children, officials said. According to preliminary information, over 40 children were among those injured in the incident, they said. "The mini bus overturned near a turn. The reasons behind the accident are under investigation. Our main focus at the moment was on rescue. All children are stable, no one has a threatening or critical injury," Panchkula's Deputy Commissioner, Yash Garg told reporters at the civil hospital in Panchkula. **PTI**

“instructions to contractors, Collector directed them to ensure quality in all construction works.”

VK Langeh
Collector Koriya



Chhattisgarh



Due to government neglect in the Gauthans, cattle have abandoned these areas and taken over the roads.

Stray cattle on roads, desolation in Gauthans

Stray cattle on roads and underutilized Gauthans highlight safety concerns and agricultural risks, prompting calls for renewed government initiatives.

Central Chronicle News

MUNGELI: The issue of stray cattle occupying roads has become increasingly prominent, highlighting the desolate state of Gauthans. With the onset of the rainy season, cattle camps have started to appear on the roads, raising concerns about road safety and administrative efficiency.

Despite significant investments made by the previous government to construct Gauthans for housing stray cattle, these facilities remain underutilized. The ambitious Roka Chheka Abhiyan, launched

I have issued instructions that the cattle sitting on all the roads coming in the municipal area should be removed.

Dhanshyam Sharma
CMO Mungeli

to manage stray cattle, appears to be in limbo following the change in government. Consequently, the Gauthans, which were expected to alleviate the

Government intended to care for livestock with Gauthans, but new policies have increased road cattle.

Mohan Markam
Former State Congress Committee President

stray cattle problem, are now largely deserted.

The presence of cattle on main roads, particularly in areas connecting district headquarters to

other regions, has led to an increase in vehicle accidents. At night, the situation worsens as herds of cattle occupy the roads, making it difficult for two-wheelers and four-wheelers to navigate safely. The lack of proper lighting and the sudden appearance of cattle often result in drivers losing control, leading to accidents.

Local residents have voiced their concerns, demanding administrative action to address the stray cattle menace. The need for effective measures to prevent road accidents and ensure the safety of commuters is pressing.

Foundation Day celebrated

MUNGELI: The foundation day of Ramdev Temple at the old bus stand was joyously celebrated with morning prayers and the distribution of Kheer Puri prasad. Established in honor of Ramdev Baba, the temple saw a large gathering from the community, underscoring local reverence and cultural unity. The festivities commenced with early rituals and continued through the day, highlighting the significance of this auspicious occasion. Residents expressed their joy and devotion, making it a memorable event for all who attended.

Massive tree plantation in Mungeli

MUNGELI: Members of the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) FASTERPUR unit submitted a memorandum to the Additional Collector, highlighting unresolved issues at Government Naveen Mahavidyalaya FASTERPUR Setganga. They emphasized the urgent need for administrative intervention to address long-standing concerns affecting the college's functioning and academic environment. The ABVP expressed hope that their efforts would lead to positive outcomes benefiting students and faculty alike.

Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

RATH YATRA

Lord Jagannath's chariot procession taken out with pomp and show

Birkoni: Lord Jagannath's chariot procession filled Birkoni with joy and devotion today. The day began with the auspicious bathing ceremony of Lord Jagannath, Baldev, and Devi Subhadra at Ram Janaki temple, followed by elaborate adornments with crowns, peacock feathers, and colorful ornaments. Acharya Lakshmi Narayan Vaishnav emphasized the significance of the procession, describing it as a journey for public welfare and divine blessings for devotees. The Rath Yatra commenced at 3 pm amidst vibrant celebrations, with women decorating the streets with rangoli and offering prayers and flowers. Devotees enthusiastically pulled the chariot through Gudi Chowk, Sahu Para, Khallari Para, and Bazaar Chowk, receiving blessings and distributing prasad.

SAFETY

Residents demand ban on entry of heavy vehicles for school safety



KHARORA: Residents of Mura village submitted a memorandum to Kharora Tehsildar urging to halt heavy gravel-laden trucks from Adani Power Plant on Mura road. They expressed concerns over the safety of high school and secondary school students who commute daily through the densely populated area. Block Congress President Resham Verma highlighted the risks posed by frequent truck movements, emphasizing the potential for accidents and property damage.

Tree Planting Initiative

Bharat Scouts and Guides lead 'Ek Vriksha Maa Ke Naam' tree plantation initiative in Korea



KOREA: Bharat Scouts and Guides in collaboration with the Forest Department conducted a significant tree plantation initiative themed 'Ek Vriksha Maa Ke Naam'. Guided by State Chief Commissioner Dr. Somnath Yadav and State Secretary Kailash Soni, the event aimed to fulfill the vision of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi.

Under the esteemed presence of Collector Vinay Kumar Langeh and District Panchayat President Renuka Singh, the program saw the planting of 30 fruit and shade trees at Govern-

ment Pre-Secondary School, Murma. Special guest Dr. Ashutosh Chaturvedi highlighted the environmental significance of the initiative, stressing trees' role in combating global warming.

Approximately 5,000 mixed plants were also planted in Forest Beat Murma, involving 300 Scout Guides, 25 Scout Guides, and Forest Department personnel. The event, orchestrated under the guidance of District Education Officer Jitendra Kumar Gupta, emphasized community participation in environmental stewardship.

Devki Sahu appointed as president

RAJIM: Devki Sahu, a prominent leader of BJP Mahila Morcha, has been appointed as the President of the School Management and Development Committee at Government Girls Higher Secondary School in Rajim. Her nomination by the government has garnered widespread congratulations from political figures including MLA Rohit Sahu, former MPs Chundi Lal Sahu and Chandu Lal Sahu, and former MLA Santosh Upadhyay. BJP leaders such as District President Rajesh Sahu and Mandal President Kamal Sinha, along with local representatives and school officials, joined in expressing their support and best wishes for Sahu's new role. Her appointment promises to bring positive changes to the school's management and development initiatives, benefiting students and enhancing educational outcomes in Rajim.

TALENTED STUDENTS HONOURED

Students in the merit list in SAKM honoured

Central Chronicle News

Khairagarh sees decisive action as DEO ensures safe schools and promotes literacy.

KORBA: The annual examination result of the final year of graduation in all faculties for the session 2023-24 in Shri Agrasen Kanya Mahavidyalaya (SAKM) run by Agrawal Sabha has been 100%. On this occasion, on 8 July 2024, the felicitation ceremony to award the girl students with the highest marks was held under the hospitality of Chief Guest Mrs. Kaushalya Devi Agarwal, wife of late Balveer Prasad Agarwal, the donor of the college land.

In the series of speeches, first of all Principal Dr. MK Jha welcomed everyone and said that by



The felicitation ceremony to award the girl students with the highest marks was held.

FACTFILE

● Chief guest Kaushalya Devi honoured the students who got the highest marks in all the faculties.

getting education, girls educate two families. Thereafter Agrawal Sabha President and Teaching Committee President Rajendra Agrawal and

Sunil Jain congratulated the students and wished them a bright future. After this, the chief guest Mrs. Kaushalya Devi honoured the students who got the highest marks in all the faculties, including BA final year Kumari Janhavi Mahilagen first, Shalini Dubey second, Shabana Kausar third, BCom final year Kumari Sabia Parveen first, Shobhana Wadhvani

second, Nitisha Kishore Rupda third, BSc final year Jeetu Banjare first, Kalyani Mittal second, Aakanksha Agrawal third, BCA final year Gunjan Tewani first, Harsha Tewani second, Prachi Singh third, BSc Home Science final year Himani Sharma first, Aayushi Sharma second, BED final year Tanya Devangan first, Jayshree Mishra second, Ritika Singh third.

WATER PROJECT UNDER SCRUTINY

Probe launched into Jal Jeevan Mission irregularities

Central Chronicle News

KHAIKAGARH: The Chief Engineer of Public Health Mechanical Department has ordered an investigation into alleged irregularities surrounding the Jal Jeevan Mission scheme in Chhuikhadan and Khairagarh blocks. This decision comes in response to a complaint filed by Congress leader Kapinath Mahobia, highlighting concerns over quality and execution issues within the scheme.



Mahobia's complaint, addressed to Public Health Engineering Minister Arun Sao, pointed out discrepancies such as substandard water tank constructions, the use of inferior pipeline materials, and incomplete or faulty pipeline installations across several villages. These villages include Kukuritola, Bhothli Bhujari, Rampur, Navangaon in Chhuikhadan block, and Padadah, Sankara, Bend-

I demand accountability to ensure quality water access for every household.

Kapinath Mahobia
Congress leader

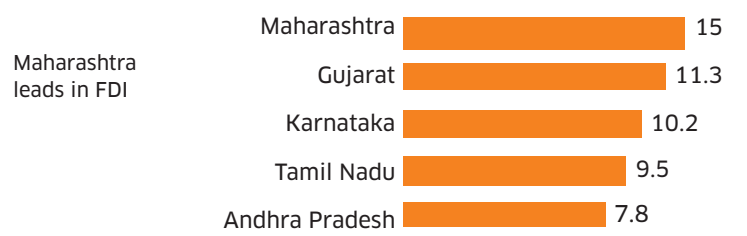
ridih in Khairagarh block.

Accusing departmental officers and contractors of collusion, Mahobia demanded a thorough inquiry into alleged mismanagement, delayed project comple-

tions, and misallocation of funds. He emphasized the urgency of rectifying these issues to ensure that the Jal Jeevan Mission's objectives of providing household water supply are met effectively. In response to the state government's directive prompted by Mahobia's allegations, the Chief Engineer instructed the Durg Division Superintendent Engineer to conduct a comprehensive investigation.

The Day's NUMBERS

FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT (FDI) (IN BILLION USD)



Sources - Adda-247

INITIATIVE

Pandaria residents celebrate green initiative with tree planting effort

PANDARIA: Residents of Pandaria came together on Sunday to plant trees with the support of the Environment Protection Committee. In a heartening display of community spirit, three families took part in the initiative. Four-year-old Parth Shrivastava and his parents planted a Kadamba tree to mark Parth's birthday, spreading a message of environmental stewardship. Shankar Gupta and his son Sanskar also joined in, inspired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call to honor Mother Nature. Senior advocate Bhaskar Devangan planted an Amla tree in Vidyapeeth school campus on his wife's birthday, urging others to follow suit. The Environment Protection Committee, led by Mohan Rajput, praised the community's enthusiasm, noting over 2,000 trees planted in the city and 20,000 in rural areas. The event underscored the town's commitment to environmental conservation and garnered widespread support.

CONSERVATION

Gayatri Parivar's environmental planting initiative in Rajim



RAJIM: Under the Sapta-Nutriya Andolan, Gayatri Parivar Rajim planted four trees at Kham pond in collaboration with Taru Mitra members. Led by Shanti Kunj Haridwar and the District Coordination Committee, the initiative emphasizes annual tree planting across the district to combat environmental challenges, including extreme heat. Unit head Ramkumar Sahu pledged to plant at least five trees in every village under their jurisdiction. The program also marked Prince Kumar Sahu's birthday, where a tree was planted and contributions were made for tree guards.



Baba, Hathras police, UP govt responsible for stampede
Chandra Shekhar Azad
Azad Samaj Party (Kanshi Ram) chief

President Murmu visits Udayagiri Caves



President Droupadi Murmu during a visit to Udayagiri Caves, in Bhubaneswar, Monday.

'No relief to 41 Vasai buildings facing demolition'

Bombay High Court division bench granted flat owners in the buildings time till September 30 to vacate the premises subject to submission of an undertaking to vacate.

Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI: The Bombay High Court on Monday refused to grant any relief from demolition to 41 buildings in Vasai in Palghar district after observing that they are "wholly illegal and unauthorized" and constructed on land reserved for a sewage treatment plant and dumping ground.

A division bench of Justices M S Sonak and Kamal Khata, however, granted flat owners in the buildings time till September 30 to vacate the premises subject to submission of an under-

taking to vacate.

In June this year, the bench, while hearing a petition filed against the buildings, said there was no impediment for Vasai Virar City Municipal Corporation (VVMC) to take action against such "patently illegal" structures.

After this, the VVMC demolished some of the structures and issued demolition notice to 41 other buildings directing the occupants to vacate the same within 24 hours. Fifteen persons owning flats in the said buildings on Monday moved HC seeking relief

HIGHLIGHT

- Buildings are constructed on land reserved for a sewage treatment plant and dumping ground.
- The bench also rapped the civic body for not taking prompt action.

against the demolition. The court, however, said the petitioners have not been able to show the buildings they occupy were constructed after securing permission from authorities. The flat owners may

have been cheated by the builder/developer for which they can sue that person and recover damages, the HC further said.

The bench also rapped the civic body for not taking prompt action in such cases and allowing such illegal structures to come up in the first place.

"The civic body is encouraging land mafia and poor people are suffering in all this," the court said. The bench noted that the sewage treatment plant and dumping ground are essential and land reserved for them can-

not be usurped by anyone. "Wholly unauthorized constructions are put up at a site where they could not have come up. There is no question of protecting such wholly illegal and unauthorized construction," HC said. The court said due to the ongoing monsoon period, the civic body shall not execute the demolition orders till September 30. The flat owners have been directed to submit an undertaking within a month to the civic body that they would vacate the premises by September 30.

Quake of 3.3 magnitude recorded

AHMEDABAD: A tremor of 3.3 magnitude with its epicentre in Gujarat's Kutch district was recorded late Monday afternoon, an Indian Seismological Research official said. The epicentre of the tremor was 10 km east north east (ENE) from Dudhai in Kutch district, the ISR said in its update. "It was recorded at around 4:10 pm and was located at a depth of 30 kilometres. This is the third earthquake of over 3 magnitude recorded in the state's Saurashtra-Kutch region so far this month," as per the ISR update. Officials said there are no reports as yet of injuries to anyone or loss of property. As per information provided by Gujarat State Disaster Management Authority (GSDMA), the earthquake risk is very high in the state, with nine major ones taking place in the last 200 years.

HEALING TOUCH

Rahul Gandhi visits relief camps in Manipur, talks to victims

Press Trust Of India

People displaced by the ethnic violence in the northeastern state, which claimed over 200 lives since May last year, are staying in those relief camps.

IMPHAL: Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Monday visited relief camps in Manipur's Jiribam and Churachandpur districts and interacted with the inmates.

People displaced by the ethnic violence in the northeastern state, which claimed over 200 lives since May last year, are staying in those relief camps.

Gandhi, who is accompanied by senior Con-



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi during an interaction with people affected by violence.

FACTFILE

- People came out in thousands to greet Gandhi in Jiribam and many of them wept while talking to him.

gress leaders, is visiting Manipur for the first time after the Congress won both Lok Sabha seats in the state. "His third visit to Manipur post-violence shows his unwavering commitment to the people's cause," the Con-

gress said in a post on X. Gandhi first visited Manipur weeks after ethnic violence broke out in Manipur on May 3 last year. He also began his 'Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra' from the state in January 2024.

NEW RESPONSIBILITY

New police chief vows to rein in criminal gangs

Press Trust Of India

CHEENAI: IPS officer A Arun on Monday took over as Chennai police commissioner and vowed to bring rowdies to their knees, comments that came against the backdrop of the killing of BSP leader K Armstrong.

Outlining his priorities, the city police chief,

in an interaction with reporters here said that criminal elements would be 'taught' in a way they understand.

Asked if 'encounters' could be expected, he said there is no such thing as 'encounter,' and added that rowdy elements will be taught 'in the language they understand.' Regular and professional policing will

No such thing as 'encounter,' and rowdy elements will be taught 'in the language they understand.'

A Arun

Chennai police commissioner



bring down all crimes, he emphasised.

Notably, he assured action against corrupt activities within the police department like 'Katta panchayats' (Kangaroo courts).

Law and order maintenance, prevention of crimes and proper probe into incidence of crimes and curbing rowdiness are priorities, he said.

Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

FELICITATION

Youth Merchants Group of Paradip felicitated Industry Minister Sampad Swain

PARADIP: The Youth Merchants Group of Paradip Badapadia market on Saturday evening organised a felicitation programme for the newly appointed Minister for Industries, Skill Development and Technical Education, Government of Odisha Sampad Chandra Swain. On the occasion, Prominent labor union leader Prakash Tripathy, Paradip City BJP President and Councilor Subrat Pradhan, Councilor Pratap Chandra Nayak, senior businessmen Khirod Swain, Kailash Chandra Swain, Amiya Pani were on the stage in this felicitation meeting held under the chairmanship of youth businessman Golekh Sahoo at the ground in front of Badapadia petrol pump. Addressing to the gathering, the Minister Mr. Swain gave his thoughtful speech on solving the long standing problems of the Paradip Port Merchants community and promised to resolve these issues as soon as possible.

NEW GOVT

Hemant Soren govt wins trust vote, ex-CM Champai sworn in as minister



RANCHI: Former Jharkhand chief minister Champai Soren and 10 other leaders of the JMM-led coalition took oath as ministers in the Hemant Soren government after it won a trust vote in the assembly amid a walkout by opposition members on Monday.

A total of 45 MLAs, including nominated member Glen Joseph Galstaun, voted in favour of the confidence motion.

BJP and AJSU legislators walked out of the House as the headcount for voting started.

Rich tributes

Kulgam encounter: Lance Naik Pradeep Nain cremated in his native village in Haryana



CHANDIGARH: The mortal remains of Lance Naik Pradeep Nain, who was killed in action in an encounter in Jammu and Kashmir's Kulgam district, were consigned to flames with full military honours at his native village in Haryana's Jind district on Monday.

Several mourners turned up to pay their last respect to the martyr.

Haryana Minister Kamal Gupta was also present when the mortal remains of Nain (27), a para commando, were

consigned to flames. After receiving the news of his martyrdom, his parents, sister and wife were inconsolable. Six terrorists were killed and two soldiers laid down their lives in twin encounters in Jammu and Kashmir's Kulgam district. The encounters in the two villages of Kulgam district began on Saturday.

Two Army soldiers, including an elite para commando, laid down their lives while battling the terrorists.

The Day's NUMBERS

State	Production (in Tonnes)
Maharashtra	2,466,290
Karnataka	854,660
Tamil Nadu	50,010
Andhra Pradesh	46,820
Madhya Pradesh	35,450
Mizoram	17,300

Source: Statista

MORAL VICTORY Delhi govt keeps transfer orders of 5,000 school teachers in abeyance



NEW DELHI: Acting on the orders of Lt Governor V K Saxena, the Delhi government on Monday directed that the transfer of 5,000 school teachers, who have been posted in the same school for more than 10 years, be kept in abeyance. Saxena on Sunday asked Chief Secretary Naresh Kumar to keep the transfer orders in abeyance as an interim measure after a delegation of Delhi BJP leaders and representatives of teachers met the LG in his office. Addressing a press conference here, Delhi Education minister Atishi, however, alleged a conspiracy by the BJP behind the transfer orders.

Liquor allegedly served at MP's victory celebration programme

BENGALURU: Liquor bottles were allegedly distributed to people who attended a thanks giving programme organised to celebrate the victory of BJP's K Sudhakar from Chikkaballapura Lok Sabha segment, according to sources. Videos of people being handed liquor bottles with police personnel and "bouncers" around managing the crowd amid barricades, have gone viral on social media.

Classifieds

REQUIREMENT

KENT INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL (CBSE)
Urgent Required: PGT (Accountancy, BST, Physical Education),
Walk in Interview
Timing: 11am to 2pm
Whatsapp
7880111062,
8085123639

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QUOTE FROM THE QUOTABLE

If life were predictable, it would cease to be life and be without flavor.

[Eleanor Roosevelt]

OUR VIEW |

Buddhas amidst tension: Symbolism at India-China border

The installation of Lord Buddha statues at Lukung and Chushul, two key hotspots along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh, is a poignant and strategic gesture by New Delhi. This act is more than just a developmental initiative under the "Vibrant Village Programme"; it is a symbolic assertion of India's cultural and spiritual resilience in the face of ongoing military tension with China. Lukung and Chushul are not mere points on a map; they are hallowed grounds where Indian soldiers valiantly stood their ground during the 1962 India-China war. The installation of these statues serves as a powerful reminder of this legacy, commemorating the sacrifices made and the indomitable spirit of the Indian troops. The statues, depicting Lord Buddha in the "Bhumisparsha Mudra," which symbolizes enlightenment and peace, are a testament to the enduring values of non-violence and spiritual fortitude. This initiative, while steeped in spiritual significance, is also a subtle psychological operation aimed at reinforcing India's cultural presence and historical ties to the region. The Indian Army's 14 Corps, in unveiling the statues, emphasized the essence of "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam" (the world is one family), highlighting a message of solidarity, spiritual preservation, and peace in these forward areas. The choice of locations for these statues is deliberate and strategic. Lukung, near the north-western edge of Pangong Tso, and Chushul, facing the Spanggur Gap near the Chinese garrison of Moldo, are sites of historical and tactical importance. These statues serve as silent sentinels, watching over territories where Indian soldiers have historically repelled Chinese advances. Moreover, this move comes amidst ongoing diplomatic efforts to resolve the LAC standoff. External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar's recent meeting with Chinese counterpart Wang Yi underscores the ongoing attempts to find a resolution and stabilize bilateral relations. The statues, therefore, are not just about spiritual symbolism but also about strengthening the morale of the local Ladakhi Buddhist population, affirming their cultural heritage and historical identity.

GUEST VIEW |

Preserving libraries: A necessity for our intellectual roots

Over recent decades, technological advancements have led to a decline in the importance of books and libraries. Once bustling hubs of knowledge, libraries now see fewer visitors, with people preferring digital entertainment and information sources. Even in schools and colleges, students are often distracted by their mobile phones, neglecting the rich resource of physical books. While technology offers vast benefits and instant access to information, true knowledge comes from deep, continuous study, achievable primarily through reading books. Libraries in villages, cities, and towns are essential, offering a diverse range of books to foster intellectual growth. Encouraging children and the younger generation to visit libraries and engage with books is crucial for their development. Books have been integral to human life for centuries and should remain so. By promoting the sharing and gifting of books, we can ensure that the wisdom contained within them continues to enlighten lives. Maintaining a strong connection with books is vital, as it keeps us rooted and nourishes our minds, making life's challenges easier to navigate.



Vijay GarG

Comment

India's Rural-Urban digital divide: Challenges & solutions

India may be rapidly advancing towards a 5G network today, but many rural areas of the country still struggle to access even basic network services. In these regions, getting decent internet speed is a distant dream. Residents often have to travel several kilometers away from their villages to find a network signal to talk to their loved ones. This is the current situation in many rural areas, where network reach is minimal.

Today, almost everyone has an internet connection on their mobile phones. The situation has become such that people can skip a meal but cannot imagine life without the internet for even a few hours. The internet has become an essential part of our lives. In such a scenario, how do the villagers manage their daily tasks? This is beyond our imagination. The question arises whether internet facilities will ever be available in these villages in this era of 5G.

Mobile service has now become a necessity. Mobiles

are seen in every hand, and without them, people face significant challenges in completing tasks. Meanwhile, Prime Minister Narendra Modi is promoting Digital India, cashless transactions, and mobile banking. However, the dreams of Digital India seem to be thwarted by the arbitrariness of mobile companies. Consumers are facing numerous problems due to the erratic service provided by these companies. Additionally, 4G services are also not functioning properly. Consumers report that 4G internet service works like 2G. Due to slow internet speeds, no websites are opening, leading consumers to demand that private companies address these issues promptly.

According to the latest telecom subscription data, urban teledensity in the country is 127%, while rural teledensity is only 58%. Installing cell towers in remote areas requires land acquisition, permits, and a reliable power supply, which can be challenging. Additionally, rugged terrain makes it difficult to maintain and



Dr. Satyavan Saurabh

Poet, freelance journalist and columnist, All India Radio and TV panelist.

expand networks. Telecom companies struggle to justify the higher cost of installing towers in sparsely populated areas due to the low potential customer base and revenue generation. The average revenue per user in rural areas is lower due to limited disposable income and lower data usage compared to urban users. Limited knowledge and digital literacy among the rural population can hinder the adoption of mobile internet services. Furthermore, complex and delayed licensing processes and spectrum allocation can hinder the timely deployment of networks in rural areas.

Several initiatives, such as the BharatNet project, aim to lay fiber optic cables in villages to provide high-speed broadband connectivity. Additionally, subsidies for rural tower deployment and service packages can improve affordability. Collaboration between the government and telecom companies can leverage resources and expertise for efficient network rollout in rural areas. Exploring alternative technologies, such as small cells,

drones, and balloons, can provide connectivity in remote areas with low infrastructure needs. Initiatives to educate rural communities about the benefits of mobile internet and equip them with the skills to use it effectively can increase demand for these services and bridge the knowledge gap. Promoting e-governance and e-commerce initiatives can also increase the demand for mobile connectivity in rural areas.

Bridging the urban-rural digital divide in India requires a multi-pronged approach that addresses infrastructural, economic, regulatory, technological, and socio-cultural challenges.

By adopting innovative standards, enhancing infrastructure development, streamlining the regulatory framework, promoting economic viability, promoting digital literacy, and developing localized content, India can significantly improve the deployment and use of cellular networks in rural areas, driving inclusive growth and progress.

Cloud resources biggest targets for cyberattacks

A recent Thales study reveals that cloud resources are the primary targets for cyberattacks in India, highlighting the urgent need for enhanced cloud security measures. by Press Trust Of India



The cloud resources being targeted by cyber threats, highlighting the urgency of enhanced cloud security measures.

A recent study by Thales, a multinational firm, has identified cloud resources as the most significant targets for cyberattacks in India. The findings come from the 2024 Thales Cloud Security Study, an annual report that evaluates the latest threats, trends, and emerging risks in cloud security.

This year's study surveyed nearly 3,000 IT and security professionals across 18 countries and 37 industries, providing a comprehensive view of the current cloud security landscape.

According to the study, cloud security spending has now surpassed all other security spending categories. This trend underscores the growing importance of securing cloud environments as more organizations migrate their data and applications to the cloud.

In India, nearly half (46 percent) of the respondents reported that all corporate data stored in the cloud is sensitive. Additionally, 37 percent of participating organizations have experienced a cloud data breach, with 14 percent having suffered one in the past year alone.

The study highlights several key factors contributing

to the vulnerability of cloud resources.

Human error and misconfiguration remain the leading causes of these breaches, accounting for 34 percent of incidents.

This is followed by the exploitation of previously unknown vulnerabilities (32 percent), known vulnerabilities (21 percent), and the failure to implement multifactor authentication (11 percent).

These findings point to the critical need for better security practices and tools to

manage cloud environments effectively.

The importance of digital sovereignty initiatives is also recognized by 35 percent of organizations in India. These initiatives are seen as essential for future-proofing cloud environments, ensuring that data remains secure and compliant with local regulations.

Globally, nearly half of the organizations acknowledge that managing compliance and privacy in the cloud is more challenging than on-premises solutions.

"As the use of the cloud continues to be strategically vital to many organizations, cloud resources have become the biggest targets for cyberattacks," the statement from Thales noted.

The study specifically pointed out that cloud storage, SaaS applications, and Cloud Management Infrastructure are the leading categories of attack in India, each cited by 30 percent, 30 percent, and 28 percent of respondents, respectively.

This increased targeting of cloud resources has made

protecting these environments the top security priority for many organizations.

The shift reflects a broader trend in the cybersecurity landscape, where the focus is increasingly on safeguarding cloud-based assets over traditional on-premises systems.

The Thales Cloud Security Study also underscores the dynamic nature of cyber threats. As organizations continue to adopt cloud technologies, cybercriminals are evolving their tactics to exploit new vulnerabilities.

This constant threat evolution necessitates ongoing vigilance and adaptation of security strategies to protect sensitive data and maintain operational integrity.

In conclusion, the 2024 Thales Cloud Security Study paints a clear picture of the heightened risks associated with cloud environments in India. With cloud resources identified as the primary targets for cyberattacks, organizations must prioritize cloud security to safeguard their data and ensure compliance.

As digital transformation accelerates, robust security measures will be crucial in mitigating the risks and challenges of the evolving cyber threat landscape.

YOUR LETTERS

Rahul leads opposition charge

Rahul Gandhi's first speech as Leader of Opposition was significant, setting a new tone for a revitalized Opposition. His sharp remarks, though expunged, resonated with truth. The Opposition's confidence and determination to hold the ruling regime accountable are evident. Despite PM Modi's jibe at Congress's numbers, Rahul made an impact. The Opposition must continue to speak truth to power, using facts and evidence, not hearsay. Mahua Moitra's feisty spirit serves as an inspiration, and the Opposition should draw strength from her resolve.

Rakesh Gupta, Korba

Constructive engagement needed

In the first session of the 18th Lok Sabha, the Opposition, led by LOP Rahul Gandhi, asserted its position effectively without constant heckling. Unfortunately, PM Narendra Modi's address was disrupted by opposition sloganeering and walkouts, disappointing many citizens. For a vibrant democracy, it's crucial that lawmakers focus on productive discussions during sessions, prioritizing public welfare over political theatrics. MPs must maintain decorum and engage in meaningful debates, ensuring accountability and progress.

Krishna Kumar Menon, Kollam

Send your articles (600-650 words) and letters (70-80 words) for this page on: editorcentralchronicle@gmail.com
The letters can be edited or rewritten for clarity.

Business



Plan to set up coop bank, milk producers' union in every district.
Amit Shah,
 Union Cooperation Minister.

Taiwan Excellence Pavilion at Taiwan Expo 2024



Chairman, Taiwan External Trade Development Council James C.F. Huang (extreme left) with Bollywood choreographer Shakti Mohan and others at Taiwan Expo 2024 in New Delhi, Monday.

Budget should focus on tax relief to boost consumption

The industry also urged the finance minister to lower corporate tax, phase out tax exemptions, and broaden tax base to boost economic growth.

Press Trust Of India
NEW DELHI: The Union Budget FY25 should focus on offering relief to taxpayers, especially in the lower income brackets, to stimulate consumption, industry players suggested. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman is scheduled to present the full Budget for fiscal 2024-25 on July 23 which will be the first major policy document of the

new government. The industry also urged the finance minister to lower corporate tax, phase out tax exemptions, and broaden tax base to boost economic growth. "Rationalise and simplify the tax system to improve compliance and promote investment. Consider measures such as reducing corporate tax rates, phasing out tax exemptions, and broadening the tax base

NUMBER

5%

- Govt is likely to set a fiscal deficit target at 4.9-5 per cent for FY25.
- Budget is expected to focus on policies to promote economic growth.

to make the tax regime more efficient and equi-

table," ASSOCHAM said. Rating agency ICRA said the government is likely to set a fiscal deficit target at 4.9-5 per cent for FY25, as against 5.1 per cent estimated in the Interim Budget on February 1, without compromising the capital expenditure target of Rs 11.1 lakh crore. "While favourable developments on the revenue front portend positively for the fiscal

dynamics in FY2025, ICRA believes that fiscal consolidation will turn quite challenging beyond the current fiscal," the rating agency said. Mayank Gupta, co-founder and COO of Zopper Insurtech said the Budget is expected to focus on policies to promote economic growth and offer relief especially for the lower income brackets to stimulate consumption.

BizBriefs

BEST OF THE REST

Q1 RESULTS

Nykaa expects consolidated revenue to rise 22-23% in Apr-Jun qtr

NEW DELHI: FSN E-Commerce Ventures, the parent company of Nykaa, forecast a year-on-year consolidated revenue growth of around 22-23 per cent in the first quarter of 2024-25 (FY25) with a matching growth momentum for beauty vertical but flagged "muted" demand environment in the fashion industry. In a BSE filing on its quarterly revenue update for the April-June quarter of FY25, the company said for the consolidated entity, the GMV (Gross Merchandise Value) growth for the quarter is seen to be in the mid-20s year-on-year. FSN E-Commerce Ventures also informed that it is commencing vertical-wise segmental reporting, beginning this quarter. "Nykaa - FSN E-Commerce Ventures Limited along with its subsidiaries, that is the consolidated entity expects its revenue growth to be around 22-23 per cent YoY in Q1 FY2025," the company said.

INDICATORS

Share MARKETS

Market	Close	%chg
Sensex	79,960.38	-0.05
Nifty	24,320.55	-0.01
Nifty, MidCap	56,888.20	-0.35
Nifty SmallCap	18,908.40	-0.17
Nifty Bank	52,425.80	-0.45

Closing rates as on July 8, 2024 at 5:30p.m. (IST)

Forex RATES

Foreign currency Vs Rupee	Rate	%chg
US Dollar	83.45 (-)	
Euro	90.48 (-)	
Chinese Yuan	11.48 (+)	
UAE Dirham	22.72 (-)	
Pakistan Rupee	0.29 (-)	
Sri Lanka Rupee	0.27 (+)	

On July 8, 2024

World INDICES

Stock	Value	%chg
Dow Jones (US)	39,548.85	+0.44%
FTSE 100 Index	8,210.12	+0.08%
Nikkei 225 (JPN)	40,780.70	-0.32%
CSI 300 (CHN)	3,401.76	-0.85%

Index at 05:30 p.m. (IST, July 8, 2024)

How the markets behaved today?

Sensex and Nifty settle on flat note in muted trade after recent rally in equities



MUMBAI: Stock market benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty ended flat on Monday in a lacklustre trade as investors opted to book profits after the recent record rally in equities. Weak cues from Asian markets also added to the muted trend in domestic equities. After beginning the trade on a weak note, the 30-share BSE Sensex declined 36.22 points or 0.05 per cent to settle at 79,960.38. During the day, it went lower by 264.77 points or 0.33 per cent to 79,731.83. The NSE Nifty dipped 3.30 points or 0.01 per cent to 24,320.55. Among the Sensex pack, In

Asian markets, Seoul, Tokyo, Shanghai and Hong Kong settled lower. European markets were trading in the positive territory. US markets ended with gains on Friday. In a volatile session on Friday, the broader NSE Nifty continued its record-breaking run and inched up 21.70 points or 0.09 per cent to close at its lifetime high of 24,323.85. The BSE benchmark, however, dropped 53.07 points or 0.07 per cent to settle at 79,996.60. Global oil benchmark Brent crude declined 0.97 per cent to USD 85.70 a barrel.

PM to chair NITI Aayog Governing Council meet

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will chair NITI Aayog's ninth Governing Council meeting on July 27, which will discuss the 'Viksit Bharat@2047' document to make India a developed nation, a senior government official said on Monday. The council, the apex body of NITI Aayog, includes all state chief ministers, lieutenant governors of Union Territories, and several Union ministers. Modi is the Chairman of NITI Aayog. NITI Aayog's Governing Council will meet on July 27. "Ahead of the Council meeting, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will likely give a glimpse of the Viksit Bharat vision and action plan in the Budget on July 23," the official said. A vision document is being prepared for India to become a developed economy of USD 30 trillion by 2047, the 100th year of its independence.

Patanjali will bring a new revolution in IT sector: Ramdev

Press Trust Of India
Bharuwa is becoming a prominent company in the IT sector

HARIDWAR: The three-day workshop on "Corporate Training for Professional Development/Core Skills," organized under the auspices of the IT company Bharuwa Solutions, concluded at Patanjali University's auditorium. On the Concluding Day of the workshop, Yogirishi Swami Ramdev, founder of Patanjali Yogpeeth, stated that the solution to all IT sector problems lies in the products of 'Bharuwa Solutions'. Patanjali's IT arm, Bharuwa Solutions, has demonstrated its IT expertise in numerous companies, including Patanjali. Recently, Bharuwa has secured



Yogirishi Swami Ramdev and others guests inaugurating the three-day workshop.

FACTFILE

- Bharuwa is the result of complete dedication and has 8 patents: Acharya Balkrishna

contracts with several well-known companies in the IT industry. This development heralds a new era of innovation for Patanjali in the IT sector. Acharya Balkrishna

mentioned that Patanjali is well-known worldwide for its contributions to the fields of Yoga and Ayurveda. Now, Patanjali has expanded into the realm of Information Technology (I.T.) with Bharuwa Solutions. This transition is the result of complete dedication and hard work. Bharuwa has achieved 8 patents in the IT sector, and Welspun Company, Mother Dairy, Amul, Syntex, Railways,

and the canteen of the new Parliament are using its products. Additionally, Bharuwa has recently been awarded a contract to centralize and monitor the data of 26 airports.

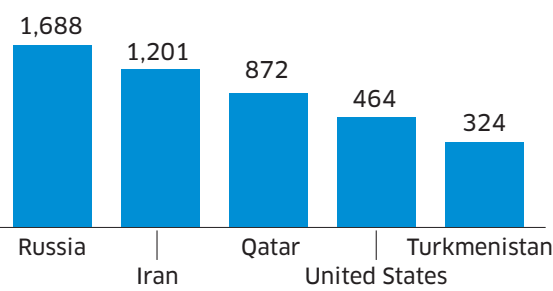
He mentioned that today, Bharuwa Solutions is responsible for meeting Patanjali's IT requirements. As Patanjali's IT arm, Bharuwa Solutions possesses exceptional infrastructure and holds all relevant certifications. The majority of the software developed by Bharuwa Solutions leverages Artificial Intelligence technology.

Previously, our organization utilized software solutions from multiple IT vendors across all our departments. Since the evolution of Bharuwa Solutions, we have discontinued the use of third-party software in our operations.

The Day's NUMBERS

(In trillion cubic feet)

TOP COUNTRIES BY NATURAL GAS RESERVES IN 2023-2024



NEW LAUNCH

B.N. Rathi Securities launches its first CAT III AIF

HYDERABAD: B.N. Rathi Securities Ltd (BNRSL) (BSE: 523019), a leading technology and innovation focused financial services provider has launched its first CAT III AIF under the name of B-FLY Alternative Investment Trust. This strategic move marks a significant milestone in the company's ongoing commitment to providing innovative investment solutions and enhancing value for its esteemed clientele. B.N. Rathi Securities Ltd (BNRSL), incorporated in 1985, is a testament to the vision of its founder, Late B.N. Rathi. As a founder member of the Hyderabad Stock Exchange and former Chairman of AP Mahesh Co-operative Bank, B.N. Rathi's legacy is deeply ingrained in the financial services industry. Today, BNRSL stands as a public listed stock broking firm, offering a comprehensive suite of services that encompass the entire spectrum of financial market transactions.

BULLION MARKET

Gold rises Rs 100; silver rallies Rs 870 amid strong global cues

NEW DELHI: Gold prices rose Rs 100 to Rs 73,410 per 10 grams in the national capital on Monday in line with strong global trend, according to HDFC Securities. The precious metal closed at Rs 73,310 per 10 grams in the previous session. Silver prices also rallied Rs 870 to Rs 94,270 per kg. It had settled at Rs 93,400 per kg in the previous session. "In Delhi markets, spot gold prices (24 carats) are quoted at Rs 73,410 per 10 grams, up by Rs 100 from the Friday's afternoon price.



MODEL LAUNCH

Mercedes seeks to tap first time luxury buyers in India

Press Trust Of India
NEW DELHI: Mercedes-Benz India is looking at electric entry-level models to attract first-time luxury car buyers, as it sets eyes on another double-digit growth this year, its Managing Director and CEO Santosh Iyer said on Monday. The company, which launched all-electric entry SUV EQA 250 at

an introductory price of Rs 66 lakh, has also introduced the new EQB 350 SUV (5-seater) priced at Rs 77.5 lakh and EQB 250+ SUV (7-seater) tagged at Rs 70.90 lakh (prices all India ex-showroom). It will also launch the EQS Maybach SUV and electrified G-Class models in India later this year. "Because of the compelling total cost of ownership



(TCO) argument, we are also looking at a lot of first-time buyers in the luxury segment to consider the EQA and the EQB as a better option to shift to luxury," Iyer said. The new EVs from Mercedes-Benz -- EQA and EQB -- can solve the issues

of young customers with household income of Rs 1-crore plus, who want to shift to luxury but always found TCO to be higher when it comes to combustion engine counterparts, he added. Now, with a lower TCO compared to a combustion engine counterpart, it will make their shift to the luxury segment faster, he added.

I'm overwhelmed by the love from audiences for my films, seeing huge 100 crore hits.

Sharvari Wagh
Actress



& Glitters

OTT Watch



The Music

Industry Battle: Taylor Swift vs Scooter Braun

Explore the feud over Swift's music rights, delving into the \$300M dispute where Braun acquired her first six albums' rights, and Swift's allegations against Scott. Premiering soon on discovery+ India.



Wild Wild

Reunion: Friends, Lassi, and a shocking secret

"Wild Wild Punjab" on Netflix follows Rajesh Khanna's bold move to confront his ex at her wedding, triggering a road trip with friends Maan, Gaurav, and Honey Paaaji. Directed by Simarpreet Singh, the film promises a fun-filled journey of unexpected twists.



Beyond the

Frame: The Untold Story of S.S. Rajamouli

"Modern Masters: S.S. Rajamouli," a Netflix documentary, explores the visionary filmmaker's impact on global cinema, featuring insights from industry icons and Rajamouli himself. Premieres August 2.



Supacell:

Netflix's new superhero hit races to the top

"Supacell," Netflix's new series, quickly rose to second place in popularity, almost matching Bridgerton's views. With 6.4 million viewers in its debut week, it's poised to challenge for the top spot.



The Void Remains:

Outer Range abruptly cancelled by Amazon

"Outer Range," Amazon Prime's sci-fi neo-Western series, debuted in 2022 with its second season in May. Unfortunately, just two months later, the show was cancelled by the streaming platform after its two-season run.

CLOSE UP

Taapsee connects with Kareena Kapoor's iconic Geet character

Taapsee Pannu has recently opened up about how she really feels connected to Kareena's iconic Jab We Met character and finds a reflection of herself in it.

Central Chronicle News

Taapsee was in college when the film was released, and the unfiltered nature of 'Geet' made her different from picture-perfect heroines on-screen. The character eventually inspired many girls to embrace their authentic personalities.

In a recent interview, Taapsee Pannu fondly reminisced about Kareena Kapoor Khan's unforgettable portrayal of Geet in Imtiaz Ali's iconic film, Jab We Met. Taapsee, reflecting on her college days when the film was released, emphasized how Geet's character stood out due to its relatability. Unlike the polished personas prevalent in Bollywood at the time, Geet was refreshingly imperfect yet endearing. Taapsee noted, "I was seeing everyone so picture perfect, dressed well and just looking like a million bucks and talking perfectly, everything that needs to be said in the right way. And Geet was someone who is so relatable because she is so improper but that was the reason why she was so enduring." She further highlighted Geet's politically incorrect moments, which added to her charm and resonated deeply with audiences.



Taapsee Pannu spoke on Jab We Met's influence on her at Expresso



Taapsee Pannu: Gearing up for a busy year with upcoming releases

Taapsee Pannu, who debuted in Bollywood with David Dhawan's "Chashme Baddoor" in 2013, has since starred in films like "Baby," "Naam Shabana," "Game Over,"

"Badla," and "Haseen Dillruba." Upcoming projects include "Phir Aayi Haseen Dillruba," "Woh Ladki Hai Kahaan," and "Khel Khel Mein." She last appeared in Shah Rukh Khan's "Dunki," directed by Rajkumar Hirani in 2023.

BOLLYWOOD

Divya Dutta's three decades of acting excellence

Central Chronicle News

Actor Divya Dutta, renowned for her diverse roles in films like "Veer-Zaara", "Bhaag Milkha Bhaag", and "Delhi-6", recently celebrated three decades in the film industry. Despite her extensive experience, she humbly describes herself as still feeling like a newcomer, driven by unrelenting passion and energy. Beginning her journey at the age of 17 with "Ishq Mein Jeena Ishq Mein Marna", Dutta fondly recalls her early days and the unconventional path she forged. Reflecting on her career, she expressed gratitude for the diverse experi-

ences that shaped her into the actor she is today. In a candid interview with PTI, Dutta shared insights into her approach to roles and her principles in selecting projects. She

HIGHLIGHT

Divya Dutta recently revealed that she initially feared her role in Yash Chopra's Shah Rukh Khan and Preity Zinta-starrer Veer Zaara might typecast her as the perennial "heroine's best friend".

highlighted her initial hesitation in taking on roles like Shabbo in "Veer-Zaara", which



Divya Dutta won the National Film Award for Best Supporting Actress for her role in Irada.

on films that deeply resonate with her, prioritizing quality over quantity. Her latest project, "Sharmajee Ki Beti", directed by Tahira Kashyap Khurana and streaming on Prime Video, once again showcases Dutta's versatility. Her portrayal of Kiran Sharma a woman navigating life's complexities after relocating to Mumbai has struck a chord with audiences, showcasing her ability to connect deeply with diverse characters.

As Dutta continues to evolve as an actor, she remains committed to roles that challenge.

CineBriefs

BEST OF THE REST

Web Series

Sticks and stones... and Panchayat: A brawl becomes pop culture gold

In an exclusive interview, Jitendra Kumar delves into the climax scene of Panchayat season 3, where his character, Sachiv Ji, slaps Banrakas, played by Durgesh Kumar. Panchayat, starring Jitendra Kumar, Neena Gupta, and Raghubir Yadav, has become a beloved Hindi OTT show. The climactic slap scene, inspired by a real incident, resonated deeply with viewers. Jitendra shared that the team rehearsed and choreographed the scene meticulously to ensure it appeared authentic and chaotic.

Taylor Swift's concert gets a new name

From Gelsenkirchen to Swiftkirchen: A city gets Swiftified!



The Swifties are about to take over the German city formerly known as Gelsenkirchen, where American superstar Taylor Swift is set to give three Eras Tour concerts this month. In honor of the singer, the city has temporarily renamed itself "Swiftkirchen" to welcome the tens of thousands of fans expected for her shows on July 17, 18, and 19. A yellow city sign with the new name, featuring a pink portrait of Swift, was unveiled by fan Aleshane Westhoff. The city will also host open-air parties, and Swift will receive her own stone on the Gelsenkirchen Walk of Fame.



Fashion

Black blazer, big impact: Kiara Advani's outfit is a must-see

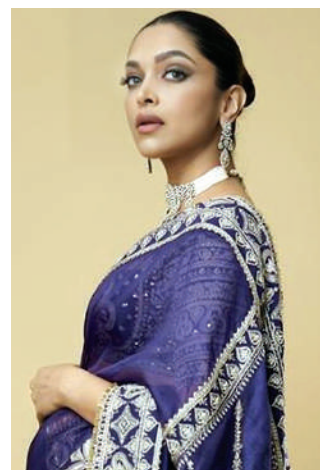
Kiara Advani stunned at an event in a black pantsuit worth Rs 47,977, blending elements of regency core with a boss lady look. Her tailored black jacket from The Doll House featured prominent shoulder pads and formal lapel collars, but the striking ivory lace corset detail stole the show. This unexpected twist added sensuality and refinement to the power suit. Complementing the jacket were black flared pants, creating a balanced silhouette. Minimalist accessories, including silver earrings and a chunky ring, along with black heels, completed her look.

Trending on Insta

@deepikapadukone

Deepika Padukone at Ambani Sangeet: A vision in purple

Deepika Padukone stuns in a purple embroidered saree, flaunting her baby bump at Anant Ambani and Radhika Merchant's sangeet ceremony. She captioned her post, "Just... coz it's a Friday night & I want to party!"



“Travel makes one modest. You see what a tiny place you occupy in this world.”

Gustave Flaubert
French novelist



Excursion

TRAVEL GADGETS

Secret Weapons: Travel Gadgets you never knew you needed

In today's digital era, seeing a plethora of travel gadgets can be a bit of a hassle for any traveller. So, be sure that you carry only the essential ones during your journey.



Embark on your next adventure with ease by equipping yourself with these must-have travel gadgets. Whether you're navigating a bustling city or exploring remote landscapes, these tools will simplify your journey and enhance your travel experience. First on the list is the portable power bank. With smart phones, cameras, and other devices essential for modern travel, keeping them charged is crucial. A high-capacity power bank ensures your devices stay



powered throughout the day. Next, consider noise-cancelling headphones. These are a game-changer for long flights or train rides, allowing you to enjoy music, movies, or just some peace and quiet without being disturbed by ambient noise. A universal travel adapter is another essential gadget. With various plug types across the globe, this adapter allows you to plug in and charge your devices no matter where you are.

Look for a model with a high-quality camera and good battery life. Travelling light? A

digital luggage scale helps you avoid overweight baggage

fees by ensuring your suitcase stays within airline limits. It's a small device that can save you money and stress at the airport. Lastly, a smart water bottle keeps you hydrated by tracking your water intake and reminding you to drink. Staying hydrated is vital, especially when exploring new places and engaging in outdoor activities. These gadgets not only make travel more convenient but also enhance the overall experience, allowing you to focus on the joy of discovery and adventure.



“I've always been interested in gadgets and technology and I've always been a reader.”

LeVar Burton
American actor and director



Equip yourself with the essential travel devices so that you can easily set out on your next vacation.

WindowView

A week in Kolkata: From historic gems to vibrant culture



Marble Palace

Treasures in Marble
Unveiling the grandeur of Kolkata's Marble Palace nestled in North Kolkata,

Marble Palace is a stunning 19th-century mansion showcasing exquisite architecture and an eclectic art collection. Visitors can marvel at its grand marble walls, intricate sculptures, and beautiful gardens. This opulent residence offers a glimpse into Kolkata's luxurious past, with its rich blend of neoclassical and traditional Bengali elements, making it a must-see for art and history enthusiasts seeking a glimpse of Kolkata's opulent past.



Kumartuli

A Potter's Paradise
Exploring the enchanting artisan quarter of Kumartuli, the potter's district, is where master artisans create the city's famous Durga idols. Wander

through narrow lanes lined with workshops to witness the meticulous craftsmanship and artistic process that bring these magnificent idols to life. This vibrant neighbourhood provides a fascinating insight into Kolkata's artistic traditions and cultural celebrations, making it an essential stop for anyone interested in local crafts and heritage.



College Street

The Scent of Old Paper
Unveiling the treasures of College Street Known as Boi Para, College Street is a

paradise for book lovers. Home to numerous bookstores and stalls, this bustling street offers a treasure trove of literary finds. The historic Indian Coffee House, a favorite haunt of intellectuals, adds to the charm of this vibrant area. It's a must-visit for those seeking rare books, lively discussions, and a taste of Kolkata's intellectual heritage, creating an environment steeped in academic and cultural richness.



Jorasanko Thakur Bari

A Walk through History
Exploring Jorasanko Thakur Bari, Tagore's abode, Rabindranath Tagore, offers a deep dive into the life and works of the Nobel laureate. The museum within the house showcases memorabilia, manuscripts, and artworks, providing a rich cultural experience. This historic residence reflects the intellectual and artistic legacy of the Tagore family, making it a significant site for those interested in Bengali culture and literary history.



Victoria Memorial

A Timeless Legacy
The enduring architectural splendour of The Victoria Memorial, a majestic marble structure built in memory of Queen Victoria, stands as a prominent landmark in Kolkata. Surrounded by lush gardens, this architectural gem houses a museum showcasing artifacts and exhibits that depict India's colonial history. Its stunning blend of Indo-Saracenic and British architectural styles makes it a must-visit for history buffs and photography enthusiasts alike, offering a glimpse into Kolkata's royal past and cultural heritage.

| WILDLIFE ADVENTURE |

Raise a Glass in Nashik: India's emerging vineyard escape



Sula set up the first winery in Nashik. The city is now called the wine capital of India.

sip tells a story of passion and precision, reflecting the rich terroir of Nashik. Beyond tastings, Nashik's vineyards offer captivating insights into their operations, from vine to bottle. Picture strolling through immaculate estates adorned with architectural marvels and scenic vistas, or savouring gourmet meals expertly paired with the region's finest wines. It's a sensory journey that celebrates the convergence of nature, culture, and craftsmanship.

Whether you're a connoisseur seeking the perfect vintage or a traveller yearning for a tranquil escape, Nashik promises an unforgettable sojourn. As this destination continues to flourish as a premier wine tourism hotspot, now is the ideal time to uncover its hidden treasures and revel in the allure of India's blossoming vineyard culture.



HIGHLIGHT

● From wine-tasting sessions and vineyard tours to luxurious vineyard resorts, Sula is leading wine tourism in Nashik (known as the wine capital of India) by offering a myriad of experiences.

Central Chronicle News

Just a short drive from the bustling cityscape of Mumbai lies Nashik, swiftly becoming the epicenter of vineyard tourism in India. This charming city, nestled amidst the serene landscapes of Maharashtra, beckons travellers to explore its burgeoning vineyards and indulge in a truly unique experience.

Imagine embarking on a scenic journey through verdant countryside, where rows of lush vineyards bask in the warm sunlight against a backdrop of rolling hills. Here, amidst this tranquil setting, visitors are invited to immerse themselves in the art of wine-making. Guided by knowledgeable sommeliers, you can partake in intimate wine tastings, sampling an array of exquisite wines crafted from locally cultivated grapes. Each

Sports



The biggest learning from this World Cup is that don't celebrate before the last ball.
PR Sreejesh
India hockey goalkeeper

India seeks strong bowling show to level T20I series



India Women players during a practice session. | Photo: PTI

Eager to level the series after a rain-affected second game, India aims for a much-improved bowling performance in the decisive women's T20I against South Africa on Tuesday.

CHENNAI: Desperate to level the three-match series after the second game was washed out, India would hope weather doesn't play spoilsport, besides eyeing a much-improved bowling effort in the final women's T20I against South Africa here on Tuesday.

India are trailing the three-match series 0-1 after losing the opener by 12 runs. Their problems compounded after

the second game here on Sunday was washed out midway due to persistent drizzle.

And with 30 to 40 per cent of rain forecast for Tuesday, the Indians are left on the mercy of weather gods.

In both the matches, the Indian bowlers cut a sorry figure as South Africa amassed 189 for 9 and 177 for 6 respectively.

Barring Pooja Vastrakar, who picked up two wickets each in both the games, and spinner Deepti Sharma, most of

HIGHLIGHT

- Indian bowlers struggled, with South Africa scoring 189/9 and 177/6 in matches.
- Except Pooja Vastrakar and Deepti Sharma, Indian bowlers failed against Proteas women.

the Indian bowlers failed to shine against the Proteas women.

Renuka Singh leaked runs in the first game and was subsequently replaced by Sajeevan

Sajana in the second T20I but the latter also didn't her cause.

Shreyanka Patil and Radha Yadav picked up a wicket each on Sunday but continued to leak runs.

India skipper Harmanpreet Kaur would want her bowlers to pull up their socks with the series at stake.

On the batting front, it has been a decent show by the Indians in the first game. The likes of Jemimah Rodrigues (53 not out), Smriti Mand-

hana (46), Harmanpreet (35), Shafali Verma (18) and Daylan Hemalatha (14) all making double digit scores.

Uma Chetry, who made her T20I debut on Sunday, is likely to persisted with as Harmanpreet and the team management would like to see her exploits with the bat.

South Africa, on the other hand, has been rock solid with the bat with Tazmin Brits, who hit consecutive half-centuries, leading the charge.

Ashwin buys team in Global Chess League

NEW DELHI: Ravichandran Ashwin has become a co-owner of the American Gambits, a new team which will feature in the second edition of the Global Chess League, a joint venture between Tech Mahindra and the International Chess Federation. The League on Monday unveiled the six franchises for the second edition to be played in London from October 3 to 12.

American Gambits, owned by prominent business leaders Prachura PP, Venkat K Narayana and Ashwin, will replace Chingari Gulf Titans. "We're thrilled to introduce the American Gambits to the chess world. With a blend of strategic brilliance and unwavering determination, our team aims to redefine the game. As co-owner, I'm excited to witness their journey and contribute to their success," said Ashwin.

Alcaraz and Sinner reach Wimbledon quarterfinals

CHENNAI: Carlos Alcaraz celebrated his win with a "No. 1" gesture and "Vamos!" shout.

LONDON: Carlos Alcaraz and Jannik Sinner reached the Wimbledon quarterfinals, while Coco Gauff faced an early exit. During his fourth-round match, Alcaraz slipped while running to hit a forehand, ending up on his backside on the grass. Yet, he quickly recovered, sprinted across the court, and won the point, eventually claiming a 6-3, 6-4, 1-6, 7-5 victory against No. 16 seed Ugo Humbert. Celebrating, Alcaraz raised his right index finger in a "No. 1" gesture and shouted "Vamos!" to



Italy's Jannik Sinner celebrates winning against USA's Ben Shelton. | Photo: AFP

FACTFILE

- In quarterfinals, Alcaraz will face No. 12 Tommy Paul, and Sinner goes up against 2021 U.S. Open champion Daniil Medvedev.

the cheering crowd. At 21, Alcaraz is known for

play included a between-the-legs shot followed by a passing winner, showcasing his skill and improvisation.

In the upcoming quarterfinals, Alcaraz will face No. 12 seed Tommy Paul, while Sinner will play against 2021 U.S. Open champion Daniil Medvedev. In women's singles, Madison Keys retired mid-match due to a leg injury, leading to Jasmine Paolini's advancement. Paolini will next face No. 19 seed Emma Navarro, who defeated reigning U.S. Open champion Coco Gauff 6-4, 6-3. The tournament saw top seeds like No. 1 Iga Swiatek and Gauff exit, leaving only No. 4 Elena Rybakina and No. 7 Paolini from the top 10 seeds in the bracket.

Sinner, the Australian Open champion, advanced with a 6-2, 6-4, 7-6 (9) win against No. 14 Ben Shelton, breaking Shelton's serve four times. Sinner's creative

Uma Chetry is a truly hard-working cricketer: Bali

CHENNAI: Indian women's cricket team fielding coach Munish Bali lauded Uma Chetry for her fielding skills, and said the young wicket-keeper is a "truly hard-working cricketer".

Chetry, 21, made her T20 International debut against South Africa in the abandoned second game of the three-match

I was happy when she was handed her debut cap. During the Test, she fielded for around 70-80 overs -- she is a brave girl.

Munish Bali
Fielding coach



series here on Sunday, and inflicted a stumping off Deepti Sharma's bowling to get rid of a well-settled Tanzim Brits. This was after Chetry had earlier missed a similar chance against Brits as she collected the ball ahead of the stumps. But Bali backed the youngster and recalled how she had bravely fielded at the short-leg during the Test match against

South Africa last week.

"I was happy when she was handed her debut cap. During the Test, she fielded for around 70-80 overs -- she is a brave girl," he said during the post-match press conference.

"Standing at the short-leg is not easy. She got hit by the ball, but she stood there in pain. She has great attitude and is a truly hard-working cricketer."

Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

OLYMPICS
AFI confirms six athletes for men's 4x400m Olympic relay team

NEW DELHI: World Athletics' (WA) recently revised criteria in naming relay squads for the Paris Olympics caused a bit of confusion but the national federation on Sunday said there should not be any problem in India including six runners in the men's 4x400m team. As the projected number of qualified athletes exceeded the maximum quota of 1810 established by the International Olympic Committee (IOC), WA has apparently agreed to bring down the number of overall entries, according to sources. A country was allowed to name five athletes with full accreditation. But, under the revised criteria after WA's notification on July 4, the reserve athlete will no longer be eligible for full accreditation but will be considered as an additional alternate, who can act as a replacement athlete.

CRICKET
Yuvraj was very happy when I got out for duck, he must be proud now: Abhishek



CALGARY: Zimbabwe here as the swash-buckling former all-rounder, for reasons best known to him, felt it was a "good start". Making his India debut, Abhishek was out on duck as the Men in Blue lost the first T20I against hosts Zimbabwe by 13 runs on Saturday. But the 23-year-old came back strongly to set the stage ablaze with a blistering maiden century (a 47-ball 100) to fashion India's 100-run win in the second game a day later. **PTI**

New energy, New ideas

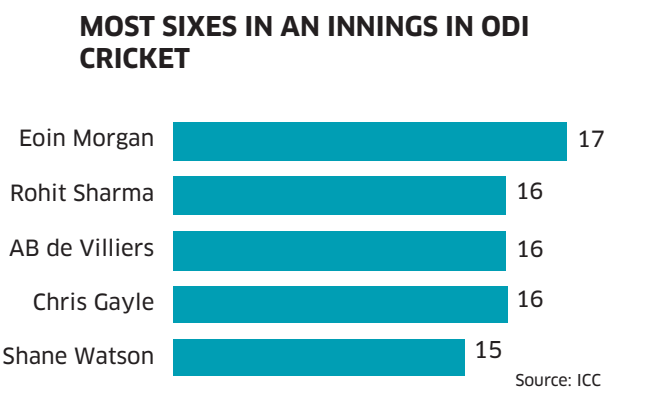
Bayern Munich signs Michael Olise from Crystal Palace in search for new energy, new ideas



MUNICH: Bayern Munich signed 22-year-old forward Michael Olise from Crystal Palace in a search for "new energy, new ideas" after its first season without a trophy in 12 years. Olise, who has a five-year contract with Bayern, scored 10 goals in 19 Premier League games last season – despite missing much of the year with injuries – and was crucial to a strong run for Palace toward the end of the campaign. The long-awaited move makes Olise the second new signing to be confirmed since Bayern hired Vincent Kompany to coach the team, following the earlier arrival of Japa-

nese defender Hiroki Ito from Stuttgart. "Michael Olise is a player who can make the difference and attracted great interest with his style of play," Bayern board member for sport Max Eberl said in a statement. "We want new impetus in our team, new energy, new ideas – that's what players like Michael Olise stand for. During the talks, he quickly signaled that he really wanted to join FC Bayern. We're very much looking forward to him. He will enrich our game." Olise, who was born in London but played for France at under-21 level, leaves Palace after making 90 appearances in three years.

The Day's NUMBERS



WORLD RECORD

Yaroslava Mahuchikh sets women's high jump world record

PARIS: Yaroslava Mahuchikh of Ukraine set a world record in the women's high jump at the Diamond League track and field meeting in Paris on Sunday, erasing a mark that stood for 37 years. Mahuchikh, the reigning world champion, set a new best mark of 2.10 meters. "Coming into this competition, I had feelings that I could jump 2.07 meters and maybe 2.10 meters," Mahuchikh said. "Finally I signed Ukraine to the history of world athletics." The previous record of 2.09 was set by Bulgaria's Stefka Kostadinova in Rome in 1987. The 22-year-old Mahuchikh and world indoor champion Nicola Olyaslagers both cleared 2.01 meters on their second attempt. After Olyaslagers failed three times at 2.03, Mahuchikh cleared that height to secure victory. She then cleared 2.07 meters to set a Ukrainian record and had the bar raised to 2.10, which she cleared on her first try. **PTI**

GRAND PRIX

Maldives' tourism body invites T20 world champ Indian team there

MALE: The recently-crowned T20 world champion Indian cricket team has been invited to celebrate its triumph in Maldives by the country's tourism association and its marketing and public relations corporation. The Rohit Sharma-led Indian team won the trophy in Barbados after beating South Africa by seven runs in the final on June 29. "Maldives Marketing and Public Relations Corporation (MMPRC/ Visit Maldives) in collaboration with the Maldives Association of Tourism Industry (MATI) have jointly extended a special and open invitation to the Indian National Cricket Team," the two bodies said in a joint statement. **PTI**



Sports News



(From L) France's defender #02 Benjamin Pavard fights for the ball with #03 Ferland Mendy and forward #20 Kingsley Coman during a training session. Photo: AFP



Spain's midfielder #17 Nico Williams (C) and teammates attend an MD-1 training session. | Photo: AFP

Spain Vs France: Euro 2024 final spot at stake

Press Trust Of India
High-scoring Spain faces France and their star Kylian Mbappé in Euro 2024 semifinal showdown.

MUNICH: Spain and France clash in the semifinals of the European Championship on Tuesday, with kickoff at 9 p.m. local time (1900 GMT) in Munich. Spain, one of the highest-scoring teams in the tournament, faces France, which has struggled offensively, with star forward Kylian Mbappé still adapting to playing with a protective mask after a broken nose. The winner will face either England or the Netherlands in the final

on Sunday in Berlin. Both Spain and France had to go through extra time in their quarterfinals. Spain secured a dramatic 2-1 victory over Germany with a last-minute goal by substitute Mikel Merino, while France needed penalties to defeat Portugal after a goalless draw. Spain has been prolific in front of goal, netting 11 times in the tournament. In contrast, France has struggled to find the net, with no goals from open play. Their three goals came from two own goals and a penalty by Mbappé. The French forward will be wearing a protective mask again, facing several of his new Real Madrid teammates. Spain, chasing a

HIGHLIGHT

● Spain and France both needed extra time to win their quarterfinal matches.

● Spain's Dani Carvajal and Pedri miss semifinal due to suspension and injury.

record fourth European Championship title, has been perfect in Germany, winning all its group stage matches. France, however, managed only two draws against Poland and the Netherlands after a narrow win over Austria. Spain will miss several key players due to injuries and suspensions. Midfielder Pedri is out for the tournament with

a knee injury and will be replaced by Dani Olmo. Dani Carvajal and Robin le Normand are suspended, leaving veteran Jesús Navas to likely mark Mbappé. France, on the other hand, has no injury concerns, with Marcus Thuram returning to training after a minor injury. Defensively, both teams have been solid, conceding only three goals between them. Spain's goalkeeper has been tested against Georgia and Germany, while France's Mike Maignan has only been beaten by a retaken penalty from Poland. Historically, Spain has the edge over France, winning 16 of their 36 encounters, including

five of the last eight. This is Spain's sixth semifinal appearance in the European Championship, having only failed to reach the final once. France has reached the semifinals five times, winning three, and has been in the final in three of the last four major tournaments. France coach Didier Deschamps emphasized the significance of reaching the semifinals, saying, "We're in the semifinals and it's something we shouldn't take for granted. Now we go to win it." Spain's defender Marc Cucurella noted their underdog status, "Very few people gave us a chance and staying under the radar helped us start the tournament with confidence."

France players celebrate election win

MUNICH: Munich: Several French players are celebrating election results back home as they compete in the European Championship. A leftist coalition won the most parliamentary seats in Sunday's runoff election, successfully keeping the far right from power. "The victory of the People," wrote France midfielder Aurélien Tchouameni on X, formerly Twitter. Forward Marcus Thuram praised those who confronted the "danger" over France, adding, "Long live diversity, long live the Republic, long live France. The fight continues." Captain Kylian Mbappé had previously warned about the



France's head coach Didier Deschamps (C) with players.

"catastrophic" political situation, and defender Jules Koundé expressed immense relief, congratulating the French people for mobilizing against the far right. The players have consistently urged citizens to vote. France faces Spain in the Euro 2024 semifinal in Munich on Tuesday, hoping to reach its fourth major final in eight years, potentially facing either England or the Netherlands in Berlin on Sunday.

OLYMPICS

Current generation of athletes is not chicken hearted: Bindra

Press Trust Of India
Bindra advises athletes to stay present and focus on execution at Paris Olympics.

NEW DELHI: Abhinav Bindra, India's first-ever Olympic champion, believes today's athletes are more confident than the "chicken-hearted" players of his era. Speaking at a panel discussion organized by the Embassy of France and the Indo-French Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Bindra advised the Paris-bound Indian contingent to avoid dwelling on the past or future. Bindra, who won a shooting gold in the 2008 Beijing Games, emphasized the impor-



tance of focusing on the present moment and the execution of skills perfected over years. He noted the change in attitudes towards sports but acknowledged the constant challenge of competition. India is set to field its largest-ever contingent at the Olympics, with over 125 athletes qualifying. Thierry Mathou, the French Ambassador to

India, assured that Paris is ready to deliver exceptional Games, highlighting innovation, sustainability, and inclusivity. Athletics Federation of India President Adille Sumariwalla expressed optimism about India's medal prospects but stressed that progress should be measured by the number of athletes and their performance in finals.

Jayasuriya named interim coach

COLOMBO: Former captain Sanath Jayasuriya was on Monday named the interim head coach of Sri Lanka's cricket team ahead of this month's white-ball home series against India with the country's board saying that he is "well-positioned" to guide the side till a "permanent solution" is found in the next few months. The Indian team will be touring Sri Lanka for three T20 Internationals and as many ODIs, starting July 27. Jayasuriya, who has also served as a chief selector in the past, will continue in the post till Sri Lanka's Test tour to England in August-September, comprising three games.

PARIS OLYMPICS

Sreejesh's Olympic motto: Fight till last moment

Press Trust Of India
Sreejesh's fourth Olympics inspired by T20 cricket resilience, Rahul Dravid's advice.

BENGALURU: Veteran Indian hockey goalkeeper PR Sreejesh, playing in his fourth and possibly last Olympics, draws inspiration from the T20 World Cup-winning cricket team's resilience. Reflecting on their remarkable comeback against South Africa, Sreejesh emphasizes the importance of perseverance, a lesson he intends to carry into the Paris Olympics. Sreejesh, often called 'The Wall of Indian hockey,' recalls advice from cricket



Veteran Indian hockey goalkeeper PR Sreejesh. | Photo: PTI

legend Rahul Dravid on patience and humility, which shaped his career. Starting hockey for grace marks, he has since won an Olympic bronze and become the first Indian goalkeeper to play in four Olympics.

Sreejesh values his role in mentoring young players, encouraging them to embrace expectations and focus on basics. He stresses the pressure of the Olympics but believes in the power of visualization and teamwork.

India faces a challenging Pool B, including Argentina, Australia, Belgium, New Zealand, and Ireland. Sreejesh remains confident, urging his team to harness their experience and thrive under pressure.

BUMRAH'S DREAM DAYS

Have been living a dream past few days: Jasprit Bumrah

Press Trust Of India
NEW DELHI: India pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah on Monday said he has been "living a dream" for the past few days as he expressed gratitude for the stupendous reception that he and the rest of his teammates got for winning the T20 World Cup in the Caribbean. The 30-year-old, who picked up 15 wickets in the mega-event that concluded on June 29 in Bar-

bados, was a key figure in India's second overall and first in 17 years world trophy in the shortest format. He was adjudged Player of the Tournament for his performance. "I am so thankful for the last few days. I've been living a dream and it has filled me with happiness and gratitude," Bumrah posted on X, along with a video of him enjoying the rapturous homecoming that included a breakfast meet with Prime Minister



I am so thankful for the last few days. I've been living a dream and it has filled me with happiness and gratitude.
Jasprit Bumrah
Indian Cricketer
Narendra Modi and a victory parade attended by lakhs of fans in Mumbai.

The 42-second clip featured the audio of Virat Kohli's speech during the felicitation function after the parade last Thursday where the champion batter had lauded Bumrah's contribution. The fast bowler had combined with all-rounder Hardik Pandya to turn it around wonderfully for India in the final. The two were brought in for their second spell in the match at a time when South Africa needed 30

off 30 balls. They wreaked havoc to ensure that the Proteas eventually fell short by seven runs. Kohli had called Bumrah a "once in a generation" player during the speech at the Wankhede Stadium, prompting the assembled crowd to chant the bowler's name in appreciation. "What I would like everyone to do is to applaud a guy who brought us back into games again, and again, and again."

Chotrani loses Houston final

NEW DELHI: India's Veer Chotrani lost a five-game thriller 2-3 to Pakistan's Muhammad Ashab Irfan in the final of the Kanso Open squash, a USD 9000 PSA Challenger Tour event in Houston. Fourth seed Chotrani, ranked 106 in the world, rallied to level twice but the third seeded Irfan clinched the decider for a 11-7 8-11 12-10 8-11 11-8 victory in 80 minutes on Sunday.

World



No decision to end moratorium on foreign research vessels on Sri Lanka's EEZ
Ali Sabry
 Foreign Minister, Sri Lanka



Emergency services work at the site of Okhmatdyt children's hospital hit by Russian missiles, in Kyiv, Ukraine, Monday. | Photo: PTI

Russian missile attack on Ukraine kills 20 people

The Russian barrage targeted five Ukrainian cities with more than 40 missiles of different types, hitting apartment buildings and public infrastructure

Press Trust Of India
KYIV: A major Russian missile attack across Ukraine killed at least 20 people and injured more than 50 on Monday, officials said, with one missile striking a large children's hospital in the capital, Kyiv, where emergency crews searched rubble for casualties.
 The Russian barrage targeted five Ukrainian

cities with more than 40 missiles of different types, hitting apartment buildings and public infrastructure, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said in a social media post.
 Strikes in Kryvyi Rih, in central Ukraine, killed 10 people and injured 37, in what the head of city administration, Oleksandr Vilkul, said was a massive missile attack.

HIGHLIGHT
 • At Okhmatdyt children's hospital, rescuers were searching for people under rubble of a partially collapsed wing of facility
 At the Okhmatdyt children's hospital in Kyiv, rescuers were searching for people under the rubble of a

partially collapsed wing of the facility, Zelenskyy said, adding that the number of casualties was not yet known.
 Vsevolod Dorofiev, the senior instructor of a volunteer medical unit, said some people had died but he did not say how many or whether they were children or adults.
 On social media, Zelenskyy said: "It is very important that the

world should not be silent about it now and that everyone should see what Russia is and what it is doing."
 The attack comes on the eve of a three-day NATO summit in Washington, which will look at how to reassure Ukraine of the alliance's unwavering support and offer Ukrainians hope that their country can come through Europe's biggest conflict since World War II.

Army to be deployed across Pakistan during Muharram

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan government on Monday decided to deploy the Army across the country to maintain law and order during Muharram, amidst fear of attacks by militant groups on Shiite rallies.

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Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

MYANMAR CONFLICT
Myanmar's ethnic rebels captured airport in a setback for military govt

BANGKOK: One of Myanmar's most powerful ethnic minority groups battling the military government said it captured an airport serving the country's top world-class beach resort, marking the first time resistance forces have seized such a facility.
 Residents of the area in the southern part of the western state of Rakhine, along with local media, also reported the seizure of Thandwe Airport, also known as Ma Zin Airport, about 260 kilometers (160 miles) northwest of Yangon, Myanmar's biggest city.
 It's the latest major setback for the military government that took power in 2021 after ousting the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi. Armed resistance to military rule is taking place in much of the country, led by pro-democracy militants as well as guerrilla groups affiliated with ethnic minorities. **PTI**

POLAND UKRAINE
Ukraine's Zelenskyy discusses further NATO support with Polish PM

WARSAW (POLAND): Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy met with Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk on Monday and discussed Russia's continuing attacks on Ukraine and further support from NATO on the eve of a summit marking the Western defense alliance's 75th anniversary.
 Zelenskyy stopped in Warsaw en route to the NATO summit in Washington, which is expected to discuss ways of providing reliable long-term security aid and military training for Ukraine more than two years after Russia's invasion. **PTI**

Ram Buxani dies at 83 in UAE

DUBAI: Prominent Indian businessman Ram Buxani, who had been living in the United Arab Emirates since he came here as an 18-year-old, died at 83 on Sunday.
 India's Ambassador to the UAE Sanjay Sudhir took the lead in mourning the death of the chairman of the IITL Cosmos group, who was also a prominent philanthropist.
 "In his passing, the community has lost a guide, a role model and a mentor. Mr Buxani has done the Indian community in the UAE proud. He will remain an inspiration for generations of Indians who call the UAE home," Ambassador Sudhir said. In his condolence message, Ambassador Sudhir also said that Buxani was one of the most prominent Indians in the UAE whose hard work, entrepreneurial spirit and service to the Indian community will always be remembered.

Israel deepens its operation in Gaza City in pursuit of militants



Press Trust Of India

DEIR-AL-BALAH: The incursion into the eastern part of Gaza City expands Israeli forces deepened an operation in the Gaza Strip's largest city in what the military said was meant to weed out militants, sending thousands of Palestinians fleeing on Monday from an area already ravaged in early weeks of nine-month-long war.

MILITARY OPERATION |
 Israel's engagement in the northern part of the beleaguered territory, an area Israel said it had seized control of months ago yet which has seen pockets of militant resurgence that have scaled back Israeli military gains and drawn forces back into such operations. Israel had ordered evacuations in the area before the raid was launched, the military said. Heavy fighting in the area in the initial weeks of the war all but emptied out Gaza City and its environs, and the Israeli military has prevented most people from returning to their homes there. But several hundred thousands of Palestinians remain in the area, living in the shells of their homes or shelters.

Macron refuses French PM's resignation

PARIS: French President Emmanuel Macron refused the resignation Monday of the country's prime minister, asking him on Monday to remain temporarily as the head of the government after chaotic election results left the government in limbo.
 French voters split the legislature on the left, center and far-right, leaving no faction even close to the majority needed to form a government. The results from Sun-

day's vote raised the risk of paralysis for the European Union's second-largest economy.

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