



Central Chronicle

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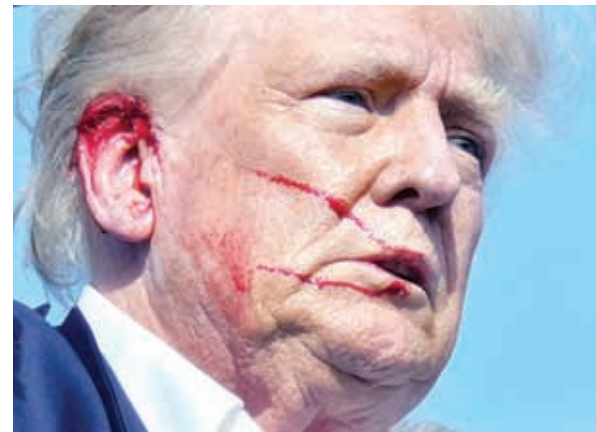
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Donald Trump survives assassination bid on life

Trump was addressing his supporters at the packed outdoor election rally in Butler town.

Press Trust Of India

WASHINGTON: Donald Trump survived an attempt on his life when a young gunman fired multiple shots at the former US president at a campaign rally in Pennsylvania, injuring his right ear, an incident that could dramatically change the already volatile political scene ahead of the high-stakes presidential election.



Former President Donald Trump is moved from the stage at a campaign rally.

HIGHLIGHT

● Trump was seen with blood on his ear and cheek as he was rushed off the stage by Secret Service agents.

We will fear not, must stand united
Donald Trump
Former US president

as Secret Service agents piled on top of Trump to shield him.

The shooting created chaos with people in the back of the venue immediately running to the exits.

As he was being

rushed off the stage, a defiant Trump boldly pumped his fist into the air and told the crowd to "fight!" He was then whisked away in a car to a Pittsburgh-area hospital.

"Let me get my shoes," Trump said as he was escorted to the safe place.

The shooting, which left one spectator dead and two others critically injured, is being investigated as an attempted assassination. The male attacker was also shot and killed by a member of the Secret Service.

A spokesperson for the Trump Campaign said the former president is "fine" after the "heinous act."

The gunman was identified by the FBI as 20-year-old Thomas Matthew Crooks of Bethel Park. He was registered to vote as a Republican.

Though Trump received only minor injuries, it was a close shave - a photograph by Doug Mills of the New York Times appears to show the streak of a bullet cutting through the air near the former president's head.

"It was God alone who prevented the unthinkable from happening," Trump said of the shoot-

ing incident in a social media post on Sunday.

He said he would remain "resilient" and added, "Our love goes out to the other victims and their families."

"In this moment, it is more important than ever that we stand united, and show our true character as Americans, remaining strong and determined, and not allowing evil to win," he said.

"I truly love our country, and love you all, and look forward to speaking to our great nation this week from Wisconsin," indicating that he is going to attend the three-day Republican Party convention from Monday which will nominate him as the party's candidate in the November 5 presidential election.

In a post on his Truth Social social media account soon after the incident, Trump elaborated on what happened and described his injuries.

Carlos Alcaraz tops Novak Djokovic to win Wimbledon title



LONDON: Carlos Alcaraz defeated Novak Djokovic 6-2, 6-2, 7-6 (4) in the Wimbledon men's final here on Sunday to collect his fourth Grand Slam title at the age 21. It was a rematch of last year's championship match on the grass of the All England Club, which Alcaraz won in five sets.

This one - played in front of a Centre Court crowd that included Kate, the Princess of Wales, in a rare public appearance since announcing she has cancer - was much easier

for Alcaraz, at least until he stumbled while holding three match points as he served for the victory at 5-4 in the third set.

Still, Alcaraz regrouped and eventually picked up a second major trophy in a row after last month's triumph on the clay at the French Open. The Spaniard won his first Slam title at the 2022 US Open as a teenager, and no man ever has collected more Slam hardware before turning 22 than he has. He improved to 4-0 in major finals.

NEWSLINE

GUWAHATI

IIT Guwahati working on 698 research proj

The Indian Institute of Technology-Guwahati on Sunday said it is carrying out 698 research and consultancy projects on varied topics worth Rs 389 crore. A total of 2,150 students of the premier institute received their degrees in various disciplines at the 26th convocation ceremony during the day.



GUWAHATI

Assam flood situation improves

The flood situation in Assam continued to improve on Sunday, even as two more persons died and nearly six lakh people were affected across 17 districts, an official bulletin said.

BERHAMPUR

20 injured due to electrocution

At least 20 people, including 18 children, suffered injuries after they were electrocuted when the group climbed a metal stage erected for a theatre performance in Odisha's Ganjam district on Sunday, officials said. The incident took place at Phasiguda village while the children, aged between 8 and 13 years, were playing on the stage amid rain after the performance, they said.

PUNE

New airport operational

The new terminal of Pune international airport was operationalised on Sunday with passengers boarding flights to New Delhi and Odisha capital Bhubaneswar, an official said. Union Minister of State for Civil Aviation and local MP Murlidhar Mohol handed over the first boarding pass to a flyer to mark the occasion.



WELLNESS

Essential practices for healthy skin

The arrival of the rainy season brings welcome relief from summer heat, but it also ushers in a slew of potential skin problems. Increased moisture and humidity create an ideal environment for various skin issues.

Ratna Bhandar of Puri's Jagannath temple reopened

| REVERED TREASURY |

Press Trust Of India

The reopening of the Ratna Bhandar became a major political issue during the recently held assembly elections in the state.



Special boxes brought to Shri Jagannath Temple ahead of the re-opening of Ratna Bhandar. | Photo: PTI

PURI: Ratna Bhandar, the revered treasury of the 12th-century Jagannath temple in Puri, was reopened on Sunday after 46 years for an inventory of valuables and the repair of its structure, officials said.

The members of a committee set up by the state government for the purpose entered the temple around 12 pm, and after performing

FACTFILE

● Four servitors, Patjoshi Mohapatra, Bhandar Mekap, Chadhaukarana and Deulikaran, took care of the rituals.

rituals, the treasury was reopened at 1.28 pm, the auspicious moment which was decided at a meeting in the morning, they said.

The reopening of the Ratna Bhandar became a major political issue

during the recently held assembly elections in the state. Targetting the then-ruling BJD over its missing keys, the BJP had promised that it would make efforts to reopen the treasury if it won the polls.

PM's followers on X hit 100-million milestone

Press Trust Of India

Modi is already the most followed head of government on the social media platform globally.



NEW DELHI: The number of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's followers on his X handle crossed the 100-million mark on Sunday, registering an impressive growth of nearly 30 million in the past three years, officials said.

He is already the most followed head of government on the social media platform globally.

Officials noted that his followers are quite a few times more in number in comparison to most followed opposition leaders like AAP's Arvind Kejriwal and Congress' Rahul Gandhi who have 27.5 million

President Joe Biden (38.1 million) and Turkiye's Recep Tayyip Eedogen (21.5 million). In a post, Prime Minister Modi said, "A hundred million on @X! Happy to be on this vibrant medium and cherish the discussion, debate, insights, people's blessings, constructive criticism and more.

Looking forward to an equally engaging time in the future as well." An official said, "PM Modi has more followers even compared to active global athletes like Virat Kohli (64.1 million), Brazilian footballer Neymar Jr (63.6 million) and American basketball player LeBron James (52.9 million)." "He is ahead of even celebrities like Taylor Swift (95.3 million), Lady Gaga (83.1 million), and Kim Kardashian (75.2 million)," the official said.

FASTFACTS

● Among other heads of government with a large following are US President Joe Biden (38.1 million) and Turkiye's Recep Tayyip Eedogen (21.5 million).

● PM has more followers even compared to active global athletes.

and 26.4 million followers respectively. Among other heads of government with a large following are US

GOVT INTERVENTION |

Failed Maoist leader Arnab Dam to enrol for PhD

Press Trust Of India

KOLKATA: Maoist leader Arnab Dam, who stood first in the PhD admission test in West Bengal's Burdwan University, is likely to be enrolled soon since the state government intervened to address certain administrative issues that thwarted his admission.

Dam, an accused in cases of multiple attacks

and killings, was being shifted from the correctional home in Hooghly district to Bardhaman and security will be provided for his visit to the university campus in the town, said Akhil Giri, Correctional Administration Minister Akhil Giri.

"We have decided to shift him from Hooghly to Burdwan Correctional Home," the minister told



PTI. Dam is serving life sentence for his role in the 2010 attack on an Eastern Frontier Rifles camp at Sildah in Jhargram district. TMC leader Kunal

NUMBER

75

● Dam had secured over 75 pc marks in the PhD admission test in History which was held at the campus on June 26 under strict security.

Ghosh supported Dam's demand to be allowed to

be enrolled for PhD in the university while clarifying his trial as per law in criminal cases should continue.

"We are against the politics of killing. We are not calling for the release of Arnab. But if someone wants to pursue a journey in higher education despite being lodged in jail, isn't that a silver lining in society?" Ghosh said in a post in Bengali on X.

3 terrorists killed as army foils infiltration bid

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: Three unidentified terrorists were killed on Sunday as army foiled an infiltration bid along the Line of Control (LoC) in Keran sector of Jammu and Kashmir.

The army said the anti-infiltration operation was going on till last reports.

"03x Terrorists have

been eliminated in the ongoing anti-infiltration operation on the #LoC in Keran Sector, alongwith recovery of weapons and other war-like stores," Srinagar-based Chinar Corps of the Army posted on X. The army said that the operation was still going on. Information about the identity of the slain terrorists have not been released yet.

Raipur



Party workers should start preparations for upcoming civic body and panchayat elections.
Brijmohan Agarwal, MP, Raipur.

'Sankalp Jashpur' launch for social awareness



Chief Minister Vishnudeo Sai inaugurated the 'Sankalp Jashpur' program on Sunday.

Organize health camps to prevent diseases: Sai

Instructed to launch awareness campaigns for prevention against seasonal diseases.

Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai has instructed the health department and related officials to launch awareness campaigns for the prevention and protection against seasonal diseases. Highlighting the urgency, he stressed the need for immediate organization of health camps and treatment upon receiving reports of diseases like malaria and diarrhea in any area of the state.

The Chief Minister emphasized the importance of adequate storage of life-saving medicines at health centers. He directed officials to ensure that necessary medicines are promptly dispatched to affected areas to mitigate potential loss of life.

In alignment with Chief Minister Sai's directives, Deputy Chief Minister and Home Minister Vijay Sharma visited remote forest villages, including Chilfi, Jhalmala, and Taregaon Jungle, to assess health conditions. During his visit to village

HIGHLIGHT

● CM emphasized the importance of adequate storage of life-saving medicines at health centers.

Sonwahi, Sharma met with villagers and families affected by diarrhea, offering assurances of comprehensive state support. Expressing condolences for the recent sudden deaths of two villagers, Sharma inspected a temporary health camp at the tribal boys' hostel

in Sonwahi and engaged with patients, urging doctors to provide optimal medical care.

The Deputy Chief Minister emphasized the need for an effective action plan to prevent seasonal diseases, including malaria and diarrhea. He instructed the district administration to organize health camps and awareness campaigns, particularly in forest and plain areas, to combat seasonal diseases, vomiting, and waterborne illnesses.

Sao, Tokhan inaugurate Siyan Sadan

RAIPUR: On Sunday, Deputy Chief Minister Arun Sao and Union Minister of State for Housing and Urban Affairs Tokhan Sahu inaugurated the newly constructed Siyan Sadan building in the Anandashram premises in Ramgarh, Mungeli district. The facility, built at a cost of about Rs 20 lakh, features a hall, two rooms, and two toilets. During the event, 17 elderly residents of Anandashram were honored with shawls and coconuts. In his address, Deputy Chief Minister Arun Sao expressed his delight at the completion of Siyan Sadan, highlighting that the facility will allow seniors to conduct their activities in an organized manner.

'Chhattisgarh Ke Vibhuti' book released

RAIPUR: Revenue Minister Tank Ram Verma unveiled the book "Chhattisgarh Ke Vibhuti" at a program held at Anand Samaj Library, Kankalpara Raipur, on Sunday. The book is authored by Jageshwar Prasad. During the event, Minister Verma congratulated Jageshwar Prasad, emphasizing the significance of the book in providing detailed information about the pioneers of Chhattisgarh.

Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

TELIBANDHA SHOOTOUT

Mayank Singh gang takes responsibility of their involvement via social media

RAIPUR: The Mayank Singh gang has claimed responsibility for the shootout that occurred outside the office of businessman Prahlad Rai Agarwal in the Telibandha area on Saturday morning. The gang announced their involvement via a post on social media. The incident has created a tense atmosphere in the Telibandha area, with residents and local businesses feeling the impact of the shootout. The Mayank Singh gang's use of social media to claim responsibility has further heightened concerns about gang activities in the region. In a related development, four members of the Aman Sahu gang have been arrested for threatening to kill the female jailor of Giridih Central Jail in Jharkhand. The threats were made through WhatsApp calls and messages. The arrested individuals are Roshan Kumar Singh, Avinash Kumar, Ajay Kumar Thakur, and Shivshankar Kumar Thakur.

FRAUD

Inter-state Fraudster Suresh Kunti Singh arrested from Delhi



RAIPUR: On July 14, the Range Cyber Police Station of District Raipur made a significant arrest of inter-state fraudster Suresh Kunti Singh alias Suresh Kumar Singh. Singh was apprehended in Delhi for defrauding individuals of lakhs of rupees under the guise of offering medical representative franchises. Singh's fraudulent activities came to light when he deceived Rajan Aspiliya, a resident of Amasivani Pandri, out of Rs 14.50 lakh. Singh lured his victims through advertisements on YouTube, promising lucrative work-from-home opportunities.

Sharma inaugurated the newly established JCI room

JCI India National President accorded grand welcome at Maharaja Agrasen College



RAIPUR: JCI India National President JFS CR Rekhesh Sharma received a grand welcome at Maharaja Agrasen International College on Saturday. The celebration began with a guard of honour from the Rover and Ranger team, marking a proud moment for the college. Following the welcome ceremony, Sharma inaugurated the newly established JCI room on the campus. Emphasizing JCI's commitment to social service, he donated a wheelchair, promoting the values of empathy and service within the college and the local community.

The highlight of the event was a series of vibrant programmes held in the college auditorium. Anchors JC Harsh Singh Thakur and JC Sezal Jain expertly guided the proceedings.

The event began with an impressive PowerPoint presentation showcasing JCI's achievements and various programs, which underscored the organization's significance and contributions. A captivating welcome dance by the students celebrated Indian cultural heritage, enchanting the audience with its beauty and diversity.

More than 8.31 lakh cases resolved

RAIPUR: The second National Lok Adalat was successfully organized across the state, from the High Court to Taluka level courts as well as Revenue Courts, on 13th July. The event, which saw the constitution of 605 benches, resulted in the resolution of a total of 8,31,848 cases. This included 7,66,639 pre-litigation cases and 65,139 pending cases, with awards amounting to Rs 230.09 crore. According to the Chhattisgarh State Legal Services Authority, Chief Justice Ramesh Sinha of the Chhattisgarh High Court, who also serves as the Chief Patron of the State Legal Services Authority, conducted a virtual inspection of the proceedings. He connected with all 23 District-Sessions Courts in the state, communicating with Chief District Judges and presiding officers of other division benches to assess the progress and encourage the resolution of as many cases as possible.

New Industrial Policy to boost subsidies for Start-ups

Central Chronicle News

Suggestions taken from industrial-business organizations regarding the new industrial policy

RAIPUR: Chhattisgarh's new industrial policy, set to come into effect from November 1, aims to address the shortcomings of the previous Congress government's policies. The Industry Department has conducted a thorough study of policies from other states to inform the new approach.

Key highlights of the new policy include an increased focus on innovation, with a significant boost in subsidy exemptions. Under the previous government, the subsidy exemption was 18 to 20



New industrial policy to come into effect from Nov 1.

FACTFILE

● Flaws in the policies made in the previous Cong govt will be removed.

percent, but the new policy will increase this to 30 to 35 percent.

This enhancement is expected to promote

industry and business development within the state.

According to Industry Department officials, the new policy will incorporate successful elements from industrial policies of other states, including the Gujarat model, to help Chhattisgarh establish its own distinctive industrial

identity. The policy aims to foster growth in start-ups, defense, robotics, and artificial intelligence sectors.

Prior to finalizing the new policy, visits were made to major states across the country, and suggestions were solicited from industrial and business organizations.

ALL FOR HEALTH |

Cycling for awareness on environmental conservation

Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: The members of the Cycas Club undertook a 20-kilometer bicycle journey in Naya Raipur, delivering a message to the people of the state and the capital about environmental conservation and staying fit by using bicycles. During this time, all the members pledged to use bicycles for one day each week or month to contribute to environmental conservation.



The Cycas Club members also spread awareness among the general public about using

bicycles. Whils speaking to Central Chronicle, Nitin Bhansali Cycas

The initiative was taken to spread the message of environmental conservation and fitness to the public.

Nitin Bhansali
Cycas Club member

Club member said, the initiative was taken to spread the message of environmental conservation and fitness to the public.

On this occasion, prominent members present included Nitin Bhansali, Richa Awasthi, Bunty Shadija, Rakesh Sachdev, Dev Jaiswal, Jeetu Lohana, Ravi Popatani, Garima Jaiswal, Trisha Khurana, Heena Laheja, Neha Jain, Deepika Bhardwaj, Minder Saluja, Vipin Khurana, Jitendra Chetija, Ravi Vijaywani, Deepak Jaiswal, Satyendra Srivastava, Esha Dhanoria, and other members.

The Day's NUMBERS

Year wise package

PLACEMENT PACKAGE OF IIIT, RAIPUR

2016-20	43 lakh
2017-21	43 lakh
2018-22	57 lakh
2019-23	85 lakh
2020-24	1.50 cr

Source : Agency

ARRESTED

Tarachand, illegally manufacturing firecrackers in residential area, arrested

RAIPUR: Tarachand Jangde, accused of illegally manufacturing firecrackers in a residential area in village Parasada under Thana Mandir Hasaud, has been arrested. On July 13, the Thana Mandir Hasaud police received information about the illegal production of atom bomb firecrackers and other explosives in a house in village Parasada. Following directives from senior officials, Thana Incharge Mandir Hasaud led a police team to raid the location.

During the search, the police found 30 packets of atom bomb firecrackers (totaling 300 pieces), 8 kg of a soda and sulphur mixture used for making atom bomb firecrackers, a bundle of red-colored light rope, and 70 pieces of Super Top Tiger branded sticks. The total value of the seized materials is estimated to be around Rs 20,000. The suspect, identified as Tarachand Jangde (father: Kanhaiya Lal Jangde, age 40 years, resident of village Parasada, police station Mandir Hasaud, Raipur), was present in the house. During interrogation, Jangde could not produce any valid documents related to the manufacturing of firecrackers and related materials.

LIQUOR SCAM

UP Police to transport Anil Tuteja to Meerut alongside Dhebar and Tripathi

RAIPUR: Following the arrests of Anwar Dhebar and Arunpati Tripathi in connection with a liquor scam, suspended IAS officer Anil Tuteja is now being taken by UP Police to Uttar Pradesh on a production warrant. UP Police had requested Tuteja's production warrant, which has been approved by the court. Tuteja is scheduled to appear in Meerut Court on Monday.

There's also a case registered against Tuteja in UP related to a fake hologram. Previously, UP Police had arrested Anwar Dhebar and former Special Secretary Arunpati Tripathi, who are currently in jail. Both were presented in Meerut Court on July 1 after a three-day remand.

They were then sent to jail till July 15 in the fake hologram case. UP Police now plans to present all three accused in court together on July 15. Following the court hearing, Tuteja, Dhebar, and Tripathi could be sent on judicial remand, with the possibility of extending Tripathi and Dhebar's existing remand.



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KALSEE/KAL-MAT



“Urban bodies to conduct special sanitation drive for Swachh Survekshan.”

Richa Prakash Chaudhary
Collector, Durg

NEWSLINE

ARREST

Youth held for raping minor girl



BHILAI: Police arrested a 24-year-old youth on charges of raping a 15-year-old girl of Farid Nagar Supela. Victim's mother came to know about the incident when she took her daughter to hospital after she complained of stomach pain. After examination, the doctors told the mother that the girl was pregnant. Thereafter the victim disclosed that a seat-cover maker identified as Raj had raped her. Supela Police lodged an offence and traced the accused.

SMUGGLING

Interstate drug smugglers nabbed

BHILAI: Kumhari Police arrested two ruffians on charges of cannabis smuggling. ASP Sukhmandan Rathore informed that acting on a tip off, police intercepted a truck bearing registration number OD17-AA-5980 at Kumhari. On checking, about 20 kgs of cannabis was recovered from the truck cabin. Police arrested the truck driver Ravindra Bhukta (50) son of Late Bandhu Bhukta and Gagan Anand Mehar (42) son of Late Pulasti Mehar, both residents of village and police station Purana Cuttack, District Boudh, Odisha.

CRIME

Four arrested for robbery

BHILAI: Police arrested four ruffians including two juveniles on charges of robbery. The accused had looted a mobile phone and cash from Talpuri resident bike salesman Rupesh Kumar Deshlehre at village Mahkakhurd. SDOP (Patan) Ashish Banchhor informed that after receiving the complaint a police team collected information about the suspects and rounded up Yuvraj Shivare (19) son of Ramkhilavan Shivare of Dadar Road Charoda; Mukul Kumar Yadav (19) son of Shrawan Kumar Yadav a resident of Charoda Basti and two juveniles.

GOLDEN HOUR

Highway Patrolling team rescues accident victim

BHILAI: The Highway Patrolling team of Traffic Police saved the life of a truck driver trapped in the truck cabin after a mishap. DSP Satish Thakur informed that a truck rammmed into the rear end of another truck due to sudden harsh braking on National Highway at Padum Nagar. Chandra Shekhar, driver of the truck bearing registration number MH 14 NU 0379 got trapped in the truck cabin and suffered fatal injuries. Highway Patrolling Jawans - Constable Vikrant Srivastava, Devanand Tandon and others rescued the driver by cutting the cabin with a cutter.

Saplings planted in New Police Line Colony of DMC

Central Chronicle News

BHILAI: MLA A tree plantation program was organised in New Police Line Colony in New Police Line of Durg Municipal Corporation under the Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam Abhiyan. Gajendra Yadav, MLA Durg city and Durg Mayor Dhiraj Bakliwal participated as chief guests and planted saplings. DMC Commissioner Lokesh Chandrakar, Environment Incharge Satyavati Verma, SP Jitendra Shukla, Ward Councilor Maheshwari Thakur, Gar-

HIGHLIGHT

• Under Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam Abhiyan

den Incharge Anil Singh, DSP Chandraprakash Tiwari, Reserve Inspector Neelkanth Verma, Dr Vishwanath Panigrahi, Manoj Goyal, Rajesh Gupta and police personnel planted shady and fruit bearing trees along with their families. MLA and Mayor took pledge to protect the environment by planting trees with the people.

Congress meet for “Vidhan Sabha gherao”

BHILAI: A meeting of the District Congress Committee was organised to deliberate on the proposed Vidhan Sabha gherao to be organised on July 24, 2024. Former State Warehousing President, and ex MLA Arun Vora said during the meeting that in the protest against the poor of law and order situation in the state and the arson that happened in Balodabazar the Pradesh Congress Committee is staging the gherao. To make it successful the

party workers from Durg will join it in large number and raise their voice against the BJP government in the interest of the common people. The heads of various cells, youth and women wing should ensure maximum participation by holding meetings ahead of the scheduled date, he added. Present were Durg Mayor Dhiraj Bakliwal, Speaker Rajesh Yadav, RN Verma, Sandeep Vora, Gaya Patel, Spokesperson Nasir Khokhar, and others.

Peddler nabbed with cannabis

BHILAI: Police arrested a drug peddler and recovered cannabis from his possession. CSP (Bhilai) Satyaprakash Tiwari informed that acting on a tip off, they nabbed the suspect who was waiting for a bus at BRP Chowk in Mauhari Maroda. The suspect Roshan Starly (26) son of SS Starley, a resident of Kripal Nagar, Kohka was searched in front of witnesses. 3.552 kg of ganja was recovered from his bag. The accused was booked under Section 20 (b) of NDPS Act. The accused was produced before the court and has been sent to jail on judicial remand.

155.1 mm rainfall recorded

BHILAI: An average rainfall of 155.1 mm has been recorded in the district from 01 June to 14 July. The Land Records Branch informed that the highest rainfall of 283.0 mm has been recorded in Patan Tehsil and the lowest 80.4 mm in Bori. Apart from this, 110.0 mm rainfall has been recorded in Durg, 123.7 mm in Dhamdha, 141.6 mm in Bhilai 3 and 191.6 mm in Ahiwara. On July 14, 7.0 mm rainfall was recorded in Durg.

Langar and medical camp organised

During the National Lok Adalat, free food arrangement was made through a 'langar' for the common people and parties visiting the District Court. The Health Department organised a free health check-up camp at the Lok Adalat venue for the visitors and common people. Dr Shumda Tiwari and paramedical staff conducted the camp.

lamps at the portrait of Maa Saraswati. Girija Devi Meravi (Principal Judge, Family Court), Bar Association President Neeta Jain; sitting judges, advocates and others were present during inauguration. The National Lok Adalat

proceedings were conducted from 37 benches constituted at District Court, Family Court, Civil Courts of Bhilai-3, Patan and Dhamdha, Juvenile Justice Board, Permanent Lok Adalat (Public Utility Services) and Revenue Court.

Lok Adalat disposes of 1.10 L cases on one day

The award amount sums up to 31.54 crore in the second National Lok Adalat.



HC Judge, DJ and other judges inspecting the benches.

Central Chronicle News

FASTFACTS

- Justice NK Chandravanshi conducts inspection
- Proceedings conducted at 37 division benches

BHILAI: In the second National Lok Adalat of 2024, 9428 judicial cases and 101546 pre-litigation cases were resolved through mutual compromise between the parties. The total settlement amount summed up to Rs 31,54,43,693. The disposed of cases included 384 criminal cases, 54 cases of claims, 175 family matters, 414 cases of dishonour of cheque, 78 civil suit cases, 34 cases of labour court and 1051 cases of permanent Lok Adalat (public utility services) Durg. Many impor-

tant cases were resolved in the National Lok Adalat. Justice NK Chandravanshi (HC Judge and Portfolio Judge District-Durg) inspected the Lok Adalat and interacted with the parties. Principal District and Sessions Judge Dr Pragya Pachauri inaugurated the National Lok Adalat by lighting

Vartika attends International Film Festival in Mumbai

Central Chronicle News

Interacts with renowned film artists, producers and directors.



BHILAI: Vartika Srivastava participated in the International Film Festival organised in Mumbai from June 16 to 21. She completed her schooling from DAV School, HUDCO Bhilai and thereafter did BJMC from MIT, Pune. Currently, she is doing post graduation in Electronic and Media Management at Satyajit Ray Film and Television Training Institute (SRFTI), Kolkata. She is pursuing the course of Executive Producer.

During the Mumbai International Film Festival, Vartika interacted with renowned film artists, producers, directors of the country and abroad and gained information about the work and mod-

ern techniques of the executive producer. Vartika has produced documentary films on serious social issues such as black magic, incest by underage girls. The short film "Show Must Go On" made by Vartika was highly praised by all sections of society for its vivid depiction of the hardships faced by artists and other workers working in the circus.

Vartika is the daughter of Dr Prashant Srivastava (Professor of Geology and former Dean of Student Welfare at Durg University) and Dr Sarita Srivastava (Lecturer, GHSS Dhanora).

Theft at locked house

BHILAI: Theft occurred at a locked house in AwadhpurRisali. The victim Deepak Singh is a contractor of Bhilai Steel Plant. He had gone to his native place in Agra, UP with his family. On returning back, he found that the main door was broken and unidentified had escaped with CCTV DVR and Rs 5000 cash. Police lodged an offence under section 305(a), 331(4) of BNS.

Scooter stolen from Supela

BHILAI: Unidentified thieves lifted a scooter, which was parked outside a house in Sanjay Nagar Supela. The victim Bareek Dalai had parked his Activa bearing registration number CG04-KE-2563 in front of his house on July 11. Next morning, he found that the scooter was stolen. Police lodged an FIR under section 303(2) of BNS.

Bahuda Rath Yatra of Shri Jagannath concludes

| RATH YATRA FESTIVAL |

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai Mayor Neeraj Pal to conduct Chera Panhra in Bahuda Rath Yatra.

BHILAI: The seven-day Shri Bhagwat Katha concluded on Sunday with havanpujan in the grand Gundicha Mandap built in Sector-10 under the aegis of Jagannath Samiti, Sector-4. In the Cultural evening organised under the Rath Yatra Festival of Mahaprabhu Shri Jagannath Ji, the dance drama "Ram Katha" presented by the "Shiv Shakti Academy" group kept the audience captivated till the end.

Under the excellent direction of Sunaina Nair, 28 young artists captivated the audience with their excellent performance. Scenes from



Participants of the cultural evening.

FASTFACTS

• Dance drama "Ram Katha" presented by "Shiv Shakti Academy" captivate audience

• Scenes from Katha and Ayodhya temple establishment brought to life on stage

Ram's exile to Sita's abduction, Ram-Ravan war, Lord Ram's return

to Ayodhya and the establishment of the Ram temple were brought to life on stage through dance drama.

Col Har Sharanjit Kaur, committee president Virendra Satpathy and general secretary Satyawan Nayak were specially present as the chief guests in this cultural program, which was coordinated by Trinath Sahu and Ranjan Mohapatra. The Colonel hon-

oured all the singers by giving them a certificate and a memento.

On July 15, Bahuda Rath Yatra will be taken out from Gundicha Mandap Sector 10. Mahaprabhu Shri Jagannath Swami will return to the temple. In this Bahuda Rath Yatra, Mayor Neeraj Pal will conduct the program of Chera Panhra as the chief guest. A large number of devotees were present in this festival.

FINANCIAL ASPECT ON RETIREMENT

'Planning for Superannuation' for BSP executives

Central Chronicle News

BHILAI: "Planning for Superannuation", a two-day special programme for the cross-section of retiring Executives of SAIL-BSP was organized recently at Bhilai Management Development Centre (BMDC). Dr Ashok Kumar Panda, ED (F&A), and Nisha Soni, CGM (HR-L&D, BE) addressed participants at the inaugural session.

Dr Panda inaugurated the "Planning for Superannuation" programme and



stated that the participants can benefit hugely from various sessions lined up on several aspects of superannuation and retired life. He emphasized the importance of financial planning for superannuating

employees and exhorted the participants to cherish other aspects of retired life as well in equal measure. Nisha Soni urged participants to take benefit from the inputs during the sessions and also suggested

“Financial planning for superannuating employees is important along with enjoying retired life.”

Dr Ashok Kumar Panda
ED (F&A), BSP

that they pursue their hobbies in retired life. The programme was conducted by faculties from Management

and Leadership Development Centre (MLDC), Delhi, including Dr Jaubhari Lal, Former Director (HR-ONGC) & President (MLDC), and Sushant Vats Former Chief Executive Director (Employee Relations-ONGC). The programme covered the holistic approach to life ahead with an emphasis on coping with change and stress in new life, nurturing relations and attitude, and ageing with grace, and happiness.

Larvae found in fire crackers shop

Central Chronicle News

BHILAI: Bhilai Municipal Corporation observed Dry Day on Sunday under the Fight the Bite campaign. The BMC Health Team conducted a joint campaign with the Chamber of Commerce at Power House Wholesale Fruit Market, Alankar Complex and conducted a cleanliness awareness campaign. They visited every shop and checked the coolers, water tanks, drums, containers and

emptied them. Meanwhile, they found a drum full of water at Shamim Fire Cracker Shop. The shopkeeper explained that they keep water filled drums for safety purposes. On emptying the water, the team found mosquito larvae. Some traders carelessly stated that they have come for business and do not pay attention to such things. The team explained the importance of maintaining sanitation and preventing mosquito breeding.

Raipur News

BJP won polls due to workers' hard work: CM

Announces projects including construction of a community building.



CM Sai at a function held in Jashpur district to thank voters.

Central Chronicle News

FASTFACTS

RAIPUR: Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai attended 'Matdata Abhar Samaroh' held at Duldula development block headquarters in Jashpur district. He thanked all the voters and citizens of Kunkuri assembly constituency for their victory in the assembly elections. He said that the son of this region is the Chief Minister and will work for the benefit of the people. He said that all development works in the state will be done with transparency and honesty.

● **Good governance is top priority. Efforts are underway to bring transparency to administration, says Sai.**

● **Action is being taken against corruption and government is working for the benefit of all sections of society.**

announced various development projects for the region, including the construction of a community building, a bus stand, a mini indoor stadium, a higher second-

Agrawal thanks voters, party workers

The newly elected Lok Sabha member from Raipur constituency Brijmohan Agrawal expressed his heartfelt gratitude to the voters, party workers, and well-wishers for their tireless efforts. Addressing a programme here, Agrawal said that the result of the Lok Sabha election in Raipur is a testament to the hard work and dedication of the party workers and the love and support of the people. He promised to work tirelessly for the development of the region and to fulfill the trust placed in him by the people.

ary school building, and a Durga pandal. He also announced the construction of a boundary wall for the Yadav community building in Sokodipara and the allocation of land for Sharda Dham.

The Chief Minister said that good governance is their top priority and that they are working to bring transparency to the administration. He said that action is being taken against corruption.

Apologize for opposing Ram : BJP to Congress

RAIPUR: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)'s state spokesperson and Bilaspur division in-charge Anurag Singhdeo said that Congress leaders are still indulging in frivolous talk about Lord Ram and Sanatan culture despite rejecting the existence of Lord Ram and refusing to attend the grand ceremony of Lord Ram's consecration in January. In a statement issued here, the senior BJP leader Singhdeo said that Congress leaders should first apologize for their political character that is opposed to Lord Ram and Sanatan culture. He said that Congress is entangled in the web of appeasement politics and is displaying its dirty mentality.

Singhdeo said that instead of indulging in frivolous talk, all Congress leaders should visit Ayodhya and have darshan of 'Chhattisgarh's Bhancha' Lord Ram, so that they may attain good sense. He said that Congress has always made Lord Ram's temple a controversial issue and has been presenting Lord Ram as an accused. This shows that Congress's political thinking has become despicable and they are indulging in vote bank politics.

Singhdeo said that Congress's political existence is ending and its future is dark.

Dist administration takes action in over a dozen scrap yards

RAIPUR: On the instructions of Collector Dr. Gaurav Singh, the team of the district administration has taken action against those doing illegal scrap work. The team reached the scrap yard of Urla and Khamtarai and demanded documents of the parked vehicles. The yard was sealed when the documents of any of the vehicles were not presented. The joint team of Revenue Department, Police Department and Municipal Corporation raided more than a dozen places. During action, SDM Nandkumar Choubey, City Superintendent of Police Manishankar Chandrakar, Zone Commissioner Hitendra Yadav, Tehsildar Raipur

HIGHLIGHT

● **All documents related to the yard were checked. Legal action was taken to seize the scrap of old vehicles. Sealing action was also taken.**

Pawan Kosma, Deputy Tehsildar Praveen Parmar, Khamtarai and Urla police station team were also present.

SDM Nandkumar Choubey told that he reached the yard of Mohammad Hanif, Mohammad Bilal, Saeed Khan, Naem who run scrap business in Urla and Khamtarai area. Meanwhile Gumasta of yard operators and scrap dealers and all documents related to the yard were checked.

NEWSLINE

SPORTS

Harshal, Ravraje win Union Club Badminton title



RAIPUR: Harshal Bhojar defeated Aditya Ranjan Gupta with the score of 21-6, 21-14 to win the final of the Union Club Badminton championship being organised at Police Parade Ground Badminton Academy here. Similarly, Ravraje Verma defeated Anika Sahu with the score of 21-10, 21-12 to win the Women' title. In the Boys Under 19 final match, Chitransh Lokwani defeated Divyansh Joshi with the score of 21-18, 16-21, 21-15 to clinch the title whereas Ravraje Verma defeated Anvita Dwevedi with the score of 21-13, 21-14 to win the Under 19 Girls' title.

Badminton Association of India (BAI) General Secretary Sanjay Mishra motivated the players in his address during the concluding ceremony.

APPOINTMENTS

Sishupal Shouri elected President of CSAS

RAIPUR: Former Congress MLA who recently joined Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Sishupal Shouri has been unanimously elected President of Chhattisgarh Sarv Advanshi Samaj (CSAS) in place of Bharat Singh. According to information received, Rajaram Todam would be the Working President whereas MR Thakur would be General Secretary of CSAS after being elected here.

Jagdish Chaurasia Devratna Singh would be Zonal Secretary whereas Kundan Singh Thakur and Mrs Vandana Uike have been elected President of Youth Wing and Women Wing with immediate effect.

POLITICS

No rule of law in the state: Subodh



RAIPUR: With the formation of BJP government in Chhattisgarh, the morale of criminals has increased and incidents of murder, kidnapping, robbery, dacoity and rape are happening in the state every day, Chhattisgarh Congress General Secretary Subodh Haritwal said here today. According to him Chhattisgarh has become the new hideout of gangsters. He said that law and order collapsed in Chhattisgarh and mafia rule started in the BJP government. Chhattisgarh has now become a safe haven for criminals under the BJP government, he said, adding that henchmen of mafias like Lawrence Bishnoi and Aman Sahu are now openly threatening businessmen.

DHLMC formed for timely completion of construction works

Central Chronicle News

State Government has constituted a High-Level Monitoring Committee to ensure completion of construction works in urban bodies on time.

RAIPUR: The Urban Administration and Development Department has issued an order to form the committee.

The committee will review the implementation of announcements made by the Chief Minister and Deputy Chief Minister/Minister in charge, as well as other schemes and projects assigned by the Department. The committee will also conduct site inspections of important projects through a joint team of officials from different levels. The committee's nodal officers

will be the Secretary at the departmental level, the Additional Director at the directorate level, the Chief Executive Officer at the SUADA level, the Commissioner at the municipal corporation level, and the Chief Municipal Officer at the municipal council level.

The committee will review the progress of all projects online through a portal to be created by SUADA. The department will provide funds for the portal as needed. The nodal officers of the urban bodies will review the progress of the projects every 15 days and upload the action taken on the portal.

The committee will also conduct regular review meetings at different levels, including the departmental level, directorate level, SUADA level, municipal corporation level, and municipal council level.

248.5 mm average rainfall recorded

RAIPUR: An average rainfall of 248.5 mm has been recorded in the state since June 1, 2024. According to the rainfall recorded in various districts of the state from June 1, 2024 till today morning 14 July, Bijapur district has recorded the highest average rainfall of 404.7 mm and Surguja district has recorded the lowest average rainfall of 129.0 mm.

Kharif crop insurance till 31st July

RAIPUR: The last date for crop insurance for the implementation of Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana for Kharif Season 2024 has been fixed as 31st July 2024. Paddy irrigated, paddy unirrigated crops, urad, moong, groundnut, kodo, kutki, maize, tur/tuar, ragi and soybean have been included in the scheme.

REC CMD admires Sathya Sai Sanjeevani Hospital

Central Chronicle News

REC CMD while on a Hospital tour interacted with the Doctors, patients and their parents. He distributed chocolates and mangoes to them.

RAIPUR: 13th of July was a historical day for Sri Sathya Sai Sanjeevani Hospitals. Vivek Kumar Dewangan, IAS, Chairman & Managing Director, REC (Rural Electrification Corporation) Limited visited Sri Sathya Sai Sanjeevani Hospital, Atal Nagar Naya Raipur. He was accompanied by Ms. Taruna Gupta, ED, CSR Head, REC Limited; Bhim Singh Kanwar, MD, CSPDCL and other senior REC officials. On arrival he was accorded a traditional welcome by the students and staff members. Dr. C. Sreenivas,



Dr. C. Sreenivas, Chairman, SSSH felicitating Vivek Kumar Dewangan.

FASTFACTS

● **Dewangan inaugurated the REC Gift of Life Cardiac Ward.**

● **Dewangan along with Mrs Gupta presented the Gift of Life Certificates and gifts to the 5 patients and their parents from Chh'garh.**

diac Ward. He unveiled the plaque commemorating the completion of 1000 successful surgeries with the support of REC, a MAHARATNA COMPANY. The ceremonial function at Dr.C.Rajeshwari auditorium began with the lighting of the traditional lamp by Dewangan, Mrs Gupta, Kanwar, Vivek Gour and Dr.C. Sreenivas. Dr. Nikhil Pandey presented a summary of the 12 years journey of Sri Sathya Sai Sanjeevani Hospitals and Sri Sathya Sai Mother & Child Hospital, Atal Nagar Naya Raipur. Then followed the screening of the selected video documentaries on Sri Sathya Sai Sanjeevani Hospitals.

Dewangan along with Mrs Gupta presented the Gift of Life Certificates and gifts to the 5 patients and their parents from Chhattisgarh.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE |

Expert Lecture on "AI and Data Science" held

Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: National Institute of Technology (NIT) Raipur's Department of Computer Application (DCA) organized an expert Lecture titled "Artificial Intelligence and Data Science" here.

Dr. TV Vijay Kumar, Professor & Dean, School of Engineering, JNU, Delhi was Speaker.

The aim of the event was to provide insights into the latest developments in Artificial Intelli-

gence and Data Science, highlighting their transformative potential and encouraging innovative thinking among students and faculty members.

Dr. Diwan discussed the significant impact AI is expected to have in the 2030s, highlighting increased automation and productivity, personalized experiences, advancements in healthcare, and workforce transformation. Dr. Vijay Kumar highlighted AI's potential to drive a new industrial



revolution, comparing it to the impact of steam engines and electricity. He also said that our current era as the fourth

Artificial Intelligence might reduce humans' capability to perform simple tasks.

Dr. Vijay Kumar
Professor & Dean, School of Engineering, JNU, Delhi

industrial revolution with AI and IoT and differentiated between strong and weak AI, discussed initial expectations of AI repli-

cating human behavior, and warned that AI might reduce humans' capability to perform simple tasks. He also emphasized AI's role in smart mobility, manufacturing, disaster management, and shared his experiences in UNESCO's AI forum on disaster management. Dr. Kumar discussed NITI Aayog's AI policies for healthcare, agriculture, and education, and stressed the importance of India not lagging in AI development.

Entrance exam for "LEAD-36" program

Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: Netritva Sadhana Kendra is conducting entrance exam for "LEAD-36" program on July 17. Seven talented youth belonging to economically and socially backward classes in state will be given free residential coaching for 2 years to prepare for CGPSC Civil Services. Netritva Sadhana Kendra is firmly committed to equality in opportunities for success in better form of 2-year program.

Netritva Sadhana Kendra has been providing free residential coaching for CGPSC, Civil Services Examination for last three years. Several talented youth of state are availing training facility. The institution is going to select youth again while entering its fourth year. The co-founder of organization, Praneet, told that Netritva Sadhana Kendra, in its fourth year, is organizing entrance examination for "LEAD-36" program on Wednesday, July 17.

"I have written letter to Govt of India and the CM of Chhattisgarh to provide me 'Y-Plus' category security, because of security concerns to me and my family.

Janak Ram Dhruva
Congress MLA



Chhattisgarh



The house of Congress MLA Janak Ram Dhruv.

Cong MLA Janak Ram Dhruva seeking security

Bindranawagarh MLA has written letter to Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh Vishnu Dev Sai.

Central Chronicle News

MAINPUR: Why is Bindranawagarh Assembly constituency's Congress MLA Janak Ram Dhruv not able to sleep peacefully at night? He is worried about his safety and security. MLA Janak Dhruv and his family members have once again demanded security from the government.

It is known that Janak Ram Dhruv, MLA of Bindranawagarh Assembly Constituency No. 55, who resides in village Nahambiri, two kilometers away from the Naxal-affected area of Mainpur in Gariaband district, is extremely worried about his safety.

He has written three to four letters to Home Minister of Government of India Amit Shah and Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh Vishnu Dev Sai, Inspector General of Police of the state and Collector and Superintendent of Police, demanding Y Plus category security, but till now he has not been provided the same. Without having the additional security cover the MLA is facing huge difficulties in visiting remote sensitive areas in the forest.

happens to be the State President of Chhattisgarh Tribal Congress. He visits various parts of the state from time to time, including the highly Naxal-infested areas like Bastar. He is always under threat in many sensitive areas. It is known that during the assembly elections, a Jawan was martyred

HIGHLIGHT

Without having the additional security cover the MLA is facing huge difficulties in visiting remote sensitive areas in the forest.

happens to be the State President of Chhattisgarh Tribal Congress. He visits various parts of the state from time to time, including the highly Naxal-infested areas like Bastar. He is always under threat in many sensitive areas. It is known that during the assembly elections, a Jawan was martyred

in a Naxalite attack at a distance of just 5 km from his residence. The hilly area is located at a distance of just one and a half km from his residence. Due to frequent power cuts and poor power supply in this forest area, the employees who provide him security also get disturbed in the dark night. Janak Ram Dhruv has written many letters regarding security. While talking to journalists he said, he is the MLA of Bindranawagarh assembly constituency and is also the state president of Chhattisgarh Tribal Congress.

Selection test for admission in PRS on 21

KORBA: Selection test for admission in class 11th under Prayas Residential School (PRS) for the academic session 2024-25 will be conducted on 21st July 2024 from 11 am to 01:30 pm. A total of 174 applications have been received in the district, out of which 139 applications were found eligible and 35 applications were found ineligible. Delta Public School Bilaspur (in front of old High Court) has been made the examination center for eligible students. Candidates can view the list of eligible and ineligible candidates on the district website <https://korba.gov.in>.

Habitual criminal arrested with drugs

GAURELA-PENDRA: GPM police has recovered drugs from the possession of a habitual criminal Waqqar Khan and his accomplice Amin Khan and a case has been registered against them in Gaurela police station under section 21, 22 (C) NDPS Act*. Banned drugs of value 53324 rupees, mobile phones and a motorcycle was seized from them.

Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

CONCERN

Due to power blockage farmers not able to irrigate Kharif crops

ARANG: Farmers of the region have recorded their resentment on the continues power cuts and fluctuations, owing to which they are not able to irrigate the standing Kharif crops. Due to undeclared power blockage from evening to late night, anger is spreading among the farmers and farmer leader Parasnath Sahu has handed over a signed memorandum to Arang sub-divisional officer Pushpendra Sharma and has warned of adopting an agitational stance if the power blockage is not stopped. The memorandum has signatures of Girdhari Lal Sahu, Bhesaram Sahu, Madhusudan, Amit Kumar, Dujraj, etc. During the last week the rain fall was very little in the region. So the farmers were worried about there Kharif crops.

EVICION

Encroachment removed and materials seized in Pandaria East Range



PANDARIA: The attempt of encroaching government land has seen a sharp rise in the recent times in different parts of the state. According to the information received, some people had tried to encroach illegally in Pandaria East area of Kodwa Beat, according to the information from the local revenue department office. The land was also covered by fencing wire. After receiving complaints, the DFO along with the staff seized about 120 wooden pegs and about 30 kg of barbed wire.

Peace committee meeting held Appeal to maintain harmony and brotherhood during the festival



KOREA: The peace committee meeting was held in the police station premises of Baikunthpur in the wake of the upcoming Moharram festival on July 17. The meeting was held under the chairmanship of Sub-Divisional Officer Deepika Netam and Sub-Divisional Officer Police Kavita Thakur. SDO (Revenue) Deepika Netam said that the administration will continue to extend all cooperation during the Moharram festival. Necessary preparations including drinking water, electricity, traffic arrangements will also be ensured. She appealed to all the social organizations to ensure law and order during the festival. She also urged the people to ensure that the festival is observed with harmony and brotherhood. Sub-Divisional

Officer (Police) Kavita Thakur said that the rules and regulations to maintaining the law and order during the festival of Moharram should be followed by one and all, so that the peace and harmony can be ensured. Special duty of traffic police will be imposed to maintain traffic system. She said that procession or rally should also be organized as per the scheduled time and route chart. On this occasion DSP Shyam Madhukar, Shailesh Shivhare, Anwarul Haque, Mahmood, Mohammad Akhtar, Shahid Mansuri, Chhote Khan, Rizwan, Mohammad Siraj, Javed Ahmed, Mukhtar Ahmed and Subhash Sahu, Abhay Dubey, Sameer Jaiswal along with other members of the peace committee and district officials were present.

Two youths injured in road accident

DONGARGAON: Two youths riding a motorcycle were seriously injured in an accident on the main road of the city, under road widening construction work. According to information received, two youths Pankaj son of Amarlal Andhiya resident of Ghupsal and Akshay Kumar son of Brijlal Dhavade resident of Tatora Mohalla were hit by a bus of Jagirdar Travels bus number CG08M0317 carrying ITBP jawans from behind near Gautam Hotel on the busiest road and state highway of Dongargaon city. After the accident, both the youths were taken to the local community health centre through 112, and allegedly the slow pace of road widening is responsible for accidents in the region and instead of completing the work in the stipulated time, the PWD department has extended the time further.

Central Chronicle News

Vice Chancellor of GGU and V-C of JPU Chhapra exchanged the memorandum of understanding between the two institutions on July 13.

BILASPUR: The esteemed Vice-Chancellor of Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya (a Central University) (GGU), Professor Alok Kumar Chakrawal, and the Vice-Chancellor of Jai Prakash University (JPU), Chhapra (Bihar), Professor P.K. Bajpai, exchanged the memorandum of understanding between the two institutions on July 13, 2024, at 12 noon in the conference room of the administrative building.

On this occasion, Vice-Chancellor Professor Alok Kumar Chakrawal



V-C GGU and V-C JPU Chhapra exchanged MoU between the two institutions.

FACTFILE

Vice-Chancellor Professor Alok Kumar Chakrawal expressed his delight over the memorandum of understanding between the two institutions.

expressed his delight over the memorandum of understanding between the two institutions, stating that there is a need to focus more on the development of human

resources. He emphasized the importance of inspiring youth to maintain a positive outlook and foster creativity. He mentioned that through skill and entrepreneurship development, the valuable cultural heritage of Chhattisgarh and Bihar can be showcased on an international platform.

Vice-Chancellor Professor Chakrawal stated that through this memorandum of understanding, Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya will provide

all possible support to Jai Prakash University, Chhapra, for the successful implementation of the National Education Policy 2020 through research, academic, and educational development programs.

Professor P.K. Bajpai, Vice-Chancellor of Jai Prakash University, Chhapra (Bihar), mentioned that this memorandum of understanding will be effective in bringing both institutions closer academically. The National Education Policy 2020 offers equality, accessibility, flexibility, and opportunities for research and innovation for all. He assured that both institutions will actively implement this MoU to benefit the youth. Under this MoU, both institutions will share the latest programs and efforts in the fields of academics, research, and innovation.

| MOU SIGNED |

'Experiential learning will lead to skill devp'

Central Chronicle News

Justice Bhaduri plants sapling and visits offices

Central Chronicle News

KORBA: Justice Gautam Bhaduri of Chhattisgarh High Court Bilaspur visited various courts and branches of the District Sessions Court premises and took information about the work. He instructed the branch heads to discharge their responsibilities diligently.

Justice Bhaduri paid visit to the entire court premises including the District Court's Family Court, Labour Court



and other court rooms, accounts section, copy section and the judicial service center. Taking information about their charge from the branch

heads, he instructed them to discharge the responsibilities with utmost sincerity. District Sessions Judge Satyendra Sahu and other judges were

"All the branch heads should discharge their responsibilities diligently."

Justice Gautam Bhaduri High Court, Chhattisgarh

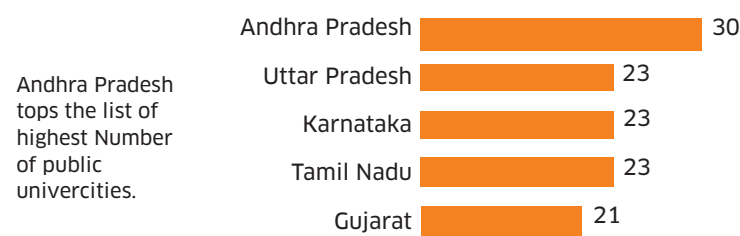
present on this occasion. During the National Lok Adalat, Justice Gautam Bhaduri also inspected the free health check-up

camp, conducted in the court premises to provide health benefits to the common people.

During the programme Justice Gautam Bhaduri and other judges also planted saplings of fruits and plants of other species in the district session court premises. The judges urged the people to take pledge for environmental protection and asked them to plant saplings to add to the greenery.

The Day's NUMBERS

STATES WITH MAXIMUM NUMBER OF PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES



Andhra Pradesh tops the list of highest Number of public universities.

Source - Agency

EMPOWERMENT

AM/NS India's distributes bicycle under Gyan Jyoti Toppers Award

KIRANDUL: AM/NS India's under their CSR initiative, recognized 39 top-performing students from high schools, higher secondary schools, and degree colleges in Kirandul. These students were awarded bicycles, presented by the President of the Kirandul Municipal Council and the General Manager of AM/NS India, Kirandul, in the presence of BRC, CSC officials, principals, students, and their parents. In addition, in Chitrakonda, 31 outstanding students from primary and secondary schools in 31 pipeline villages were honored for their exceptional performance in the 2023-24 school year. Each student received a bicycle, with Smt. Binati Khillo, Zilla Parishad member of Chitrakonda, felicitating the students in a ceremony attended by school headmasters and proud parents. These events underscore AM/NS India's unwavering commitment to promoting educational excellence and providing essential resources to students. Through its CSR initiatives, AM/NS India is dedicated to the holistic development of communities.

DEMAND

Memorandum submitted to MLA Dwarkadhish Yadav seeking salary



BAGBAHARA: The officers and employees working in urban bodies have lamented that they were not getting salary on time. The newly appointed president of the Employees' Welfare association officer submitted a memorandum to the former Parliamentary Secretary of Chhattisgarh Government and current MLA Dwarkadhish Yadav and informed about their problems. In the memorandum, the newly appointed officer employee welfare association officer and members told that the problem of salary of employees in urban bodies of Chhattisgarh, which includes Nagar Panchayat, Nagar Palika, Nagar Nigam, is there every day. In the present conditions, the payment of salary of one month and many four months' salary is pending.

Chhattisgarh News

Resolve disputes, don't prolong: Justice Bhaduri

Korba hosts National Lok Adalat inauguration event ceremony

KORBA: Justice Gautam Bhaduri, Judge of the Chhattisgarh High Court Bilaspur and Executive Chairman of the Chhattisgarh State Legal Services Authority Bilaspur, inaugurated the National Lok Adalat in Korba. Addressing the event, Justice Bhaduri emphasized the importance of resolving disputes amicably through Lok Adalat, a forum designed to settle cases swiftly and mutually satisfactorily.

Highlighting the benefits of Lok Adalat, Justice Bhaduri remarked on the burdens of prolonged litigation, which can lead to significant financial costs, mental stress, and hindered personal progress. He urged litigants to embrace Lok Adalat as a means to find quicker, cost-effective resolutions. "The aim of Lok Adalat is to end ongoing disputes amicably, allowing both parties to move forward without prolonged conflict," he stated.

Justice Bhaduri praised Chhattisgarh's progress in resolving cases through Lok Adalat, noting that the state leads many larger states in this regard. He acknowledged the efforts of judges, advocates, and parties involved, urging them to continue using this platform for dispute



Justice Bhaduri inaugurates National Lok Adalat event.

FASTFACTS

- Justice Bhaduri emphasizes resolving disputes swiftly through Lok Adalat for mutual satisfaction.
- Chhattisgarh leads in case resolution; National Lok Adalat aims for quicker justice.

resolution.

Reflecting on the nature of disputes, Bhaduri pointed out that conflicts often arise from minor issues and ego clashes. He encouraged individuals to take proactive steps toward reso-

Lok Adalat inauguration celebrated

During the Lok Adalat inauguration, District and Session Judge Satyendra Sahu expressed pride and enthusiasm, emphasizing the importance of Justice Gautam Bhaduri's presence. Under his guidance, many cases will be resolved efficiently. Special Judge Atrocity Shri Jaideep Garg thanked everyone for their cooperation. The event saw the participation of District Advocates Association President Shri Ganesh Kuldeep, judges, Advocates Association officials, District Administration officials, and advocates, marking a significant step towards efficient dispute resolution.

lution, emphasizing that timely justice is crucial for its significance and effectiveness.

Justice Bhaduri congratulated the organ-

ers and participants of the National Lok Adalat, urging everyone to maximize the benefits of this valuable judicial resource.

Trees planted at Anganwadi

DONGARGAON: On Friday, under the campaigns "Jal Shakti to Nari Shakti" and "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam," ten fruit-bearing and shady trees were planted across the Anganwadi premises in Arjuni village. The initiative, aiming to promote environmental awareness and sustainability, saw active participation from community members. Present at the event were former district vice-president Dinesh Sahu, the Sarpanch, Deputy Sarpanch, Dr. Virendra Sahu, Women and Child Development Officer, Ayurvedic doctor, school principal, children, and their mothers.

Tree plantation done in Gujra

ARANG: Anwari: Under the Chhattisgarh Mahtari Mahavidyalaya Bhakhara National Service Scheme unit, a tree plantation drive was conducted in Gujra village. Program officer TK Sahu, along with volunteers and villagers, planted 20 trees, including mango, amra, and neem, on the pond's banks. The initiative aimed at enhancing the local environment saw active participation from Dushyant Kumar Sahu, Sadanand Sahu, Toshani Sahu, Sagar Kumar Sahu, Dhanendra Kumar Sahu, Yashika Sahu, and Yuvraj Sahu.

Youth sentenced for 20 years for minor's rape

MCB: In a landmark judgement, a youth was sentenced to 20 years of rigorous imprisonment for raping a minor by luring her with the promise of marriage in Manendragarh. The verdict was delivered on Saturday by the Additional Sessions Judge of the Fast Track Court in Manendragarh. Alongside the prison term, the court imposed fines of Rs 100 and Rs 1000 on the accused, with additional imprisonment of 1 and 3 months if the fines are not paid. The case dates back to September 1, 2021, when the victim's father reported her missing to the Janakpur police station. The minor, who had left for school that morning, did not return home. After extensive



searches and investigations, the police registered a case under section 363 of the IPC. The victim was eventually found in Didwariya village, in the possession of the accused.

During interrogation, the victim revealed that the accused had lured her away and forcibly had physical relations with her. Consequently, the police charged the accused under Sections 366, 376 IPC, and Sections 5 (T), 6 of the POCSO Act. The court found the accused, a resident of MP, guilty and delivered the stern sentence, emphasizing the gravity of the crime.

Flood safety awareness program for children

KHARORA: Under the Chief Minister School Safety Program, children at Government Pre-Secondary School Bardih were educated on flood prevention and safety measures. The session, held on the second Saturday, explained the nature of floods and how to stay safe during such events. Floods occur when prolonged heavy rain causes water to overflow into surrounding areas, and creating surges in drains

and rivers.

Children were advised to avoid drains and rivers during floods and to prepare emergency kits at home before the rainy season. Venturing outside during floods should be done with caution, ensuring awareness of water depth. Present at the session were school principal Manharan Lal Verma, teachers Vishe-shar Verma, Charit Dhruv, Sanjay Banchnor, and Hemkumari Sahu.

Authorities crack down on illegal sand excavation



Central Chronicle News

HIGHLIGHT

DONGARGAON: Following reports of illegal sand excavation from under the Bagdai river bridge, Nagar Panchayat President Hira Nishad, CMO Dadupal Singh, and a police team conducted a raid early Saturday morning. The team seized five Mazdas loaded with sand and secured the vehicles at Dongargaon police station. The matter has been handed over to the Mineral Department

for further action. Nishad stated that continuous theft of sand from the Bagdai bridge had been previously reported to relevant officials, but no action was taken until now. During his morning

● Nagar Panchayat President accuses BJP of facilitating illegal sand excavation, causing revenue loss.

walk, he witnessed the illegal activity and immediately informed the collector and other officials.

In a statement, Nishad accused BJP members of facilitating the illegal excavation, allegedly charging Rs 500 per trip and causing significant revenue loss. He emphasized that such illegal activities had not occurred under Congress rule and pledged to take action against other sites where sand has been illegally dumped.

Tribute to martyred soldiers

DONGARGAON: Citizens gathered to pay tribute to martyred Superintendent of Police Vinod Kumar Choubey and 29 other soldiers who lost their lives in a Naxalite attack in Korkutti village, Rajnandgaon district, 15 years ago on July 12, 2009. The ceremony at the old bus stand included garlanding and lighting a lamp on their portraits.

Plant Trees for Mothers

MARWAHI: As part of the Jal Shakti Se Nari Shakti Abhiyan, Nagar Panchayat Pendra Councilor Ramesh Sahu and his wife planted a tree in the name of his mother at Anganwadi Center Vidyanagar. They urged people to support environmental protection by planting trees in their mothers' names. Present at the event were Anganwadi Centre Project Officer Deep Anand Beck, Supervisor Kusum Kanta Ikka, and several others.

Traffic woes escalate due to bridge construction

TRAFFIC CHAOS |

Central Chronicle News

Mandir Hasaud residents face traffic disruptions due to ongoing overbridge construction on NH 6.

MANDIR HASAUD: Residents and commuters in Mandir Hasaud, near Raipur, are facing severe traffic disruptions due to the construction of an overbridge on National Highway NH 6. The railway gate closure has long been a source of frustration, with local people and representatives demanding an overbridge for years. The gate closes every 10 minutes for up to 20 minutes, affecting schoolchildren and workers trying to reach their destinations on time.

The National Highway connects key areas like Vivekanand Airport, Naya Raipur, Rajdhani,



Overbridge construction causes severe traffic disruptions.

Rajim, and Dhamtari, with thousands traveling this route daily. Mandir Hasaud hosts several

FASTFACTS

- Railway gate closures delay commuters, causing problems for schoolchildren and working professionals.
- Local traders struggle as overbridge construction obstructs shop access and deters customers.

industries, including Indian Oil, HP Gas Plant, Mivana Steel Plant, Jindal Steel Plant, FCI Warehouse, and numerous limestone mines, making it a critical transport hub.

The current overbridge construction on the National Highway has caused significant chaos, leading to frequent traffic jams, especially in the evenings. The situation is worsened by the poor condition of the service roads and the deactivated signal light at Mandir

Hasaud Chowk, now declared a danger zone due to daily accidents.

Local traders are also suffering as the construction has obstructed access to shops, impacting business and making it difficult to pay rent and sustain livelihoods. The lack of parking arrangements has deterred customers, further straining the traders. Rain adds to the misery, turning the area into a muddy hazard for pedestrians, increasing the risk of accidents.

RESIDENTS DEMAND TRANSIT |

City bus delay frustrates Mungeli residents

Sushil Shukla

MUNGELI: Despite the Chief Minister's announcement and government notification, Mungeli residents are still waiting for the promised city bus service. Over 12 years since Mungeli became a district, the city has seen significant growth with new educational institutions, government offices, and business hubs. The lack of public transportation has left citizens facing high



costs and inconvenience to reach these places.

The state government had issued a notification for the city bus route, but due to inaction from public representatives and administrative offi-

cers, the service has yet to commence. Residents have to rely on irregular and expensive auto-rickshaws, adding to their daily struggles.

The demand for city buses on Panderiya Road,

It will be started soon after addressing the obstacles affecting the city bus service.

Punnul Mohle
MLA Mungeli

Raipur Road, Bilaspur Road, Lormi Road, Navagarh Road, Ramgarh Road, and Kodwa Lalpur Road has been persistent. These routes are crucial

for students, employees, and residents accessing institutions like ITI Polytechnic College, Agriculture College, and various government offices.

Despite efforts by former minister and current MLA Punnul Mohle to secure approval for the city bus, the scheme has not been implemented. The responsibility was handed to Bilaspur Municipal Corporation, but due to their lack of attention, the project remains stalled.

Students enjoy bagless day with yoga session

Central Chronicle News

ARANG: On Saturday, retired headmaster Vinod Kumar Gupta led a yoga session for children on Bagless Day at Government Primary School Padhi. The event began with chants of "Bharat Mata Ki Jai," Om Naad, Gayatri Mantra, and Mahakal Mantra. Gupta taught the 12 steps and Asanas of Surya Namaskar, explaining their benefits. He also introduced Bhastrika, Kapalhati, Bahya

Pranayama, Anulom Vilom Pranayama, Bhamri, and Udgeet Pranava, detailing their health advantages to encourage daily practice among the children. The session concluded with Singhasan Hasya Asana, which the children particularly enjoyed.

Headmaster Umendra Kumar Chandrakar, along with teachers Shradhanjali Sahu, Ashrita Pradhan, Vishram Prasad Banjare, Ganeshwar Sahu, and about 100 children, participated in the event.

NEWSLINE

DEMAND

NHM workers seek salary hike



KHARORA: Mungeli: Under the leadership of National Health Mission (NHM) Union's State President Dr. Amit Miri and Kaushalesh Tiwari, NHM Union State Organization Chief Dr. Ravi Shankar Dixit, and District President Amit Dubey, a memorandum was submitted to address 18 demands, including a 27 percent salary hike and regularization of contract employees. The NHM contract employees have repeatedly presented their demands to the minister and MLAs. Despite a 27 percent salary hike announcement in the July 2023 supplementary budget for all departments, NHM Health Department employees have not yet received this benefit. Frustrated by the delay, contract health workers submitted a memorandum to the Chief Minister through the Additional Collector, seeking immediate action.

ROBBERY

Jewellery theft in Tekari

ARANG: The threat of theft has spread from cities to rural areas. In village Tekari, Mandir Hasaud police station area, thieves broke into the empty house of a soldier's family and stole gold and silver jewelry worth about Rs. 1 lakh. The family had gone on a pilgrimage, and upon their return on July 10, they discovered the theft. Victoria, the widow of late soldier Kishan Verma, lodged a report on July 12. She, along with her unmarried son, had left for Ujjain on July 2. They returned to find the locks of their home broken and various gold and silver ornaments stolen.

Awareness

Legal awareness camp on population issues



MUNGELI: On World Population Day, July 11th, a legal awareness camp was held at Swami Atmanand School Patharia and Anganwadi Center Karhi. The event was organized under the guidance of District and Sessions Judge and District Legal Services Authority Mungeli Chairman Chandra Kumar Ajgalle. Kanchan Lata Achala, Secretary of District Legal Services Authority Mungeli, highlighted the significance of World Population Day and discussed the issues arising from the increasing global population. The camp aimed to educate students about these critical topics. Teachers and school children actively participated in the event, gaining valuable insights into legal awareness and population challenges.



Arvind Kejriwal's health condition 'worrying':
Atishi
Delhi cabinet minister



Union Home Minister Amit Shah and others at the Pitreshwar Hanuman Temple, in Indore.

Amit Shah inaugurates 'PM College of Excellence' in MP

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has set a target to make India a developed nation by 2047 when the country will celebrate 100 years of Independence.

Press Trust Of India

INDORE: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday virtually inaugurated 'Prime Minister's College of Excellence' for all 55 districts in Madhya Pradesh and hailed Narendra Modi's farsightedness in bringing in the New Education Policy amid the aim of making India a developed country by 2047.

Speaking at the main programme held at the Atal Bihari Vajpayee Government Arts and Commerce College in Indore,

which has been developed as a PM College of Excellence, Shah praised MP for implementing the NEP ahead of other states. "Prime Minister Narendra Modi has set a target to make India a developed nation by 2047 when the country will celebrate 100 years of Independence. NEP will play a major role in it. In order to become a developed nation, the foundation of education has to be strengthened and PM Modi has shown farsightedness by bringing in NEP that fulfils

HIGHLIGHT

- Shah praised MP for starting medical and engineering courses in Hindi for the benefit of students.

- These colleges of excellence are coming up at an estimated cost of Rs 486 crore.

the needs of the next 25 years," he asserted.

"NEP will not only get our students to stand on par with people of the world but will also unite the country's culture.

It is focused on quality and not quantity and provides an opportunity to students to think out of the box. NEP ensures their 360 degree development," Shah said.

The Union Home Minister praised MP for starting medical and engineering courses in Hindi for the benefit of students.

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav, the state's Higher Education Minister Inder Singh Parmar, among others, also addressed the gathering on the occasion.

These colleges of excel-

lence, where all courses will be offered as per NEP and will aim to impart employment-oriented education, are coming up at an estimated cost of Rs 486 crore, officials said.

Shah, who took part in a mega sapling plantation drive earlier, said Indore, which is the cleanest city in India and a cotton centre, will also be known, henceforth, as an education hub. Indore is marching ahead in the pharma and automobile sectors and is without doubt the financial capital of the state, Shah said.

Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

AWARENESS DRIVE

ECoR's efforts to maintain cleanliness on trains, track and stations

BHUBANESWAR: East Coast Railway (ECoR) has launched a comprehensive drive aimed at enhancing cleanliness standards across its train network. The initiative focuses on educating passengers about the proper disposal of waste and ensuring effective waste management practices both on trains and at stations. In an effort to combat littering and promote responsible waste disposal, ECoR has implemented several key measures. ECoR has initiated a campaign to educate passengers on the importance of using designated dustbins located at both ends of each coach for disposing of waste materials. This initiative aims to encourage passengers to contribute to maintaining clean and hygienic train environments. Licensee staff onboard trains are tasked with collecting catering waste from passengers after every meal. **PTI**

DISPATCH

STORM-X fuel delivery from Paradip Refinery to Madras Int'l Circuit



PARADIP: Indian Oil launches the maiden dispatch of STORM-X, a high-octane gasoline specifically formulated for racing cars. This momentous event was virtually flagged off by V. Satish Kumar, Director, Marketing, in the presence of N. Senthil Kumar, Director, Pipelines, and Alok Sharma, Director, R&D. IndianOil has recently launched premium racing fuel for top-end motor racing events across the country and in the international circuit. **PTI**

Ensuring confidence

Don't believe in fake narratives on Constitution: Maha Dy CM Ajit Pawar to NCP workers



BARAMATI: Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar on Sunday asked NCP workers to trust him and not to believe in fake narratives, including about attempts to change the Constitution, spread by opponents.

"Till we are alive no one will dare to change the Constitution," he said addressing workers of his Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) at Baramati in Pune district.

Pawar said he believes in using power for the welfare of the poor, farmers and women and the state budget presented by him (last month during the monsoon session of the legislature highlights this objective.

"Poverty alleviation and development is my party's agenda while my opponents have focused on spreading fake narratives," he said and asked his supporters to trust him.

The deputy CM said he has asked Union minister Amit Shah to increase the MSP (minimum support price) of sugar, and added that one should not believe the "fake propaganda" that milk powder and onion were being imported. He said the NCP and the ruling Mahayuti allies (which also comprises BJP and Shiv Sena led by CM Eknath Shinde) will ensure no injustice is meted to anyone from any caste or religion. **PTI**

Interstate child trafficking racket busted

ITANAGAR: Police have busted an interstate child trafficking and prostitution racket targeting girls from the northeastern region, especially Arunachal Pradesh, an official said on Sunday.

Two minor girls were rescued and five individuals were arrested from Arunachal Pradesh and Delhi, Capital Superintendent of Police Rohit Rajbir Singh said. He said the case came to light on June 10, when the Itanagar Women police station received information about two missing girls aged 15 and 16 years. The victims were rescued from a house in Chimpu in Papum Pare district. The 15-year-old, a resident of East Kameng district, was lured to Delhi in September 2023 and forced into prostitution.

MATTER OF CONCERN

Climate change disrupting education outcomes

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Climate related stressors like heat, wildfires, floods, droughts, diseases and rising sea levels affect education outcomes and threaten to undo educational gains of recent decade, according to the Global Education Monitoring Report (GEM). The global report com-

plied by UNESCO, MECCE project and University of Saskatchewan in Canada has pointed out that most low and middle-income countries are experiencing climate-related school closures every year, increasing chances of learning loss and dropout. "Climate change related impacts are already disrupting education systems

ENERGY DEMAND

Chh'garh allocates three additional coal blocks to Raj

Press Trust Of India

Presently Rajasthan is producing about 180 lakh tonnes of coal from its PEKB and Kete Besan (PEKB) coal blocks.

JAIPUR: Keeping in mind the increasing electricity demand of the state, the government has requested the Chhattisgarh government to implement two more mines of Rajasthan State Electricity Generation Corporation. With the commencement of mining from Parsa and Kete Extension mines, the state will get 140 lakh tonnes of additional coal, which will provide cheap and continuous electricity to eight crore electricity con-



Vehicle for taking out coal.

FACTFILE

- Rajasthan Govt has invested more than Rs 40,000 crore on these power units as well as transmission and distribution networks.

sumers of Rajasthan. Presently Rajasthan is producing about 180 lakh tonnes of coal from its PEKB coal blocks. After obtaining all the necessary approvals from the Central Government and the State Government, coal

excavation was started in PEKB Coal Block from March 2013, which is still going on. About 4340 MW power generation capacity located in Chhabra, Kalisindh and Suratgarh of Rajasthan is dependent on PEKB coal mine.

Exposure to heat has significant detrimental effects on children's educational outcomes.

GEM UNESCO

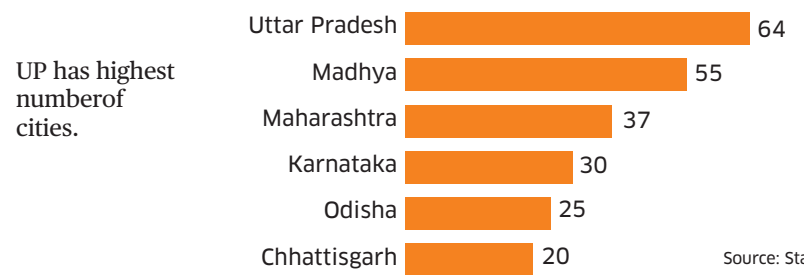


and outcomes.

Direct effects include the destruction of education infrastructure as well as injuries and loss of life among students, parents and school staff. Climate change has a negative impact on education indirectly through its displacement of people and the effects on people's livelihoods and health," the report said.

The Day's NUMBERS

STATE WISE LIST OF CITIES



WHC MEET

Sunken museum at Humayun's Tomb to open during WHC

NEW DELHI: The "country's first" sunken museum at the iconic Humayun's Tomb site in Delhi is likely to be inaugurated soon, sources said on Sunday.

Efforts are on to schedule the inauguration during the upcoming meeting of the World Heritage Committee (WHC) in the national capital, they added.

India will host the 46th session of the WHC in New Delhi from July 21-31 at Bharat Mandapam.

In conjunction with the WHC meeting, the sixth edition of the World Heritage Site Managers' Forum will be organised here from July 18-25, according to UNESCO.

People familiar with the matter in Delhi said at least for three days, site managers from cultural, natural and mixed World Heritage properties all around the globe, will gather at the site of Humayun's Tomb to take part in the forum. **PTI**

RSS MEETING

Youths attracted to our ideology, joining us in large numbers every year



RANCHI: Youths in large numbers are getting "attracted to RSS ideology" and becoming a part of it every year, an office bearer of the organisation said on Sunday.

Over one lakh youths join the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh each year through the 'Join RSS' platform, its national publicity head Sunil Ambekar said. Ambekar was addressing the media on the concluding day of the three-day meeting of 'Prant Pracharaks' in Ranchi.

"A total of 66,529 people joined the RSS till June this year," he said. **PTI**



QUOTE FROM THE QUOTABLE

The greatest glory in living lies not in never falling, but in rising every time we fall.

[Nelson Mandela]

Comment

Rethinking NEET UG: Pathways to fair medical admissions

OUR VIEW |

Revitalizing India's informal sector amid economic challenges

India's informal sector has been grappling with unprecedented challenges over the past decade, stemming from three major economic upheavals: the 2016 demonetisation, the implementation of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) in 2017, and the Covid-19 lockdowns in 2020. These shocks have cumulatively led to a staggering loss of 16.45 lakh jobs in seven years, as revealed by the latest Annual Survey of Unincorporated Enterprises by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation. This data underscores the fragility of unincorporated enterprises, which operate outside the formal regulatory framework and are especially vulnerable to policy changes and economic disruptions. The employment decline—from 11.13 crore in 2015-16 to 10.96 crore in 2022-23—paints a stark picture of the sector's diminished capacity to sustain jobs. However, amid this downturn, there are signs of resilience. Between 2021-22 and 2022-23, the number of establishments grew by 5.88 percent, and the estimated number of workers increased by 7.84 percent. The sector's Gross Value Added also saw a 9.83 percent rise, indicating a tentative recovery fueled by enhanced capital investment, access to loans, and increased utilization of information technology. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent focus on job creation, particularly in rural areas and the manufacturing sector, is a timely and critical response. The informal sector remains a cornerstone of India's employment landscape, and its ability to generate jobs is essential for economic stability. For the government to truly support this sector, it must prioritize improving Centre-state relations and enhancing the on-ground implementation of supportive programs. The systemic vulnerabilities laid bare by the trio of economic shocks must be addressed head-on. This entails crafting targeted policies that bolster the informal sector and creating a more robust safety net for its workers. By doing so, the government can mitigate future risks and foster a more resilient and sustainable growth trajectory for the nation.

GUEST VIEW |

Transparency needed in hiked toll fees and collection

The National Highway Act 1956 governs toll tax in India, with the National Highways Fee (Determination of Rates and Collection) Rules 2008 outlining toll payment regulations. Despite clear guidelines on toll collection, public frustration over high fees persists. People are willing to pay higher fees if the process is quick, transparent, and efficient. The National Highway Authorities of India (NHAI) plans to increase toll fees and introduce a barrier-free electronic toll collection system. This satellite-based system aims to streamline the toll process for various vehicle types. However, it remains unclear if the new system will reduce toll charges, as it will lower staff and operational costs. Additionally, implementing a pay-per-use system for highway stretches is essential. The NHAI must prioritize repairing deteriorated roads on national highways to improve overall travel conditions. Ensuring transparency and efficiency in toll collection is crucial to gaining public trust and compliance with the new system.



Dr. Ganapathi Bhat

The goal of examination reform should be to ensure that people from disadvantaged sections are adequately represented in the medical field and that they can contribute to making health-care accessible to their communities.

Since its inception about a decade ago, the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) has been a politically contentious issue in Tamil Nadu. Recently, it has become a national issue. NEET was originally conceptualized to ensure merit-based selection to medical schools and standardize the medical entrance process. It aimed to address the issue of high capitation fees charged by private medical institutions. However, has the examination achieved its intended goals? Has NEET curbed the commercialization of medical education?

This year, more than 24 lakh candidates sat for the NEET after paying application fees ranging between Rs 1,000 to Rs 1,700, generating about Rs 337 crore in revenue for the testing agency. Additionally, can-

didates spend several lakhs on coaching to prepare for the test.

The initial eligibility for qualification, set at the 50th percentile, was reduced to the 30th percentile in 2020 and further to zero percentile in 2023. This change aimed to address vacant seats in private medical colleges. However, after the 60,000 seats in government medical colleges are filled, the capacity to pay becomes crucial in filling the remaining 50,000 seats in private colleges. This makes the MBBS dream virtually unattainable for students from economically weak backgrounds, despite scoring high marks in NEET.

NEET is just one of several changes in the country's medical education ecosystem in the past decade. Other changes include the dissolution of the Medical Council of India due to corruption charges, a reduction in the faculty-student ratio from 1:1 to 1:3, and the introduction of public-private partnership models for developing medical colleges in each district, with entire district hospitals being handed over to private players. The



Vijay GarG

Retired Principal Educational columnist malout

medical sector has also seen reforms such as the Ayushman Bharat insurance scheme, which allows people below the poverty line to access tertiary care, and the renaming of primary health centres as Ayushman Arogya Mandirs in partnership with private entities.

The low entry requirement for NEET can undermine the importance of excelling in high school, which in turn lowers the standard of school education. State governments and their education ministries have no say in the selection process of future doctors in their states. Moreover, incidents such as paper leaks and the allocation of grace marks without formal approval have eroded trust in NEET and the National Testing Agency (NTA).

Tamil Nadu's experience over five decades shows that factors such as infrastructure, faculty numbers, and the extent of patient care services determine the quality of young doctors far more than entrance examinations. Exam-based selection criteria serve merely as a gate-pass. As educationists William Sedlacek and Sue H. Kim note,

it is unlikely that a single measure could work equally well for all given the cultural and racial diversity of students. Testing students from diverse backgrounds in a country with myriad diversities is not a justifiable method.

NEET needs to be reevaluated. Public health is a state subject, and education falls under the concurrent list. All states need to be involved in framing admissions processes, especially for institutions controlled by the state government. The debate on NEET touches on broader issues of educational equity and federalism. If NEET is problematic, what are the alternatives?

The primary objective of refining the medical entrance process is to ensure that students with high average marks gain admission to both government-run and private medical colleges while providing adequate support to students from marginalized communities. This will ensure that people from disadvantaged sections are adequately represented in the medical field and can contribute to making healthcare accessible to their communities.

North India's critical groundwater crisis

Northern India has lost 450 cubic kilometers of groundwater in two decades, a crisis exacerbated by climate change, impacting agriculture and water security. *by Press Trust of India*



Northern India lost approximately 450 cubic kilometers of groundwater between 2002 and 2021

A recent study reveals that northern India lost approximately 450 cubic kilometers of groundwater between 2002 and 2021, a quantity 37 times the capacity of the Indira Sagar dam, India's largest reservoir. This alarming depletion is expected to worsen due to climate change, according to lead author Vimal Mishra, a professor at IIT Gandhinagar.

Researchers utilized on-site observations, satellite data, and models to analyze the situation. They found that monsoon season rainfall (June to September) in north India decreased by 8.5% from 1951 to 2021, and winter temperatures increased by 0.3 degrees Celsius over the same period. The team, including scientists from the National Geophysical Research Institute (NGRI) in Hyderabad, concluded that these climatic changes will further escalate groundwater depletion by increasing irrigation demand and reducing groundwater recharge.

A drier monsoon forces farmers to rely more on groundwater for crops during rainfall-deficit periods. Additionally, warmer winters result in drier soils that require more irrigation.

This trend was particularly evident during the unusually warm winter of 2022, the fifth warmest on record for India. The study projects that the combination of less monsoon rainfall and warmer winters, driven by climate change, will cause a significant decline in groundwater recharge, estimated at 6-12%.

Despite an increase in overall rainfall due to climate change, most of it is expected to occur as extreme events, which do not contribute effectively to groundwater replenish-

ment. For groundwater to recharge effectively, low-intensity rainfall spread over many days is necessary, explained Mishra. Groundwater levels are heavily influenced by the rainfall received during summer monsoons and the amount of groundwater extracted for crop irrigation, which occurs from June to September for Kharif crops and December to March for Rabi crops.

The study's findings challenge the optimistic view that increased rainfall due to climate change will alle-

viate water scarcity. Instead, the intensified irrigation demands and reduced groundwater recharge pose a serious threat to this vital resource.

In 2009, a monsoon season with 20% less rainfall and an unusually warm winter led to a 10% reduction in groundwater storage, illustrating the detrimental effects of such climatic conditions.

Furthermore, soil moisture loss during winters has significantly increased over the past four decades, suggesting a link to warming

temperatures and increased irrigation demands. The researchers project that continued warming, with monsoons drier by 10-15% and winters warmer by 1-5 degrees Celsius, will spike irrigation water demands by 6-20%. A temperature rise of 1-3 degrees Celsius across north India will also hamper groundwater replenishment by 7-10%.

The study emphasizes the policy implications of these findings, especially in light of the water crisis experienced during recent heatwaves. Groundwater is crucial for food and water security in India, and its importance will grow as climate change intensifies demands for irrigation and industrial use. Surface water storage, such as reservoirs and dams, is insufficient to meet these demands during summer, as evidenced in cities like Delhi and Bengaluru.

Mishra warns that neglecting groundwater resources could lead to severe water security challenges in the future. The study calls for cautious and judicious exploitation of groundwater to mitigate the impending crisis and ensure sustainable water management in a warming climate.

YOUR LETTERS

Escalating Russia-Ukraine tensions

The Western Bloc's pledge of NATO membership for Ukraine and a minimum of 40 billion euros in military aid guarantees prolonged conflict. Turkish President Erdogan warned against direct NATO-Russia confrontation. With NATO allies transferring F-16 jets to Ukraine and President Biden vowing to defend NATO territory, tensions escalate. The alliance must focus on restoring peace instead of using provocative rhetoric, to prevent further destabilization in the region and avoid unnecessary casualties.

MK Nair, Raipur

Defending India's strategic autonomy

The US envoy's statement, "Can't take ties for granted," following PM Narendra Modi's Russia visit, underscores tensions. Despite threats of trade or military sanctions from the US-led Western bloc, India remains steadfast in its strategic autonomy, selecting allies that align with its national interests. The era of US policing and dictating foreign policies is over. India's growing global influence and assertiveness in its foreign policy choices can no longer be ignored or denied by the international community.

Shiv Kumar Mishra, Raipur

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



Signature Global
to launch housing
projects worth Rs
13,000 cr.
Pradeep Kumar Aggarwal,
Chairman, Signature
Global.

Chinese toy concept POP MART, in Amsterdam



Customers look at toys in a Chinese toy concept POP MART, in Amsterdam, on July 14.

Exports positive despite global challenges: Goyal

India's exports have recorded healthy growth in May and remained in the positive zone in June and the first quarter of the current fiscal despite global challenges.

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: India's exports have recorded healthy growth in May and remained in the positive zone in June and the first quarter of the current fiscal despite global challenges, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal has said. He also said that growth in the services sector is helping the country's outbound shipments to register positive growth rates. "In May, exports were

positive, the figure for June is also positive. The first quarter is also in the positive territory," Goyal told PTI. India's merchandise exports rose 9.1 per cent to USD 38.13 billion in May. During April-May this fiscal, the outbound shipments grew by 5.1 per cent to USD 73.12 billion. The commerce ministry will officially release the export data for June on July 15. "Despite the ongoing two wars (Russia-Ukraine and Israel-Hamas), the Red

NUMBER

38.13

● India's merchandise exports rose 9.1 per cent to USD 38.13 billion in May.

● Commerce ministry will release the export data for June on July 15.

Sea crisis, and container shortage issues, our exports

are in a positive zone. One more advantage that we have is the fast pace growth in the services exports," the minister said. He added that the services sector has received a boost from the government's Digital India mission. "The roll-out of 4G and 5G in the country too is helping the services exports of India," Goyal noted. Last month, the minister stated that India's goods and services exports are expected to cross USD 800 billion this fiscal

despite global challenges. In 2023-24, the shipments stood at USD 778.2 billion (goods USD 437.1 billion and services USD 341 billion). When asked about foreign direct investments (FDI) into the country, he said the inflows would increase once the international recessionary conditions start improving and interest rates in the US and Europe start coming down. Irrespective of this situation, India is continuously receiving FDI, he added.

| ANNUAL REPORT |

Expects power brand to drive growth: Dabur Chairman

Press Trust Of India

The company is "confident" about the resilience of its business strategy.

NEW DELHI: FMCG maker Dabur India is optimistic of a gradual uptick in consumption this fiscal and expects its power brands to drive growth as it expands deeper into the hinterland, its chairman Mohit Burman has said. Dabur expects an improvement in rural consumption, where it will continue to expand its footprint, while for urban markets, it will increase play by adding more premium offerings and entering into adjacent categories, according to the latest annual report of the company. "We are optimistic

of a gradual uptick in consumption trends over the course of the next year, considering predictions of a normal monsoon, improving macroeconomic indicators, continued government spending on infrastructure building, and lower inflation," Burman said while addressing the shareholders of the company. The company is "confident"

FACTFILE

● The company expects its power brands to continue to drive growth as it expands its reach deeper

about the resilience of its business strategy.

It expects its power brands to continue to drive growth as it expands its reach deeper, increasing its



Dabur India Chairman Mohit Burman. total addressable market. The 2023-24 fiscal saw a slowdown in consumption led by rural demand, which was impacted by high food inflation and erratic rainfall.

Currently, Dabur's 75 per cent business comes from the domestic business. Its domestic business is concentrated in eight power brands - Dabur Chyawanprash, Dabur Honey, Dabur Honitus, Dabur Pudina,

Hara, Dabur Lal Tail, Dabur Amla, Dabur Red Paste, Real. Dabur's portfolio currently includes nine distinct power brands - eight in India and one in the overseas markets, which together account for around 70 per cent of its total sales.

As part of its growth strategy, Dabur is also focusing on new-age channels like Quick Commerce, besides traditional channels. "There has also been the emergence of Quick Commerce as a robust channel, which has seen exponential growth. We foresee Q-Commerce to become more significant going forward and are putting in place strategies to capture the opportunities thrown up by this channel," said Dabur India CEO Mohit Malhotra.

| MSME PAYMENT RULE |

Continue 45-day MSME payment rule: Industry body to FM

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Industry body SME Chamber of India has urged Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman to continue the 45-day MSME payment rule for corporates and other buyers. According to Section 43B(h) of the Income Tax Act, introduced through the Finance Act 2023, if a larger company does not pay an

MSME on time - within 45 days in case of written agreements - it cannot deduct that expense from its taxable income, leading to potentially higher taxes. The government in last year's Budget added a new clause under Section 43B of the Income Tax Act to address the challenge of delayed payments faced by MSMEs in the country. "We are pursuing not to



change the 45-day MSME payment rules imposed by the Department under the pressure of corporates or multinational companies to save the life span of the MSME sector. Section 43B(h) of the Income Tax Act reinforces the impor-

tance of timely payments by mandating that companies settle payments to MSME vendors within 45 days to qualify for deductions," SME Chamber said in a statement addressed to Sitharaman. The industry body argued that this provision serves as a powerful incentive for companies to adhere to payment timelines, thereby supporting the financial health of

MSMEs. "Many MSMEs are NPA victims of corporates, who are buying from them and not dealing through the TReDs platform. Most of the corporates and multinational companies are forcefully insisting to deregister from the Udyam Portal and insisting not to deal through the TReDs platform," SME Chamber stated.

BizBriefs

BEST OF THE REST

XIAOMI'S REVENUE

Xiaomi India profit plunges 77 pc to Rs 239 cr, revenue dips

NEW DELHI: Chinese smart device maker Xiaomi Technology's profit in India nosedived 77 per cent year-on-year to Rs 238.63 crore in the 2022-23 fiscal, according to a regulatory filing. The company had posted a profit of Rs 1,057.7 crore in the preceding financial year. Xiaomi's revenue from operations declined by about 32 per cent to Rs 26,697 crore in FY23 from about Rs 39,100 crore in FY22. Xiaomi earned Rs 26,395 crore from the sale of products and Rs 264 crore from the sale of services, which include advertisements and value-added services, among others, during the year under review. The company recorded a 25 per cent decline in smartphone shipment during 2022, including three-quarters of FY23, while it is still leading the Indian smartphone market with a 21 per cent market share, according to market research firm IDC.

EV ASSEMBLING

Mercedes-Benz mulls assembling more EVs to meet zero emission



NEW DELHI: German luxury carmaker Mercedes-Benz is considering assembling more electric vehicles at its plant in India not merely to gain cost advantage but also to meet its zero emission mobility and carbon neutral setup goals, according to a senior company official. Mercedes-Benz India, which currently assembles its flagship electric luxury sedan EQS at its Chakan unit, is considering localisation of other models depending on demand. "Our final goal is zero emission mobility and carbon neutral setup, which not only means about tailpipe emissions, but also from the recyclability of the car, to the carbon footprint that we generate by producing these cars," Mercedes-Benz India Managing Director & CEO Santosh Iyer told PTI.

How the market will behave next week?

Trading activity to hinge on Q1 results, global trends in holiday-shortened week: Analysts



NEW DELHI: As the results season kicks in, the quarterly earnings numbers of several blue-chip firms -- such as Infosys and Reliance Industries -- along with global trends and trading activity of foreign investors, will determine equity market movement in the holiday-shortened week ahead, according to analysts. The domestic WPI inflation data for June -- scheduled to be announced on Monday -- will also influence trading sentiments, traders said.

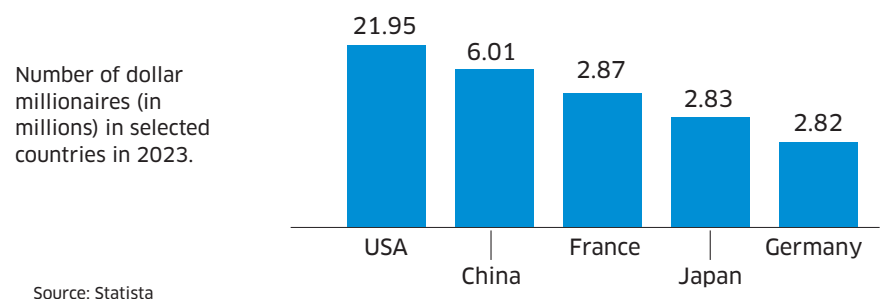
Markets will remain closed on Wednesday for Muharram. Among

major quarterly earnings to be tracked this week are from HDFC Life Insurance Company, Bajaj Auto, BPCL, JSW Steel, Asian Paints, Infosys, and Reliance Industries.

"Q1 earnings will be a key focus this week as numerous companies, including heavyweights Infosys, and Reliance, are set to release their results. Additionally, pre-Budget discussions are expected to contribute to market volatility," Santosh Meena, Head of Research, Swastika Investmart Ltd, said. On the global front, a significant focus will be on China.

The Day's NUMBERS

NUMBER OF MILLIONAIRES KEEPS RISING



BOND DUES

'Govt will pay bond interest dues of MTNL, there will be no default'

NEW DELHI: The government will pay the bond dues of ailing Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd (MTNL), a DoT source said assuring that there will be no default, and that the amount will be paid before the due date of July 20. The move assumes significance as it would avert a looming crisis for the telecom corporation which is being seen teetering on the brink with regard to its debt obligations that are becoming due. All eyes are on MTNL, ever since the debt-laden firm last week expressed its inability to make interest payments to certain bondholders due to paucity of funds. Telecom Department sources said that the government will step in and pay the said dues, and asserted that there won't be any default on the same. In this particular case, where the second semi-annual interest (7.59 per cent) on certain bonds is falling due on July 20, 2024, DoT sources said that "the dues will be paid before the date".

AC INDUSTRY

Indian AC industry likely to double in next 4 years: Blue Star

NEW DELHI: The air-conditioning industry, valued at around Rs 27,500 crore (USD 3.3 billion), is likely to double in the next four years, Blue Star has said in its annual report. The Indian HVAC&R (heating, ventilating, air conditioning and refrigerating) is poised for exponential growth, said Blue Star Chairman & Managing Director Vir S Advani. This growth would be driven by factors such as "low penetration" of room ACs and the burgeoning middle-class consumers with "high disposable incomes", especially from smaller Tier III, IV & V markets. "The Indian The overall AC industry (both residential and commercial), currently valued at around Rs 27,500 crore, is likely to double in the next four years," Advani said in his address to the company's shareholders in the annual report for 2023-24.



“Ordered several volumes of MAHABHARAT but couldn't keep them at home, so donated them to a library instead.”

Amitabh Bachchan
Actor



& Glitters

OIT Watch



Bollywood's Ishaan Khatter bares all for Netflix debut

Ishaan Khatter, who was last seen in a biographical war film, Pippa, in 2023, is soon making his Hollywood debut. Ishaan will now feature in Netflix's TV series, The Perfect Couple, starring Australian-American actress Nicole Kidman in the leading role.



Neha Kakkar & Vicky Kaushal: Bollywood's new dance duo?

Vicky Kaushal grooves with Neha Kakkar on 'Tauba Tauba' from 'Bad Newz' on 'Superstar Singer 3'. Dashing 'Bad Newz' cast electrifies 'Namaste 90's' episode with musical extravaganza.



Kusha's back with something new and hilarious

Kusha Kapila and Divyendu star in 'Life Hill Gavi', a delightful slice-of-life comedy series on Disney+ Hotstar. Directed by Prem Mistry, it explores sibling dynamics with rural charm and promises to be a refreshing watch.



Cerone cleans up for "The Cleaning Lady" S4

Daniel Cerone takes reins as showrunner for Season 4 of 'The Cleaning Lady' amid behind-the-scenes changes. Adan Canto's death prompts significant storyline adjustments in the Hulu series.



Hunger Games escalate: Prepare for 'The Platform 2'

The Platform 2 teaser offers a gruesome glimpse into Netflix's sequel, showing new characters grappling with the prison's brutal feeding system. Mark your calendars for its October 4 release.

CLOSE UP

Ulajh poster: Fans love Janhvi Kapoor's powerful new avatar

Recently, Janhvi Kapoor took to her Instagram account to share her new film, Ulajh's posters. She's playing the role of a government official in the film and it has an ensemble cast as well.

Central Chronicle News

Janhvi Kapoor's rumoured boyfriend, Shikhar Pahariya, displayed his approval for her look. He left a like on her post and also shared it on his Instagram Stories, reacting with a lioness emoji.



Janhvi Kapoor starrer Ulajh is all set to release on 2nd August 2024.

Janhvi Kapoor takes on the role of a young diplomat in Ulajh, slated for release in August 2024. New posters showcase Janhvi's boss lady persona, offering glimpses of Gulshan Devaiah and Roshan Mathew's characters. Shikhar Pahariya, rumoured to be Janhvi's boyfriend, has voiced his approval of the posters. Today, Ulajh's makers unveiled two posters. One features the ensemble cast—Janhvi Kapoor, Gulshan Devaiah, Roshan Mathew, Rajesh Tailang, and Meiyang Chang—in a dramatic setting inside the Indian High Commission, hinting at intense drama and mystery. In Janhvi's solo poster, she appears in formal attire, holding a confidential file, her expression hinting at intrigue and suspense. The caption reads, "Every face tells a story and every story is a trap! Ulajh unfolds in cinemas near you from 2nd Aug, promising a thrilling cinematic experience!"



Shikhar Pahariya praises Ulajh posters

Janhvi Kapoor's rumoured boyfriend, Shikhar Pahariya, displayed his approval for her look. He left a like on her post and also shared it on his Instagram Stories, reacting with a lioness emoji. Janhvi's cousin Shanaya Kapoor used heart eyes and raised hands emojis in the comments section.

Vedang Raina commented with a fire and a red heart emoji. Khushi Kapoor also shared her sister's post and expressed her love with heart emojis. Arjun Kapoor and Ananya Panday conveyed their admiration with a like. Ulajh also stars Adil Hussain, Jitendra Joshi, and Rajendra Gupta.



| HOLLYWOOD |

Kardashian sisters touchdown in Mumbai for Ambani extravaganza!

Central Chronicle News

In a dazzling display of Hollywood glamour meeting Indian opulence, sisters Kim Kardashian, 43, and Khloe Kardashian, 40, have descended upon Mumbai for the much-anticipated wedding of Anant Ambani and Radhika Merchant. Arriving early Friday morning amidst a flurry of excitement and flashing cameras, the Kardashian duo, accompanied by their entourage and security, set the scene for what promises to be a wedding of unparalleled grandeur. Kim, known for her iconic social media presence,



Kim Kardashian and Khloe Kardashian received a grand welcome in Mumbai.

HIGHLIGHT

Reality show stars, Kim Kardashian and her sister Khloe Kardashian, arrived in Mumbai for Anant Ambani and Radhika Merchant's wedding in Mumbai on July 12. Kim shared pictures of her grand welcome in the city.

wasted no time sharing their Indian adventure on Instagram Stories. From the traditional 'teeka' welcome to being serenaded by live flute music as they walked through a lavishly decorated hotel adorned with 'diyas' and flowers, every moment was captured in true Kardashian style. Khloe, equally mesmerized by the festivities, provided glimpses behind the scenes, showcasing a production crew capturing their every move amid the wedding preparations.

The Ambani-Merchant nuptials, set against the backdrop of Mumbai's Jio World Convention Center, mark the culmination of

months-long celebrations that began with star-studded events in Gujarat and continued with a luxurious cruise across Europe.

CineBriefs

BEST OF THE REST

Bollywood

Kubbra Sait and Dhawan join forces for upcoming feature

Kubbra Sait, known for her roles in "Sacred Games" and "Jawaani Jaaneman," has joined the cast of veteran filmmaker David Dhawan's upcoming family entertainer. Alongside stars Varun Dhawan, Maniesh Paul, and Mrunal Thakur, she marked the first day of filming with a series of behind-the-scenes photos shared on her Instagram Stories. The film, produced by Tips Films and also featuring Sreeleela, is scheduled for a theatrical release next year. This collaboration marks the third time David Dhawan directs his son Varun Dhawan, following their work on "Main Tera Hero" (2014) and the successful reboot of "Coolie No 1" (2020).

Web Series

Celebrating a Visionary: Netflix unveils SS Rajamouli documentary

Netflix announced "Modern Masters: SS Rajamouli," a documentary on the acclaimed filmmaker behind "Baahubali" and "RRR". The film, produced by Applause Entertainment and Film Companion Studios and directed by Raghav Khanna, explores Rajamouli's impact on Indian and global cinema. It includes insights from Rajamouli himself and features interviews with James Cameron, Joe Russo, Karan Johar, and actors like Prabhas, Rana Daggubati, Jr NTR, and Ram Charan. Monika Shergill of Netflix India praised Rajamouli's visionary storytelling, while Sameer Nair of Applause Entertainment highlighted his transformative influence on Indian filmmaking.

Bollywood hot pair

Priyanka Chopra and Nick Jonas return to Mumbai amidst cheers



Priyanka Chopra and Nick Jonas are gearing up for Anant Ambani and Radhika Merchant's wedding with a glamorous date night in Mumbai. Arriving on July 11, the couple received a warm paparazzi welcome at the airport. Priyanka shared a stunning picture on Instagram, showcasing their impeccable style for the occasion. Fans are swoon-

ing over the couple's chemistry and fashion sense, flooding social media with admiration. Priyanka, who flew in from Dubai, shared glimpses of her journey and expressed her love for Mumbai's monsoon. Known for her close ties with the Ambani family, Priyanka's arrival sets the stage for a memorable wedding celebration, eagerly anticipated by fans.

Fashion

Sonakshi Sinha stuns in power attire promoting spooky comedy 'Kakuda'

Actress Sonakshi Sinha, currently promoting 'Kakuda', showcased strong boss lady vibes in a recent photoshoot. Sharing images with her 28.3 million Instagram followers, she donned a white shirt, black blazer, and wide-legged trousers. Her makeup featured matte tones, including nude pink lips and winged eyeliner, complemented by defined brows and contoured cheeks.



Trending on Insta

@ananyapanday

Ananya Panday shares minimalist Mehndi look

Ananya Panday shares her mehndi ceremony joy on Instagram Stories, flaunting her purple-golden lehenga and henna design. Her posts reflect excitement for traditional celebrations, capturing moments from the Haldi function with playful captions.



@varundvn

Varun Dhawan's heart-melting baby moment takes over reels!

Varun Dhawan joins the 1-second reel trend, posting a clip of himself making a finger pop sound to catch his newborn baby's attention. The adorable video has quickly gone viral.





Wellness

MONSOON & SKIN INFECTIONS

Essential practices for healthy skin during monsoon season

This monsoon season, pay special attention to your skin as you may encounter infections that can damage your skin in many ways.



The increased moisture and high humidity create a perfect environment for several skin issues.

The arrival of the rainy season brings welcome relief from summer heat, but it also ushers in a slew of potential skin problems. Increased moisture and humidity create an ideal environment for various skin issues. The combination of damp conditions, poor ventilation, and prolonged contact with wet clothing can lead to fungal infections. These infections typically manifest as red, itchy rashes, commonly found in the groin and buttock areas but can spread to other body parts if not managed promptly. To protect your skin during the monsoon season, it's essential to adopt a proactive approach. Start by cleansing your skin daily with a mild cleanser, paying particular attention to areas prone to sweating. Keeping the skin dry with the use of talcum powder and wearing breathable fabrics helps prevent moisture build-up. Staying hydrated is crucial as it helps maintain skin moisture levels. Additionally, consider using antifungal creams pre-emp-



HIGHLIGHT

● The monsoon brings relief from summer heat but also introduces various skin issues. Learn how to protect your skin from fungal infections, acne, and other common rainy season problems.

tively, especially if you're prone to fungal infections. Cover any wounds or cuts to prevent them

from becoming entry points for infections. Avoid sharing personal items such as towels and clothes to minimize the risk of spreading infections. A balanced diet rich in vitamins and nutrients supports overall skin health.

Early detection and prompt treatment are key to managing skin infections effectively. If symptoms persist or worsen, seeking medical advice promptly is advisable. By following these practices, you can protect your skin from common monsoon-related infections and ensure healthy skin throughout the rainy season and beyond.

Coffee: Beyond the Buzz- Unveiling health benefits

Coffee stands as a potent super food in the health landscape, brimming with antioxidants like chlorogenic acid that combat oxidative stress. Its caffeine content boosts alertness by blocking adenosine receptors in the brain, increasing dopamine and norepinephrine levels. Packed with essential nutrients such as riboflavin, niacin, and manganese, coffee supports energy metabolism and overall wellness. Research indicates it aids in managing metabolic syndrome, reducing risks of diabetes and cardiovascular diseases. Like vegetables, coffee contains flavonoids that protect cells from oxidative damage.



GOOD LIVING

Cultivate Tranquillity: Create a zen oasis in your home



"Zen and the Art of Home Decor" explores the harmonious blend of minimalist aesthetics and tranquillity, creating serene living spaces. Integrating natural elements like bamboo, stone, and soft lighting, it cultivates a peaceful ambiance conducive to relaxation. Embracing simplicity in design, each room becomes a sanctuary with clutter-free surfaces and mindful placement of furniture. Inspired by Japanese principles of wabi-sabi, imperfections are celebrated, adding depth and character. Through careful curation of colours and textures, every corner embodies balance and mindfulness, fostering a sense of calm and rejuvenation in daily living.

| SELF-SILENCING |

Potential link between poor oral hygiene and pancreatic cancer risk

Central Chronicle News

HIGHLIGHT

● From inflammation to alteration in the pancreatic environment, here are a few ways by which poor oral hygiene can increase pancreatic cancer risk.

being a major contributing factor. The newly established guidelines aim to provide a comprehensive framework for the management of lipid disorders. They emphasize the importance of regular screenings, especially for individuals with risk factors such as obesity, diabetes, and a family history of heart disease. The guidelines also recommend lifestyle modifications, including a balanced diet low in saturated fats and regular physical activity, as first-line interventions.



Signs of pancreatic cancer are yellowing of the skin, upper abdominal pain, dark urine, itchy skin, nausea and fatigue.

For individuals with significantly elevated cholesterol levels, statins and other lipid-lowering medications are advised.

By raising awareness and promoting proactive management, these guidelines aspire to reduce the burden of cardiovascular diseases in India. Dr. Reddy, a leading cardiologist, highlights, "Early detection and intervention are crucial.

HealthTips

WEEKNIGHT WINS: WHIP UP DELICIOUS DINNERS IN A FLASH

Lemon Rice

Ingredients

Basmati rice, lemon juice, mixed vegetables (peas, carrots), cashews, mustard seeds, urad dal (black gram lentils), curry leaves, green chillies, turmeric powder, oil, salt, fresh cilantro for garnish.

Instructions

Cook basmati rice with water until done. Heat oil in a pan, add mustard seeds and urad dal until they splutter. Sauté cashews until golden, add curry leaves and slit green chillies. Add mixed vegetables and turmeric, cook until tender. Add cooked rice, lemon juice, and salt. Mix gently, heat through. Garnish with cilantro before serving.



Vegetable Pulao

Ingredients

Basmati rice, mixed vegetables (like carrots, peas, bell peppers), onions, garlic, ginger, spices (cumin seeds, turmeric, garam masala), oil or ghee, salt.

Instructions

Heat oil or ghee in a pot, sauté onions, garlic, and ginger until fragrant. Add cumin seeds and spices, then stir in mixed vegetables. After a few minutes, add washed Basmati rice and water in a 1:2 ratio. Bring to a boil, reduce heat, cover, and simmer for 15-20 minutes until rice is cooked and water is absorbed.



Dal Tadka

Ingredients

Split yellow lentils (toor dal), onions, tomatoes, green chillies, garlic, ginger, spices (cumin seeds, mustard seeds, turmeric, red chilli powder), oil or ghee, cilantro for garnish, salt.

Instructions

Rinse lentils and cook in a pot with water until tender. In a separate pan, heat oil or ghee, add cumin seeds and mustard seeds until they splutter. Sauté onions, garlic, ginger, and green chillies until golden. Add chopped tomatoes, spices, and cooked lentils. Simmer for 10-15 minutes, garnish with cilantro.



Chana Masala

Ingredients

Chickpeas, onions, tomatoes, garlic, ginger, green chillies, spices (cumin seeds, coriander powder, turmeric, red chilli powder, garam masala), oil or ghee, cilantro for garnish, salt.

Instructions

Heat oil or ghee in a pan, add cumin seeds until they splutter. Sauté onions, garlic, ginger, and green chillies until golden. Add chopped tomatoes, spices, and cooked chickpeas. Simmer for 15-20 minutes, mash some chickpeas for thicker consistency. Garnish with coriander.



Palak Paneer

Ingredients

Paneer, spinach, onions, tomatoes, garlic, ginger, green chillies, spices (cumin seeds, turmeric, coriander powder, garam masala), cream, oil or ghee, salt.

Instructions

Blanch spinach and blend into a smooth puree. Sauté onions, garlic, ginger, and green chillies until golden. Add chopped tomatoes, spices, and spinach puree, cooking until flavours meld. Add paneer cubes and cream, simmer for a few minutes until heated through.



Matar Mushroom

Ingredients

Mushrooms, green peas, onions, tomatoes, garlic, ginger, green chillies, spices (cumin seeds, turmeric, coriander powder, red chilli powder), oil or ghee, cilantro for garnish, salt.

Instructions

Sauté onions until translucent. Add garlic, ginger, and green chillies, cooking until fragrant. Add chopped tomatoes and spices, cooking until tomatoes break down. Add mushrooms and green peas, simmer until mushrooms are cooked. Garnish with cilantro.



Sports



It (the lead) doesn't really matter on this golf course. Every day you have to battle it out.
Anirban Lahiri
Indian golfer

Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

HOCKEY

Jhansi to host Sub Junior men's and women's hockey championship

NEW DELHI: The second edition of Hockey India's sub junior men's and women's North Zone Championship will be held in Jhansi from Monday with the final slated to be played on July 22. The teams competing in the men's category are Hockey Haryana, Hockey Chandigarh and Hockey Uttarakhand in Pool A. While Pool B comprises Uttar Pradesh Hockey, Hockey Punjab, Delhi Hockey, and Hockey Jammu and Kashmir. In the women's category, the competing teams are Hockey Haryana, Uttar Pradesh Hockey, Hockey Punjab, Hockey Himachal, Hockey Chandigarh and Hockey Uttarakhand. Hockey Punjab and Hockey Jammu and Kashmir will get the event underway in the men's category, followed by matches between Uttar Pradesh Hockey and Delhi Hockey. **PTI**

GOLF

Aditi Ashok climbs to T-22nd at Evian championship



EVIAN LES BAINS (FRANCE): Indian golfer Aditi Ashok shot three birdies in the last four holes of the third round as she carded a 4-under 67 and jumped 22 places to tied-22 at the Amundi Evian Championship here. The Indian, who has played more than 30 Majors, vaulted to 5-under for three rounds as she continues her search for her maiden Top-10 finish in a Major. Earlier, Diksha Dagar had withdrawn from the event after her first round 76. Both Aditi and Diksha will play for India at the Olympic Games in Paris. **PTI**

Bharat In Paris event

'Bharat in Paris' marathon flagged off to celebrate Indian Olympic movement



CHENNAI: New Delhi: The 'Bharat in Paris' marathon was flagged off here on Sunday to celebrate India's Olympic movement as well as the recognition of Esports by the IOC. The race was flagged off by union minister of textiles Giriraj Singh and Manoj Tiwary, a member of the parliament. A total of 118 athletes, led by ace javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra, will compete in the Paris Olympics, starting July 26. The International Olympic Committee (IOC) and the Saudi Arabia government have entered into an agreement to conduct the inaugural Olympic Esports Games in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia next year.

"The Bharat In Paris event marks the recognition of Esports amongst traditional sports. The run aims to integrate traditional sports with the fast growing Indian esports segment, which even the Government of India has acknowledged recently," a release said. Giriraj said, "The growing opportunity of digital India offers great possibilities in leveraging new sports such as esports." Along with the run, the event also included an esports tournament with a cumulative winners' prize pool of Rs 2.64 lakh. While the runners got a prize of Rs 1.50 lakh, the esports competitors received Rs 1.14 lakh. **PTI**

The Day's NUMBERS

MOST FIFTIES IN T20 INTERNATIONAL CRICKET

Martin Gupthill tops the chart	Virat Kohli	37
	Rohit Sharma	32
	Babar Azam	30
	David Warner	22
	Paul Stirling	21

Source: ICC

OLYMPICS

Shot putter Abha Khatua's name suspiciously missing in WA's list

NEW DELHI: Shot putter Abha Khatua's name was surprisingly missing from the Indian athletics team's list of Olympic participants published by World Athletics, even as she currently trains in Poland ahead of the Paris Games. Khatua, who qualified for the Olympics through world ranking route, left the country for Spala in Poland on Thursday, along with other track and field athletes. From there, the athletes will reach Paris on July 28. Mysteriously enough, the World Athletics' list of participants for the Paris Games published on Friday night had only 29 Indian track and field athletes, instead of 30 names entered by Athletics Federation of India (AFI) through the Indian Olympic Association (IOA), with Abha's name missing. It is unlikely that it could be a technical error on the part of World Athletics, though officials of the international body could not be contacted. **PTI**

SQUASH

Anahat Singh and Shaurya Bawa advance 4th round of World Junior Squash



NEW DELHI: India's Anahat Singh and Shaurya Bawa entered the fourth round of the World Junior Squash Championships in Houston in the girls' and boys' sections respectively. Reigning women's national champion Anahat defeated Samantha Jaffe of the US 11-7, 12-10, 11-6 in the third round. She will meet Japan's Akari Midorikawa for a place in the quarterfinals. Meanwhile, Bawa rallied to beat USA's Rustin Wiser 4-11, 11-7, 12-10, 11-6 in the third round and will lock horns with Segundo Portabales of Argentina in the pre-quarterfinals. **PTI**

Alcaraz blows away Djokovic to retain Wimbledon title

Carlos Alcaraz defeated Novak Djokovic in straight sets at Wimbledon, securing his fourth Grand Slam title and his second consecutive win against Djokovic in the finals.

Press Trust Of India

LONDON: Carlos Alcaraz defeated Novak Djokovic 6-2, 6-2, 7-6 (4) in the Wimbledon men's final on Sunday, securing his fourth Grand Slam title at the age of 21. This match was a rematch of last year's championship at the All England Club, where Alcaraz also emerged victorious in five sets. However, this year's final was a much more straightforward affair for Alcaraz.

The match was attended by a Centre Court crowd that included Kate, the Princess of Wales, making a rare public appearance since her cancer diagnosis. Alcaraz, despite stumbling while holding three match points in the third set, managed to regroup and clinch his second major trophy in a row after last month's French Open victory.

The young Spaniard, who won his first Slam title at the 2022 U.S. Open as a teenager, has now collected more Slam titles before turning 22 than any other man in history, boasting a perfect 4-0 record in major finals.

For Djokovic, this match was a disappointment. Wearing a gray sleeve on his surgically repaired right knee, the



HIGHLIGHT

● Alcaraz's victory marks his fourth Grand Slam title, dominating Djokovic in straight sets.

● Djokovic's quest for an eighth Wimbledon title and record 25th major was thwarted.

37-year-old was denied his bid for an eighth Wimbledon title and a record 25th major overall. Djokovic had torn his meniscus at Roland Garros and undergone surgery in early June, which left him far from his best on Sunday.

Djokovic acknowledged his subpar performance, attributing it partly to Alcaraz's exceptional play. "Especially in the first couple of sets, the level of tennis wasn't really up to par on my side," said Djokovic. "He had it all today. I tried to push him... It wasn't meant to be."

Alcaraz, despite a brief lapse while serving for the match at 5-4 in the third set, remained composed. He eventually secured his fourth match point in the ensuing tiebreaker and sealed the victory. Alcaraz then celebrated by climbing through the stands to hug his coach, Juan Carlos Ferrero, and others.

Siniakova and Townsend win women's doubles title

LONDON: After seeing longtime doubles partner Barbora Krejčíková win the Wimbledon singles title, Katerina Siniakova went out on Centre Court and added another Grand Slam trophy to her own collection. Siniakova won her third women's doubles title at Wimbledon after teaming up with Taylor Townsend to beat Gabriela Dabrowski and Erin Routliffe 7-6 (5), 7-6 (1) on Saturday in a match that finished after 10:20 p.m. local time under floodlights. "Amazing. I'm so proud of Barbora," Siniakova said of her Czech countrywoman. "I'm just so happy that we could do it as well."



BCCI supports Gaekwad's treatment

MUMBAI: In a noble gesture, the BCCI on Sunday decided to release Rs one crore for the treatment of former India coach Anshuman Gaikwad, who is battling blood cancer at a medical facility in London. BCCI's decision has come following emotional appeals for support from former captain Kapil Dev and Sandip Patil, who had enjoined the cricket board to help Gaikwad. "Mr. Jay Shah has instructed the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) to release Rs 1 crore with immediate effect to provide financial assistance to India's veteran cricketer Mr Anshuman Gaikwad, who is battling cancer," BCCI apex council said in a statement. Gaikwad, son of former India captain D K Gaekwad, is undergoing treatment for blood cancer at the King's College Hospital in London.

COPA AMERICA

Luis Suarez scores late, Uruguay wins in shootout

Press Trust Of India

Luis Suárez's stoppage-time goal leads Uruguay to Copa America third-place victory.

CHARLOTTE: Luis Suárez showcased his knack for clutch plays, scoring in stoppage time to help Uruguay secure a 4-3 victory over Canada on penalties after a 2-2 draw, clinching third place in the Copa America. Suárez, Uruguay's all-time top scorer, tied the match two minutes into stoppage time. In the penalty shootout, Uruguay's Federico Valverde, Rodrigo Bentancur, Giorgian de Arrascaeta, and Suárez scored, while Canada's Alphonso Davies hit



Luis Suarez of Uruguay and teammates celebrate winning in the penalty shootout. | Photo: PTI

FACTFILE

● Uruguay wins 4-3 on penalty kicks after a dramatic 2-2 draw.

● Canada's Alphonso Davies misses decisive penalty, hitting the crossbar.

the crossbar, and Ismaél Koné's weak attempt was saved.

Coach Marcelo Bielsa praised Suárez's physical and mental attributes, highlighting his crucial role. Despite some dissatisfaction with the team's overall performance, Bielsa acknowledged

the achievement. Canada, under new coach Jesse Marsch, saw this as one of their best performances since winning the 2000 CONCACAF Gold Cup. Bentancur initially put Uruguay ahead, but Canada responded with goals from Koné and Jonathan David.

GOSWAMI TO MENTOR TKR |

Yashasvi Jaiswal: Aiming to finish chase unbeaten

Press Trust Of India

HARARE: India opener Yashasvi Jaiswal shared that he and captain Shubman Gill aimed to win the fourth T20I against Zimbabwe without losing any wickets, prioritizing the team's victory over individual scores. Chasing 153, Jaiswal and Gill aggressively reached the target in 15.2 overs, marking only the second

we were only thinking about finishing the game and make sure that the team wins and we finish without any loss (of a wicket).

Yashasvi Jaiswal
Indian cricketer



time India defeated Zimbabwe by 10 wickets in a T20I.

"We focused on finishing the game without losing a wicket," Jaiswal told fans in a BCCI video. The win secured India a 3-1 lead in the five-match series. Jaiswal, the partnership's aggressor, scored an unbeaten 93 off 53 balls with 12 fours and two sixes.

"I enjoyed playing today, especially with Shub-

man bhai," Jaiswal added. As a T20 World Cup-winning squad member, the 22-year-old relished being part of the historic victory. Reflecting on their partnership, Jaiswal highlighted the importance of communication and understanding with Gill, which facilitated their seamless chase. India's tour of Zimbabwe concludes Sunday at Harare Sports Club.

Sports News



India players celebrate with the series trophy after the fifth T20 international cricket match between Zimbabwe and India at Harare Sports Club in Harare | Photo: AFP

India clinches series 4-1 with dominant win

Press Trust Of India

Sanju Samson and Mukesh Kumar lead India to a decisive victory against Zimbabwe.

HARARE: Sanju Samson's fifty and Mukesh Kumar's disciplined spell led India to a decisive 42-run victory against Zimbabwe in the fifth and final T20I, securing a 4-1 series win. Samson's 58 off 45 balls anchored India to a total of 167 for six, aided by Shivam Dube's quick 26 off 12 balls.

The Indian bowlers then dominated, with Mukesh Kumar (4/22), Shivam Dube (2/25), and Washington Sundar (1/7) bundling Zimbabwe out for 125 in 18.3 overs.

HIGHLIGHT

● Sanju Samson's fifty and Shivam Dube's quickfire 26 powered India to a competitive 167.

● Mukesh Kumar's career-best 4/22 bundled Zimbabwe out for 125, sealing a 42-run win.

Mukesh struck early, dismissing Wessly Madhevere and Brian Bennett, putting Zimbabwe on the back foot. Tadiwanashe Marumani (27) and Dion Myers (34) provided some resistance, adding 44 runs for the third wicket. Marumani's switch-hit four off Ravi Bishnoi was a highlight, but Washington Sundar trapped him

Raza critiques team's performance

Sikandar Raza expressed his thoughts on the performance of the Zimbabwean cricket team, particularly highlighting the efforts of Blessing Muzarabani. "I thought Blessing bowled exceptionally well throughout the series, consistently putting in strong performances," Raza stated, acknowledging the bowler's dedication and skill. However, he also pointed out areas needing improvement, stating, "Our batting remains below par, and we need to improve significantly in that area." Raza emphasized the need for better performance from the batting lineup to be more competitive. Additionally, he mentioned a crucial aspect of the game, "Our attitude in the field continues to be a grey area. We must work on being more focused and energetic during fielding to improve overall."

leg-before shortly after. Myers was caught off a delivery from Dube, and skipper Sikandar Raza (8) was run out, leading to a collapse where Zimbabwe lost four wickets

for nine runs. Mukesh Kumar ended Zimbabwe's innings by bowling Richard Ngarava.

Earlier, India's innings saw a recovery from a middling Power Play

score of 44 for three. Yashasvi Jaiswal started aggressively with two sixes but was bowled by Raza. Abhishek Sharma edged a delivery to Clive Madande, and skipper Shubman Gill was caught by Raza. At 44 for three, Samson and Riyan Parag (22 off 24 balls) steadied the innings with a 65-run partnership. They combined prudence with aggression, with Samson particularly aggressive against leg-spinner Brandon Mavuto, hitting consecutive sixes. Samson's fifty came off 39 balls, but Parag and Samson fell while accelerating. Late fireworks from Shivam Dube helped India reach 167, which the bowlers defended effectively to win the series.

Excellent series win: Shubman Gill

HARARE: The hunger to bounce back and adaptive skills helped Indian team pull itself up following the shocking loss in the series opener to win the remaining four matches against Zimbabwe, said skipper Shubman Gill here on Sunday.

India suffered an unexpected 13-run loss in the first game of the five-match series as the team fell short of chasing a modest 115-run total on July 6. But the visitors quickly put the disappointment on the back-burner to win the series 4-1.

"I think, the hunger that we showed after losing the first match was fantastic to watch. When



we came here, not everyone had a lot of hits in the nets. We weren't really used to the conditions. The way we adapted (was great)," said Gill following India's 42-run win in the fifth and final T20I.

'Player of the Series' Washington Sundar said

the pace and bounce of the pitch here took the Indian batters by surprise initially, which cost them the first match, adding that the series win had given the side a lot of confidence going into the upcoming white-ball series against Sri Lanka.

| SOCCER |

Sophia Smith scores as US defeats Mexico for 1-0 win

Press Trust Of India

US women's soccer team avenges earlier loss to Mexico.

HARRISON: Sophia Smith scored in the 64th minute and the United States got revenge for a loss to Mexico earlier this year with a 1-0 victory in the rematch. The friendly match at Red Bull Arena was the first of two tune-up games for the United States ahead of the 2024 Olympics. The Americans will play Costa Rica on Tuesday at Audi Field in Washington before departing for France. Mexico beat the United States for just the second time ever at the CONCACAF Women's Gold Cup in late February.



Minnu Mani leads India A tour to Australia

MUMBAI: Off-spinner Minnu Mani will lead the India 'A' Women with Shweta Sehrawat as her deputy during the multi-format tour of Australia beginning August 7. India is scheduled to play three T20s, three 50-over ties, and a four-day clash against Australia 'A' during the upcoming tour. The squad also consists of Sajana Sajeevan, Uma Chetry, and Saika Ishaque. Shabnam Shakeel has also been included, but her selection is subject to fitness. The 27-year-old fast bowler Saima Thakor has been added to the squad on standby, strengthening the team further.

| UNEXPECTED TRIUMPH |

Krejcikova had no idea she could win Wimbledon

Press Trust Of India

Krejcikova reflects on unexpected Wimbledon victory, emphasizing enjoyment and future unpredictability amidst challenges.

LONDON: Barbora Krejcikova, reflecting on her unexpected victories, highlighted how she never anticipated winning a Grand Slam singles title until she achieved it at the French Open three years ago. This same unpredictability surrounded her recent Wimbledon victory, where she clinched her second major trophy with a 6-2, 2-6, 6-4 win over Jasmine Paolini at Centre Court. Speaking



at the All England Club, Krejcikova emphasized the uncertainty of her future accomplishments, underscoring her focus on enjoying the journey, staying happy on the court,

and having fun. When asked about her experience during the tense moments of the third set against Paolini, Krejcikova affirmed her enjoyment of the chal-

lenge. She fought for every point, believing in her ability to turn the match in her favor. Her prescient confidence paid off when Paolini double-faulted at a crucial moment, leading to Krejcikova's victory. The win was especially significant given her seeding of 31st and a challenging season marred by injury and illness.

Despite these setbacks, Krejcikova's talent has seen her reach No. 2 in the WTA singles rankings and No. 1 in doubles, with seven Grand Slam titles in women's doubles and three in mixed doubles. Her opponent Paolini praised her as a complete player with exceptional shot angles.

| OLYMPICS BOXING |

Want to change the colour of Indian boxing medal: Nishant Dev

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: A confident Nishant Dev has set his sights on bettering the shade of India's boxing medals from bronze to gold at this month's Paris Olympics.

Three Indian boxers -- Vijender Singh (2008), MC Mary Kom (2012) and Lovlina Borgohain (2021) -- have stood on the podium at the Olympics, all winning bronze medals.



My target is to change the colour of the medal in boxing. Our country's boxers have won bronze medals but not gold or silver till now.

Nishant Dev
Indian boxer

But Dev is confident he has the skillset to not only reach the the light

middle-weight (71kg) final but win the elusive gold medal.

"My target is to change the colour of the medal in boxing. Our country's boxers have won bronze medals but not gold or silver till now," Dev said during an interaction facilitated by JSW Sports.

"I want to convert that bronze to not silver but gold. I have the confidence that I can achieve this. I have trained well. But at the end of the

day, it is up to God," Dev added.

The 23-year-old burst onto the scene in 2021 when he reached the quarterfinal in his maiden world championship appearance.

Two years later, he fetched a bronze medal at the world championships on the back of some stellar performance, including the unanimous-decision win against Jorge Cuellar of Cuba in the last-eight stage.

Saneeth, Tasnim win titles

PUNE: Karnataka's Saneeth DS and Gujarat's Tasnim Mir won the men's and women's singles titles at the Yonex-Sunrise VV Natu Memorial All India Senior Ranking badminton tournament. Saneeth defeated Tushar Suveer 21-15, 21-12, while Tasnim triumphed over Devika 21-16, 21-13 in the finals on Sunday.

World



There is absolutely no place for political violence in our democracy.
Barack Obama
 Former US President



Republican presidential candidate former President Donald Trump gestures as he is surrounded by U.S. Secret Service agents as he leaves the stage at a campaign rally. | Photo: PTI

Assassination bid against Trump widely condemned

Trump, 78, survived an attempt on his life on Saturday when a young shooter fired multiple shots at him at a campaign rally in Pennsylvania, injuring his right ear.

WASHINGTON: World leaders, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, French President Emmanuel Macron and British Prime Minister Keir Starmer, on Sunday denounced the appalling assassination bid on former US president Donald Trump and asserted that violence has no place in politics and democracies.

Trump, 78, survived an attempt on his life on Saturday when a young shooter fired multiple shots at him at a campaign rally in Pennsylvania, injuring his right ear. The shooting left one person attending the rally dead and two others in serious condition. The 20-year-old suspected shooter was shot and killed by a member of the Secret Service. Prime Minister

HIGHLIGHT
 • The 20-year-old suspected shooter was shot and killed by a member of the Secret Service.
 • PM Modi expressed deep concern over attack and said violence has no place in politics and democracies

Modi expressed deep concern over the attack and said violence has no place in politics and democracies. Modi said on X, "Deeply concerned by the attack on my friend, former President Donald Trump. Strongly condemn the incident. Violence has no place in politics and democracies. Wish him a speedy recovery." "Our thoughts and prayers are with the

family of the deceased, those injured and the American people," he added. Starmer said he was "appalled by the shocking scenes" at the rally. "Political violence in any form has no place in our societies and my thoughts are with all the victims of this attack," he said. Macron called the assassination attempt "a tragedy".

Indian businessman 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. "Whenever we met, the warmth, optimism, and passion he exuded always left me inspired" he said.

Israel targets Hamas' military leader Mohammed Deif in Gaza

ISRAEL GAZA
Press Trust Of India
 Israel on Saturday said it tried to assassinate Mohammed Deif, the shadowy leader of the Hamas group's military wing who has long topped the country's most-wanted list.
RAMALLAH: The strike took place in an Israeli-declared humanitarian zone in southern Gaza, killing at least 90 Palestinians and wounding nearly 300 more, according to local health officials.
 Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said it was "still not absolutely certain" whether Deif and another target of the strike, Rafa Salama, were killed. He also told a news conference that Hamas' entire leadership is marked for death. Deif was among the founders of Hamas' military wing, the Qassam Brigades, in the 1990s and has led the



Netanyahu said, all of Hamas' Leaders are marked for death. | Photo: PTI

FASTFACTS
 • Deif was among the founders of Hamas' military wing, the Qassam Brigades, in the 1990s and has led the unit for over 20 years
 • Deif was promoted to head of the Qassam Brigades in 2002 after his predecessor was killed by Israel
 unit for over 20 years. Israel has identified him and Hamas' Gaza leader, Yahya Sinwar, as the chief architects of the Oct. 7 attack that killed some 1,200 people in southern Israel and triggered the Israel-Hamas war. For years, Deif has topped Israel's most-wanted list. He is believed to be paralyzed after surviving multiple Israeli assassination attempts. He has not been seen in public in years, and only a handful of photos of him exist online. On the morning of Oct. 7, Hamas issued a rare voice recording of Deif announcing the "Al Aqsa Flood" operation. Deif, like Sinwar, was born in the refugee camp of the southern Gaza

city of Khan Younis in the early 1960s and was believed to have joined Hamas shortly after the formation of the Islamist Palestinian group in the late 1980s. In 1989, during the height of the first Palestinian intifada, or uprising, Deif was arrested by Israel but later released. Deif was promoted to head of the Qassam Brigades in 2002 after his predecessor was killed by Israel. He is thought to have helped expand Hamas' labyrinth of tunnels that run beneath Gaza, and is held responsible by Israel for plotting attacks that killed scores of Israeli civilians, including suicide bombings. Deif is so elusive that even his appearance and well being are points of speculation: Some media reports say he has used a wheelchair for years following injuries he sustained during past assassination attempts.

KOREAS TENSIONS

Kim's sister hints at resuming flying trash balloons

SEOUL: The powerful sister of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un vowed Sunday to respond to what she called a fresh South Korean civilian leafleting campaign, signalling North Korea would soon resume flying trash-carrying balloons across the border. Since late May, North Korea has floated



numerous balloons carrying waste paper, scraps of cloth, cigarette butts and even

manure toward South Korea on a series of late-night launch events, saying they were a tit-for-tat action against South Korean activists scattering political leaflets via their own balloons. No hazardous materials have been found. South Korea responded by suspending a 2018 tension-reduction deal with North Korea and resumed live-fire drills at border areas. In a statement carried by state media, Kim Yo Jong said that "dirty leaflets and things of (the South Korean) scum" were found again in border and other areas in North Korea on Sunday morning. "Despite the repeated warnings of (North Korea), the (South Korean) scum are not stopping this crude and dirty play," she said.

Tough road ahead for Imran

ISLAMABAD: Despite back-to-back judicial relief to beleaguered Imran Khan, his woes are far from over and Pakistan's former prime minister remains in jail with his wife Bushra Bibi. A district and session court on Saturday overturned the conviction of 71-year-old Khan and his wife Bushra, 49, in the un-Islamic marriage case.

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Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

TUNISIA ELECTION

Arrests, summonses of potential presidential candidates in Tunisia

TUNIS: As elections approach in Tunisia, potential candidates are facing arrest or being summoned to appear in court as authorities clamp down on those planning to challenge President Kais Saied. On Friday, a judge in a Tunis court put a potential presidential candidate under a gag order and restricted his movements. Abdellatif Mekki, who served as Tunisia's health minister and was a prominent leader of the Islamist movement Ennahda before founding his own political party, is among a group of former politicians being investigated for the 2014 killing of a prominent physician. **PTI**

DOLPHINS

Dolphin mass stranding on Cape Cod found to be the largest in US history

WASHINGTON: Rescuers who helped free more than a hundred dolphins from the Cape Cod shoreline say they've confirmed that the mass stranding that began June 28 was the largest involving dolphins in US history. **PTI**



FROM AROUND THE WORLD

Indian Consulate assists students in Houston amidst power outages after Hurricane Beryl

HOUSTON: The Indian mission here in the US state of Texas is assisting hundreds of students from the country who are badly affected by widespread power outages in the aftermath of Hurricane Beryl's devastation. Nearly a million homes and businesses remain without essential services, plunging life in the region into uncertainty due to the impact of the hurricane. The Category 1 storm, though the weakest type, knocked out power to nearly 2.7 million customers after it made landfall in Texas on Monday, according to US media reports. **PTI**

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ECONOMY

China's Communist Party leadership to unveil new reforms to halt economic slowdown

BEIJING: China's ruling Communist Party headed by President Xi Jinping will begin its four-day key economic review meeting on Monday to finalise a new set of economic reforms to revitalise the country's economy hamstrung by the persistent slowdown that has sparked concerns at home and abroad. The meeting called the third Plenum to be attended by 376 full and alternate members of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee will meet from Monday to Thursday to primarily examine issues related to comprehensively deepening reforms and advancing Chinese modernisation, according to an official announce-

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 Helps to relieve problems associated with piles, fistula like constipation, inflammation, pain, burning, pricking and itching sensation of anal region.

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