



Central Chronicle

Two STF cops killed, four injured in IED blast

Incident took place in Tarrem area when security personnel was returning after an operation.

Press Trust Of India

BIJAPUR: Two personnel of the Special Task Force (STF) were killed and four others injured after Naxalites detonated an improvised explosive device (IED) in Chhattisgarh's Bijapur district, police said on Thursday.

Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai expressed grief over the incident and said the sacrifice of the jawans will not go in vain and the fight against Naxalism will continue till the menace is eradicated.

The incident took place on Wednesday night in Tarrem area when a joint team of security personnel was returning after an anti-Naxalite operation in forests on the tri-junction of Bijapur-Sukma-Dantewada districts, a police official here said.

Personnel of the STF, District Reserve Guard - both state police units, Central Reserve Police



Injured STF cops being treated at a hospital, in Bijapur. | Photo :PTI

HIGHLIGHT

● Injured jawans were airlifted to state capital Raipur for further medication.

Force and its elite Commando Battalion for Reso-

Martyrdom of the jawans will not go in vain

Vishnu Deo Sai
Chief Minister

lute Action (CoBRA) were involved in the operation, launched on Tuesday based on inputs about the presence of Naxalites belonging to their Darbha and west Bastar divisions and military company no.2, he said.

"Two STF constables -- Bharat Sahu, resident of Raipur, and Satyer Singh Kange, of Narayanpur district -- were killed in the blast triggered by Naxalites while four other personnel sustained injuries," the official said.

Bengaluru Restaurant denied entry to Frido CEO due to slippers

BENGALURU: After a Bengaluru mall recently denied entry to an elderly farmer from entering because he was wearing a dhoti, a traditional Indian attire, Frido founder and CEO Ganesh Sonawane took to X (formerly Twitter) and said that he and Ather co-founder Swapnil Jain were once denied entry inside a restaurant in Bengaluru over dress code.

Without sharing any proper details, Sona-

wane said that they were wearing slippers instead of shoes, which did not match the dress code.

"True story: Swapnil, Ather co-founder, and I had once gone to a restaurant in Bengaluru and were denied entry because of wearing slippers instead of shoes," Sonawane said on the microblogging platform. In the comments section, he said that they "felt stupid" on that day.

New registrar appointed in NGT

NEW DELHI: Saeeda Vineeta, a member of the Madhya Pradesh Higher Judicial Services, has been appointed on deputation as the new registrar of the principal bench of the National Green Tribunal (NGT) here. "In response to this office advertisement dated May 20, 2024, inviting applications for the post of registrar,

NHAI to charge double toll

NEW DELHI: To deter National Highway users from deliberately not fixing FASTag on the windscreen of the vehicle, NHAI has issued guidelines to collect double user fee from such users entering the toll lane with non-affixed FASTag on the front windshield from the inside, an official release said on Thursday. NHAI said deliberate non-affixation of FASTag on the windscreen leads to unnecessary delays at the toll plazas.

NEWSLINE

BHUBANESWAR

Sahoo relieved from Odisha CMO

A day after appointing Cuttack collector Arindam Dakua as the private secretary to the chief minister, the Odisha government on Thursday relieved senior IAS officer Roopa Roshan Sahoo from her role as special secretary in the CMO.



PATNA

'Nothing wrong in waving Palestinian flags'

CPI(ML) Liberation general secretary Dipankar Bhattacharya on Thursday demanded the withdrawal of cases lodged against persons in Bihar and elsewhere for waving Palestinian flags.

PURI

Jagannath Temple valuables shifted

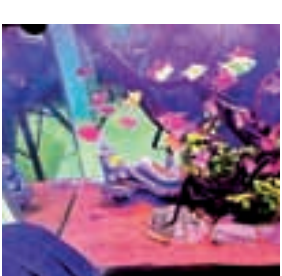
The process of shifting the valuables and ornaments stored inside the inner chamber of Ratna Bhandari, the revered treasury of the 12th-century Jagannath temple in Puri, was completed within seven hours on Thursday, officials said.

NEW DELHI

Udhayanidhi Stalin could be Dy CM

Tamil Nadu's ruling DMK is thinking of elevating Udhayanidhi Stalin -- son of Chief Minister MK Stalin - as the Deputy Chief Minister. He would be the second-in-command in the government, senior party sources have said.

The elevation would be a key step in strengthening the second-rung leadership in party, sources said.



FINEDINE

Cafe Sukoon's aquarium ambience

Imagine stepping into a soothing haven in Raipur, where dining is not just about food, but an immersive experience amidst the serene beauty of aquariums. Welcome to Café Sukoon, where every visit promises a peaceful retreat and moments of joy.

Declare NEET-UG results on July 20: SC tells NTA

Press Trust Of India

CJI said any order for conducting it afresh has to be on concrete conclusion that the sanctity of the entire process was affected.

NEW DELHI:

The Supreme Court on Thursday directed the National Testing Agency (NTA) to declare by 12 noon of July 20 the centre and city-wise results of NEET-UG 2024 while masking the identities of aspirants.

As it strove to address the allegations of malpractices in the conduct of the examination, a bench headed by Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud



Supreme Court of India. | Photo :PTI

FACTFILE

● SC said, it prima facie appeared that the question paper leak was limited to Patna and Hazaribagh.

said any order for conducting it afresh has to be on concrete conclusion that the sanctity of the entire process was

affected. The top court will resume hearing the arguments on July 22 on a batch of pleas seeking cancellation, re-test and a court-monitored probe into the allegations of large-scale malpractices in the prestigious test held on May 5.

During the day-long hearing, the bench asked the counsel for

the aspirants to establish their claim about extensive irregularities in holding the examination, including leak of question paper, warranting cancellation and a re-test.

The court said it prima facie appeared that the question paper leak was limited to Patna and Hazaribagh, and nothing of this sort can be said to have happened in Godhra in Gujarat.

In Patna and Hazaribagh, the question papers allegedly got leaked, while in Godhra there were claims that a person involved in holding the test took money for filling up the OMR sheets of certain candidates.

Freezing eggs as effective as regular IVF: New Study

Press Trust Of India

Results indicate egg freezing and thawing offer a viable path to pregnancy.

NEW DELHI: Success rates of freezing eggs are comparable to those obtained by normal in vitro fertilisation (IVF) and are subject to the same variables of female age and embryo quality, according to a study.

When compared to other similar large-scale research conducted on egg freezing in other countries, the findings of this 15-year-long study based on nearly 30,000 frozen eggs revealed an overall live birth rate of 26 per cent per embryo transfer, as per the study published in the peer-reviewed journal Reproductive Biomedicine Online. This varied



FASTFACTS

● Cumulative live birth rate is 36 per cent, rising to 57 per cent for those who froze eggs under age 35.

● This varied depending on the age at which the eggs were frozen, with a lower rate in the over-35s and only 5 per cent in the over-40s.

depending on the age at which the eggs were frozen, with a lower rate in the over-35s and only 5 per cent in the over-40s.

After transferring all embryos developed from thawed eggs, the total live birth rate was 34 per cent, which increased to 45 per cent in women who had frozen their eggs before the age of 36, according to the study. "These are results comparable with those nationally recorded in routine IVF," said Professor Nick Macklon, senior author of the study and Medical Director of the London Women's Clinic.

The number of women seeking egg-freezing treatment has increased from 150 in 2015 to over 800 in 2022, yet only 14 per cent return to thaw their eggs. Out of 2,171 patients, 299 returned, completing 332 thaw cycles.

MISHAP

Chandigarh-Dibrugarh Express derails

Press Trust Of India

GONDA: Four people were killed and 20 injured when eight coaches of the Chandigarh-Dibrugarh Express derailed near Gonda in Uttar Pradesh on Thursday, officials said.

Uttar Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Brajesh Pathak told PTI four people were killed in the accident. Uttar Pradesh Relief



NUMBER

04

● Four people were killed and 20 injured when eight coaches derailed

Commissioner GS Naveen Kumar said 20 persons have been injured in the accident. Gonda District

Magistrate Neha Sharma, who reached the spot, said eight coaches of the train got derailed, adding that the injured are being rushed to hospital and relief operations are on at the site. A 40-member medical team and 15 ambulances are at the spot and more medical teams and ambulances are being rushed there, Relief Commissioner Kumar said.

Woman Naxalite killed in encounter

Press Trust Of India

DANTEWADA: A woman Naxalite was killed in an encounter with security personnel in Chhattisgarh's Dantewada district on Thursday, police said.

The gunfight took place in a forest located between Purangel and Iragudem villages under Kirandul police station

area when joint teams of security personnel were out on an anti-Naxalite operation, a police official said. Separate teams of the DRG, Bastar STF - all units of the state police, CRPF and its elite unit CoBRA (Commando Battalion for Resolute Action) launched the operation on July 16 in a forest located on the tri-junction of Bijapur.

Raipur



Govt is involved in corruption and food mafias are looting the treasury.

Gopal Sahu,
CG President, Aam Adami Party.



Chief Minister Vishnudeo Sai met with Union Road and Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari at his residence on Thursday.

'Road connectivity to Ayodhya from CG'

Discussions focused on ongoing projects and proposal for national highways.

Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: Chief Minister Vishnudeo Sai met with Union Road and Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari at his residence on Thursday to discuss enhancing road connectivity in Chhattisgarh.

The discussions focused on ongoing road projects and the proposal for new national highways to improve accessibility to tribal areas and Ayodhya. Union Minister Gadkari provided necessary instructions to departmental offi-

cial to expedite these initiatives. The meeting was attended by Deputy Chief Minister Arun Sao, Finance Minister OP Choudhary, Chief Minister's Secretary P Dayanand, Rahul Bhagat, Public Works Department Secretary Dr. Kamalpreet Singh, and other state and central officials.

Chief Minister Sai proposed a new national highway to boost social and economic development by linking remote tribal forest areas with main roads. He emphasized the need for the 282 km

HIGHLIGHT

• **New national highways to improve accessibility to tribal areas and Ayodhya.**

route from Raigarh-Dharamjaygarh-Mainpat-Ambikapur-Uttar Pradesh border to be declared a national highway, highlighting its significance in connecting Chhattisgarh to the religious city of Ayodhya. Additionally, Sai requested the designation of the Kawardha-Rajnand-

gaon-Bhanupratapur-Antagarh-Narayanpur-Gidam-Dantewada-Sukma route as a national highway. This 482 km route would connect six national highways and five district headquarters, potentially reducing Naxal activities by improving access to the Naxal-affected Bastar region. The Chief Minister also advocated for declaring the route linking NH 130B to 53 through Raipur as a national highway, which would fully establish Raipur ring road as a national highway.

Exhibition of Freedom Fighters held at St. Paul School

RAIPUR: An exhibition showcasing the lives and contributions of freedom fighters from Chhattisgarh was organized at St. Paul Higher Secondary School on Thursday, starting at 9 am. Now in its 12th year, the exhibition features biographies and photographs of notable freedom fighters from the state.

This year's exhibition included a special honor for Samridhi Yadav, with a felicitation ceremony held at 11 am to recognize her contributions. All successor members and office bearers were invited to attend the exhibition, view the displays, and participate in the ceremony honoring Samridhi Yadav. Their presence was seen as crucial to the event's success, providing an opportunity to pay tribute to the state's freedom fighters and their enduring legacy.

| KARGIL VIJAY DIWAS |

Ex-Servicemen to celebrate Kargil Vijay Diwas

Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: The All India Ex-Servicemen Service Council will commemorate Kargil Vijay Diwas on July 26th and 28th, paying tribute to the soldiers martyred in the Kargil War and sharing their heroic stories.

A bike rally will commence at 1 pm from Ashutosh Alka Agarwal Mangal Bhawan in Abhanpur, covering the entire area of Abhanpur on July 26. Following the rally, a



cultural program will be held with regional MLA Indra Kumar Sahu as the chief guest. During the program, families of martyrs and Kargil war veter-

ans will be honored. The primary Kargil Vijay Diwas event will take place at Maharaja Agrasen International College in Samata Colony, Raipur on July 28.

Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai will be the chief guest, joined by Deputy Chief Ministers Vijay Sharma and Arun Sao, along with

| STRIKE END |

Patwaris end strike after Revenue Minister's assurance

Central Chronicle News

The strike was sparked by a 32-point list of demands from the Patwaris.

RAIPUR: The Patwaris strike, which began on July 8, has concluded following a productive meeting with Revenue Minister Tankaram Verma on Thursday. The strike had created significant disruptions for the general public, leading to widespread inconvenience.

The Patwari Union decided to call off the strike after receiving concrete assurances from Minister Verma. The Patwaris are expected to resume their duties immediately, bringing relief to the administrative processes affected by



FACTFILE

• **Patwaris are expected to resume their duties immediately.**

their absence.

The strike was sparked by a 32-point list of demands from the Patwaris. Key issues included inadequate facilities and procedural inefficien-

cies. The Patwaris sought direct amendments to online map partitions through their IDs, which was not feasible at the time. They also requested the appointment of assistant programmers at the district level and updates to the Bhuinya portal to streamline land purchase and sale registries. Additionally, they highlighted the need for an automatic

resolution mechanism for cases where mortgages are not removed from the Bhuinya portal even after loan repayment by farmers. With the Patwaris returning to their posts, improvements in administrative work are anticipated, potentially easing the challenges faced by the public and enhancing overall efficiency.

Notorious thieves resume criminal activities

RAIPUR: Notorious vehicle thieves Bhavesh Jagat and Saurabh Mukherjee have been arrested once again for stealing seven two-wheelers from various locations. Both accused had previously served time in jail for theft and resumed their criminal activities after being released. The seven stolen vehicles were reported across Saraswati Nagar, DD Nagar, Purani Basti, Kotwali, Civil Line, and Tikrapara police stations. Due to the increasing number of bike thefts in Raipur, station in-charges and crime teams were on high alert. On Tuesday, the Anti Crime and Cyber Unit received a tip-off about two individuals attempting to sell a stolen two-wheeler near Mahadevghat in the DD Nagar police station area. Acting on the information, the team identified and apprehended the suspects, who matched the description provided by the informant. Upon interrogation, the suspects revealed their identities as Bhavesh Jagat and Saurabh Mukherjee, both residents of DD Nagar. When asked for the vehicle's documents, the suspects failed to provide any.

Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

SUSPENDED

Teacher Mohan Banjare suspended for Balodabazar incident

RAIPUR: Mohan Banjare, a teacher accused in the arson incident at the Joint District Office in Balodabazar on June 10, has been suspended with immediate effect. Banjare, who was serving as a Lecturer (LB) at Government Higher Secondary School, Goda Block, Palari, faces serious charges. Crime No. 381/2024 has been registered against Banjare at the City Police Station in Balodabazar under multiple sections of the IPC, including 147, 148, 149, 294, 506, 186, 353, 332, 307, 435, 120B, and 427, as well as Sections 3 and 4 of the Public Property Damage Prevention Act, 1984. He was arrested on July 15 and subsequently placed on judicial remand. The suspension follows sub-rule (2) (a) of Rule 9 of the Chhattisgarh Civil Services (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules, 1966. During the suspension period, Banjare will be entitled only to subsistence allowance as per the applicable rules.

COURTESY MEET

CM Sai meets Lok Sabha Speaker Birla in New Delhi

RAIPUR: Chief Minister Vishnudeo Sai met Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla in New Delhi on Thursday. The main objective of this meeting held in Parliament House was to promote coordination and cooperation between the state and the Center. Chief Minister Sai discussed several important issues related to the development of Chhattisgarh, with special focus on ongoing projects and upcoming schemes in the infrastructure, education, health and agriculture sectors of the state. He apprised the Lok Sabha Speaker of the progress of the development work going on in the state and expressed the expectation of continued support from the Central Government.



Bharat Scouts & Guides Training Centre

Chief Commissioner of Bharat Scouts-Guides hands over memorandum to Revenue Minister



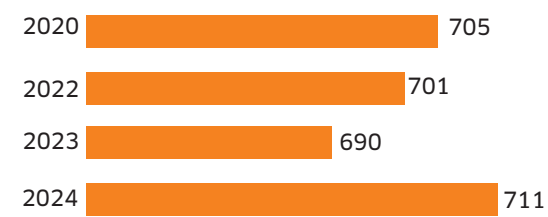
RAIPUR: Dr. Somnath Yadav, the State Chief Commissioner of Bharat Scouts-Guides, visited Revenue Minister Tank Ram Verma at his residence office on Thursday. During the visit, Dr. Yadav briefed Minister Verma on the activities organized by the Government of India Scouts-Guides in Chhattisgarh and submitted a memorandum concerning the development of land allotted in Jhijan for the Scouts-Guides. Dr. Yadav highlighted that out of the 13.40 hectares of land under Khasra No. 11 in village

Jhijan, Tehsil Simga, District Balodabazar-Bhatapara, 5 hectares have been transferred by the government with the cooperation of the Gram Panchayat for the Bharat Scouts and Guides Chhattisgarh State Training Centre, which is under construction. He emphasized the need for constructing a boundary wall around the training center and mentioned the importance of leveling the ground for various training activities such as disaster management and adventure camps.

The Day's NUMBERS

In last four years

NEET TOPPERS TOP SCORE IN CHHATTISGARH



Source :Agencies

ASSEMBLY GHERAO

Preparations for Assembly gherao begin in Congress

RAIPUR: The Congress party has intensified its preparations for the upcoming assembly gherao. In this effort, the Vice President and General Secretary of the State Congress Committee have been assigned to oversee the program at the district level.

Vice President Pratima Chandrakar will be responsible for Raipur district, while Bilaspur State General Secretary Subodh Haritwal will handle Bilaspur.

Officials have been instructed to hold immediate meetings to assess the preparations and ensure maximum participation from their districts in the gherao.

The Congress party is strategizing for the assembly gherao, with a significant meeting scheduled for today at Rajiv Bhawan in Raipur. This meeting will take place at the Congress Bhawan located at Gandhi Maidan, around 4 pm.

Senior leaders of the Congress party, including MLAs, MPs, corporators, and other officials, will be present.

The Congress plans to gherao the assembly on July 24 in response to concerns regarding law and order in the state.

SEX RACKET

Sex racket busted: 1 woman and 4 men arrested



RAIPUR: In a decisive action against prostitution, the police have arrested a woman broker and four men involved in a sex racket in the Mujgahan police station area, adjacent to Raipur. Nava Raipur CSP Karan Uikey said that the police were continuously receiving complaints of prostitution in the Mujgahan police station area. This operation was conducted following directives from Senior Superintendent of Police Santosh Singh and Additional Superintendent of Police (Rural) Rathore. The joint operation was executed by DSP (IUCAW) Lalita Mehar, City Superintendent of Police Karna Kumar Uikey, Inspector Ajit Singh (Thana Rakhi), Sub-Inspector Shashi Paikara (Thana Tikrapara), Sub-Inspector Hariprasad Devta, and constables Suryapratap Rajput, Nandlal Agrahari, Dhanendra Joshi, along with members of the Mahila Raksha Team (M. Pradhan Swaleha Sheikh, K. Padma, M. R. Pushpa Ekka, Hemlata Verma, M. R., Kamini Tigga).

State received 5 awards at the 'SPARK 2023-24'

Ch'garh received third prize nationally for its excellent work in NULM.



Union Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs Manohar Lal, distributed the awards to Chhattisgarh's SUDA team and four urban local bodies.

Central Chronicle News

FASTFACTS

RAIPUR: Chhattisgarh excelled at the 'SPARK' awards presented in New Delhi by the Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Government of India, for its outstanding efforts in empowering urban poor families and enhancing their livelihood opportunities. The state garnered five awards across various categories. Three cities from Chhattisgarh secured first prizes in their respective categories, one urban body won a second prize, and the state secured a third prize at the national level.

- Bilaspur Municipal Corporation received the first prize in the population category of up to ten lakh.
- Raigarh Municipal Corporation won first prize in the population category of up to three lakh.

Union Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs, Manohar Lal, and Minister of State, Tokhan Sahu, distributed the awards during a ceremony held at the India Habitat Centre in New Delhi on July 18. A

RMC won 1 prize in population category

Raigarh Municipal Corporation won first prize in the population category of up to three lakh, and Bhatapara Municipality won first prize in the population category of up to one lakh. Champa Municipality won second prize in the population category of up to 50 thousand. Chhattisgarh was awarded the third prize nationally for its excellent work in the National Urban Livelihood Mission. CM Sai congratulated the SUDA team, the four urban local bodies, and the people of the state. CM Sai stated that these awards from the Government of India are a matter of honour for the state.

delegation of 20 officials and beneficiaries from Chhattisgarh accepted the awards on behalf of their respective bodies. Under the prestigious 'SPARK 2023-24' awards for outstanding work in

the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Urban Livelihood Mission (DAY-NULM), Bilaspur Municipal Corporation received the first prize in the population category up to ten lakh.

Speculations rife over Cabinet expansion

RAIPUR: Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai's closed door meeting with Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) President JP Nadda on Wednesday night in New Delhi, has given boost to the speculations over much-talked Cabinet expansion of Chhattisgarh government.

While the other associates of Sai including the two Deputy CMs as well as Finance Minister, were also in New Delhi, a one to one talk was held between Nadda and Sai on existing political scenario in Chhattisgarh.

Speculations are rife that CM Sai has received guidance from the central leadership on Cabinet expansion under which minimum two MLAs would be given cabinet berth. Chhattisgarh is likely to get new Ministers after the scheduled Monsoon Session of Chhattisgarh Legislative Assembly.

One new and another old face are likely to get Cabinet berth on grounds of social equations. Nomination of few BJP leaders into state-run Boards and Corporations are also on cards.

Nearly a dozen MLAs are aspiring for the Ministerial berth. But with just two vacancies, it would be tough time for all of them to get into coveted posts. Several senior MLAs are already waiting for their opportunity.

Retest for TET candidates of second shift of Bhakhara center

Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: Chhattisgarh Board of Professional Examination (CGBPE) will conduct a re-examination for the candidates who appeared in the second shift of the TET examination held at Maharishi Vedyas Government Postgraduate College, Bhakhara in Dhamtari district on July 20. CGBPE has taken this decision after finding the complaint of delayed distribution of OMR sheets to the candidates during the examination to be true. CGBPE had got the complaint of delayed distribution of OMR sheets at this examination center investigated by the Dhamtari Collector. It is noteworthy that

HIGHLIGHT

- CGBPE takes decision in favor of candidates on collector's report.

CGBPE had conducted the Chhattisgarh Teacher Eligibility Test (TET-2024) for upper primary classes (6 to 8) on June 23, 2024, from 2 pm to 4.45 pm. Out of 400 allocated candidates, 288 candidates appeared in the second shift at the examination center 1520-Maharishi Vedyas Government Postgraduate College, Bhakhara, Dhamtari. The candidates had complained about receiving the answer sheets (OMR) late. In this regard, a factual report was sought from the Collector, Dhamtari.

CM Sai pays tribute to the martyrs of Maoist violence

RAIPUR: Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai has paid tribute to the martyrs of the Maoist violence. He expressed his condolences to the families of the martyred personnel.

Chief Minister said that he has received the tragic news of an IED blast carried out by Maoists in Tarrem area of Bijapur district, in which two STF personnel were martyred and four were injured. He prayed for the

peace of departed souls and for the swift recovery of the injured personnel.

Chief Minister Sai said that the Maoists are perturbed by the government's operations to eradicate Maoism, which is why they are resorting to cowardly acts. He affirmed that the sacrifice of the security personnel will not be in vain and that the fight against Maoism will continue until its complete eradication.

NEWSLINE

CM MEET HM

CM discuss issue of devp, security with HM



RAIPUR/ NEW DELHI: Chhattisgarh CM Sai today met Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Wednesday and discussed in detail the Chhattisgarh Vision @ 2047 created for the long-term development of Chhattisgarh. During this important meeting held at his residence in New Delhi, the Chief Minister informed the Union minister that the state government has identified eight different areas towards developed Chhattisgarh. He added that a working committee has been formed to accelerate development in these areas.

CABINET

CM Sai to chair Cabinet meeting today

RAIPUR: Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai would be presiding over the meeting of State Cabinet on Friday afternoon at Mantralaya situated in Nava Raipur. Several key decisions including the first Supplementary Budget for the fiscal 2024-25 would be taken up after discussion during the meeting.

COURTESY VISIT

WCD Minister Union Minister V. Khatik

RAIPUR: The Woman and Child Devp Minister Laxmi Rajwade paid a courtesy visit to the Union Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment VK Khatik during her Delhi visit on Thursday. Laxmi Rajwade discussed about various ongoing schemes of the Centre in Chhattisgarh. She sought the Union Minister's cooperation in the successful completion of these schemes. Minister Virendra Kumar Khatik assured to extend all the support to the state government for the successful completion of these schemes.

JUDICIAL REMAND

Suspended constable Sahdev sent to judicial remand

RAIPUR: The suspended constable Sahdev was handed over to the Economic Offense Wing on remand till 25 July. The other accused individuals of liquor and coal scam also appeared in the court. The charge sheet will be filed on 19th July. Saumya Chaurasia, Ranu Sahu appeared through conferencing. Meanwhile, four accused in the fake hologram case also appeared in the court today. All the accused were sent on judicial remand till July 31. Meanwhile, one of the accused Saumya Chaurasia alleged ED had started an investigation into the illegal extortion of Rs 500 crore in the alleged coal scam.

Deputy CM Vijay Sharma will not celebrate birthday

Central Chronicle News

Sharma said that the sacrifice of the martyred jawans will not go in vain.

RAIPUR: Deputy Chief Minister (Home Affairs) Vijay Sharma has decided not to celebrate his birthday after being hurt by tragic incident in which 2 STF jawans, Bhart Sahu and Sater Singh, were martyred. He has also appealed to all his workers and supporters not to celebrate his birthday and to express their condolences to the martyred jawans and their families in this difficult time.

Sharma said that the sacrifice of the martyred jawans will not go in vain and society and the government will remember their immortal sacrifice. He said that this unfortunate and unfortunate incident has forced us

to think about how our jawans are performing their duties in difficult conditions for the service of Bastar. DCM praised the hard work and dedication of the security forces and assured them of all possible help and support. Sharma's decision not to celebrate his birthday is a symbol of his deep human sensibilities and patriotism. He said that we should always remember the sacrifice of our jawans and unite to commit ourselves to the security and development of the country in their honor. This was the first birthday of Sharma after becoming the Deputy Chief Minister. Sharma and his supporters were very excited and preparations were being made to celebrate it with great enthusiasm. Preparations were underway to celebrate the birthday in various places across the state.

Teacher M. Banjare suspended

RAIPUR: Mohan Banjare, a teacher accused of involvement in the arson incident at the District Joint Office in Balodabazar on June 10, has been suspended with immediate effect. Banjare was serving as a Lecturer (LB) at Government Higher Secondary School, Goda, in Block Palari. A case (No. 381/2024) has been registered against him at the City Kotwali Balodabazar Police Station.

Document verification on July 22

RAIPUR: Candidates have been called for the eighth phase of document verification for the positions of Hostel Superintendents at the Government Industrial Training Institutes in the state. This will take place on July 22 at 9:30 AM at the Government Industrial Training Institute, Vidhan Sabha Road, Saddu, Raipur.

RBI, ESIC into Men's team championship final

INTER INSTITUTIONAL BADMINTON

Central Chronicle News

Both the teams won comfortably to qualify for the final.

RAIPUR: Reserve Bank of India defeated Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited with the score of 3-0 in the Inter Institutional Badminton Tournament being organized under the aegis of Chhattisgarh Badminton Association (CBA) at Mowa-based Sports Arena here to enter into the final of the Team Championship.

Priyanshu Rajawat (RBI) defeated Yogesh Chauhan (BS NL) with the score of 21-9, 21-6, Bhaskar Chouksey defeated Abhijit Dutta 21-13, 21-7 in the Single's matches whereas in the Men's Doubles, the pair of Anjan Buragohain and Ranjan Buragohain



Raipur Parliamentarian with players at inaugural ceremony.

FASTFACTS

- RBI clinches title of Women's Team championship.

defeated Abhijit Dutta and Anil Kumar 21-12, 21-16 to ensure a 3-0 win for the team. In another Men's Semi-Final Team Championship Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) defeated Food Corporation of India 3-1. Vipul Kuvall (ESIC) defeated Mayank

(LIC) with the score of 3-0. Malvika Bansod (RBI) defeated Leena Dhapre (LIC) 21-3, 21-4, Rasika Raje defeated Varada 21-9, 21-9. Women's Doubles Poorvisha S Ram and Sri Krishna Priya K defeated Shradha Srivastava and Varada Dixit 21-14, 21-13 to clinch title.

Meanwhile, in the team events of the All India Inter-Institutional Badminton Tournament saw the following results: Men's Team - KV Raman (Air Force Selection Control Board) defeated Yogesh Chauhan (BSNL) 21-17, 21-17, Abhijit Dutta (BSNL) defeated Kumar Pallav (Air Force Selection Control Board) 21-18, 21-15 and Vipul Kuvall (Employees' State Insurance Corporation) defeated Prem Singh Chauhan (Life Insurance Corporation of India) 21-18, 11-21, 21-16.

Ch'garh records rainfall of 287.5 mm so far

Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: According to information compiled by the State Level Control Room set up by the Revenue and Disaster Management Department of the State Government, an average rainfall of 287.5 mm has been recorded in the state since June 1. As of this morning, July 18, Bijapur district has recorded the highest average rainfall of 535.9 mm, while Surguja district has recorded the

lowest average rainfall of 136.9 mm. An average rainfall of 197.6 mm was recorded in Surajpur district, 339.1 mm in Balrampur, 240.8 mm in Jaspur, 247.8 mm in Koriya, and 205.9 mm in Manendragarh-Chirmiri-Bharatpur district. Similarly, average rainfall of 265.5 mm was recorded in Raipur district, 300.2 mm in Baloda Bazar, 348.9 mm in Gariaband, 226.6 mm in Mahasamund, 288.6 mm in Dhamtari, 339.9 mm in Bilaspur.

EDUCATION

Scouts and Guides needed in all Edu. institutions

Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: The aim of the Bharat Scouts and Guides is to develop leadership, patriotism, social service, and moral values in the young generation. To create awareness among the youth about their responsibilities and duties towards society and the nation. This was stated by Raipur MP Brijmohan Agarwal on Thursday at the oath-taking ceremony of the newly elected office bearers of the Bharat



Scouts and Guides Chhattisgarh State Council. Brijmohan Agarwal administered the oath to the newly elected office bearers and said that there

is a need to increase the activities of the Bharat Scouts and Guides across Chhattisgarh. For this, he has already directed the officials to start the

Scouts and Guides develop leadership, patriotism, social service, and moral values in young generation.

Brijmohan Agarwal Raipur MP

Bharat Scouts and Guides in all educational institutions. Now, the newly elected office bearers also need to work in this

direction. He instructed the organization's members to ensure the planting of 1 lakh trees across Chhattisgarh under the "One Tree for Mother" campaign of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Those who took the oath included Executive Chairman Rajesh Agarwal, VP. Lakshmi Verma, Vice President Sunita Sanjay Bohra, VP Vijay Kesharwani, VP Kartikeshwar Swarnkar, SCC Dr. Somnath Yadav.



"Cleanliness fortnight will be observed in rural areas from August 01 to 30."

Ashwini Dewangan
CEO, District Panchayat

Paperless processing of e-bills explained

Workshop held on online production of bills in the treasury.



Collector and other officers at the workshop in PWD Auditorium

Central Chronicle News

FASTFACTS

- Concerned officials asked to adopt online process
- GST Officer explains tax deduction at source

BHILAI: The state government has implemented the system of e-bills and e-accounts in all the treasuries of the state from the month of July. In this regard, a training workshop was organized in the auditorium of the Public Works Department Durg on Thursday.

As per the provisions of Section 51 of the Central Goods and Services Tax Act 2017 and Chhattisgarh Goods and Services Tax Act 2017, tax is to be deducted at source on payments made to suppliers and contractors

on purchase of materials and receipt of services by government departments.

Collector Richa Prakash Chaudhary asked all the district level officers and Drawing and Disbursing Officers to ensure compliance of the guidelines and ensure mandatory online

Treasury officer explains entire process

The Treasury Officer Raghavendra Kumar said that in the process of submitting bills to the Treasury and Sub Treasury, the Drawing and Disbursing Officer will prepare the bills online through e-payroll and e-bill module in e-treasury software and after using DSC, the payables will be forwarded to the Treasury. In e-payroll, DSC would be required in each of the system generated schedules and one DSC in e-bill.

submission of bills and monthly accounts in the treasuries from July 1, 2024.

For the smooth operation of this process, it is necessary that all Drawing and Disbursing

Officers have the correct network speed, scanner of appropriate capacity and other necessary electronic items. Along with this, a valid Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) will also be required.

Home Dept exams to be held at BIT

BHILAI: Chhattisgarh Government, Home Department has announced to conduct departmental examinations from 05 August 2024 to 13 August 2024. Bhilai Institute of Technology (BIT) Durg has been nominated as the examination center for the departmental examination.

Divisional Commissioner Durg has sent a letter to the Principal Bhilai Institute of Technology (BIT) Durg and asked to reserve 03 rooms as per the requirement for this period to conduct the departmental examination.

Teenager killed in road accident

BHILAI: A teenager boy was killed in a road accident at Amleshwar on Wednesday evening. The deceased was identified as Aditya Sahu, a resident of Amleshwar.

Around 19:00 hrs on Wednesday, he was returning from tuition classes in Raipur on his bicycle when a rashly moving truck tanker crushed him to death on the Raipur - Amleshwar road. The accused driver left his tanker on the spot and escaped.

BMC continues drive against stray cattle in Vaishali Nagar

Central Chronicle News

HIGHLIGHT

- Campaign in Vaishali Nagar area of Bhilai Municipal Corporation limits

BHILAI: The campaign of catching stray cattle is going on in the Vaishali Nagar area of Bhilai Municipal Corporation limits. In view of the traffic hazards caused by cattle sitting on roads and streets, the corporation is catching them. The owners of the cattle carelessly leave their cattle in open which results their flock sitting or standing anywhere on the streets. The citizens often meet with accident due to the cattle that is not visible especially after

dusk. As per the instructions of Commissioner Devesh Kumar Dhruv, the Roka Chheka campaign is going on continuously in all the zones. On Thursday, during the campaign, the team caught 14 cows and 8 bulls. The captured cattle were taken to Kosanala Urban Gauthan and the one near D Mart.

RMC to conduct survey of residential area

BHILAI: As more than half of the wards under Risali Municipal Corporation are slum areas. Moreover, there is no record of the inhabited area and that of vacant area. Mostly the area where there is population is under BSP's jurisdiction.

Therefore, the RMC will soon conduct survey of the slum area and prepare a record of the inhabited area and vacant land. The above decision was taken at the MiC meeting chaired by Mayor Shashi Sinha.

The council members have decided that a team should be formed in this regard. Also, the undeclared trenching ground in Newaihas been abolished resulting in the problem of burying dead animals.

The decision was taken to send a proposal to the government for sanctioning funds to set up an animal incinerator. The MiC also decided to build Atal Chowk on the empty land in front of Sharda Vidyalaya at a cost of about 50 lakhs.

NEWSLINE

ACTION

41 illegally occupied houses in township vacated



BHILAI: On the ninth day of continuous action by the Enforcement Section of the Town Services Department of SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant, in compliance with decrees passed by the Estate Court, illegally occupied houses of the township were vacated with the help of police force on July 18, 2024. The illegal occupants were evicted from these 22 decree-ordered houses. A total of 41 houses were vacated in the unfit blocks of Sector-06, and other areas of Bhilai. It is worth mentioning that as many as 525 quarters vacated till date.

BSP'S-FBWP

13 Rakes of Long Rails despatched

BHILAI: SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant's Flash Butt Welding Plant (FBWP) at Sabarmati has dispatched as many as 13 rakes of 260 metre welded rail panels to Indian Railways so far in the current fiscal year as compared to 12 rakes dispatched from FBWP, Sabarmati in fiscal year 2023-24. The first rake of 260 metre welded rail panels had been dispatched from Sabarmati plant in November 23.

THEFT

Bike stolen from Main Gate

BHILAI: A bike was stolen from the main gate of Bhilai Steel Plant on Tuesday. The victim Ravishankar Meshram works as a computer operator in the HME Planning Department. Around 09:00 hrs on Tuesday, he parked his bike bearing registration number CG10-EF-7127 at the parking lot near Main Gate and went inside to work. He returned around 17:30 hrs and found that the bike was stolen. Bhilai Bhatti Police station lodged an FIR against unknown bike lifters under section 303(2) of BNS.

VAULABLES STOLEN

Couple asleep; thieves decamp with valuables

BHILAI: Thieves decamped with gold and silver jewellery, mobile phone and other items from a house in Jayanti Nagar in Durg on the intervening night of Thursday. The victim Umesh Mathankar and his wife Kavita Mathankar were sleeping in another room of the house. Kavita woke up after hearing some noise around 03:00 hrs. She went to another room and found two thieves searching the almirah. The woman started screaming after spotting the thieves. The thieves opened the main door of the house and escaped with some valuables. Police lodged an FIR under section 305(a), 331(2) of BNS.

DMC commissioner inspects cleanliness in few colonies

Central Chronicle News

Fine imposed in Professor Colony for blocking drain with sand and gravel.



BHILAI: DMC Commissioner Lokesh Chandrakar inspects cleanliness and sanitation system of the city every morning. Accompanied by health officer Javed Ali, he inspected Borsi Bamleshwari Colony, Pragati Maidan, Panchsheel Nagar Borsi area and other places on Thursday. He had earlier stated that heaps of garbage should not be seen accumulated on the roadside, challan action be taken against those who throw C&D waste. A fine of Rs 1000 was imposed in ward number 60 Professor Colony for blocking the drain with house construction material- sand and gravel. Commissioner said

that under Fight the Bite campaign, awareness is being spread among people about the preventive measures against any kind of infectious disease like dengue, malaria with the onset of monsoon. He said that with the cooperation of everyone along with the health department team, work is being done on a large scale to eliminate dengue larvae by inspecting every house and emptying the water of coolers, water of the tank of the house, water collected in the roof, tile, plastic drum, coconut shell, water collected in the flower pot, water collected from the rain.

Ruffians vandalise vehicles

BHILAI: Some ruffians vandalised the bikes parked outside the houses in Polsaypara of Durg on the intervening night of Thursday. The victims Yuvraj Dewangan and Sanju Sahu complained that some ruffians of nearby locality identified as Prakash Gupta alias Anda, Naseem Ali and others vandalised their bikes and the coolers fitted outside their home.

Water Pump stolen from fields

BHILAI: Water Pump and electric cables were stolen from the agricultural fields at village Belodi on the intervening night of Wednesday. The victim Tarachand Yadu had fixed a water pump at his fields for irrigation. He left the pump switched-on late evening on Tuesday and went home.

Players, students who won national awards felicitated

| HEMCHAND YADAV UNIVERSITY |

Central Chronicle News

38 players awarded a cash amount of Rs 3,76,000/-, certificate and medal.

BHILAI: The players of Hemchand Yadav University, Durg, who had performed remarkably at national level and the students who won awards in the National Youth Festival were felicitated at a function organised in the auditorium of Kalyan College Bhilai. The Chief Guest of the ceremony was Vijay Baghel, MP Durg and special guests were Lalit Chandrakar, MLA, Durg (Rural), Rakesh Sen, MLA Vaishali Nagar, and former Assembly Speaker Prem Prakash Pandey. The Vice Chancellor of the University, Dr Aruna Palta presided over. Director,



The winners with the guests at the ceremony

FASTFACTS

- Students who won awards in the National Youth Festival were felicitated
- Oil portrait of Late Hemchand Yadav unveiled

Department of Physical Education Dr Dinesh Kumar Namdev informed that 38 players who performed excellently in var-

ious level sports activities held in the session 2023-24 were awarded a cash amount of Rs 3,76,000/-, certificate and medal. The ceremony was inaugurated by garlanding the statue of Maa Saraswati and lighting the lamp. Chief Guest Vijay Baghel in his address said that sport is an important part of student life and congratulated the players for their achievements. Special guest Rikesh Sen assured

all assistance to players for sports competitions at regional or national level. Special guest Prem Prakash Pandey said that playing along with studying makes the complete development of a student possible. Dr Aruna Palta and the Registrar Bhupendra Kuldeep, appealed to the guests to continue to cooperate as before. The guests unveiled the oil portrait late Hemchand Yadav.

COMMUNITY SERVICE |

Grand prog of Rotary Club of Bhilai Pinnacle held

Central Chronicle News

BHILAI: The Rotary Club of Bhilai Pinnacle held its 6th installation ceremony recently marking a significant milestone. The event, attended by 50 members, was a grand celebration of the club's ongoing commitment to community service and leadership. The highlight of the evening was the oath-taking ceremony, where Rtn Tanya Agrawal was formally installed as the new President of the club.



Accompanying her in key leadership roles, Rtn Priyanka Luniya and Rtn Tanushree Agrawal took oaths as Secretary and Treasurer, respectively. The presence of PDG Shashank Rastogi as the Chief Guest

added a layer of prestige and honour to the occasion. The ceremony began with a warm welcome by the outgoing President Twinkle Goel. Following this, the ceremonial proceedings commenced.

"The Rotary Club of Bhilai Pinnacle has done outstanding contributions to society."

PDG Shashank Rastogi

The installation officer administered the oath of office to the new board members. Rtn Tanya Agrawal, expressed her

gratitude for the trust placed in her and outlined her vision for the upcoming year. Rtn Priyanka Luniya, the newly appointed Secretary, and Rtn Tanushree Agrawal, the Treasurer, also shared their thoughts. PDG Shashank Rastogi commended the Rotary Club of Bhilai Pinnacle for its outstanding contributions to society. He shared his experiences and insights, inspiring the members with stories of impactful projects from other Rotary clubs.

AHFL branch inaugurated in City

Central Chronicle News

BHILAI: Aadhar Housing Finance Ltd (AHFL) inaugurated its branch at Gangaji Tower at Padum Nagar. With the launch of the 11th branch in Chhattisgarh, the HFC aims to further enhance easy access to credit in Bhilai and Chhattisgarh. Rishi Anand (MD & CEO of AHFL) and other dignitaries from the company inaugurated the branch. AHFL provides easy access to credit for the LIG / EWS residing in semi

-urban and rural regions thus encouraging them to buy their own home. With an AUM of over Rs 400 Crore in Chhattisgarh alone, AHFL has been playing an important role towards empowering more and more citizens from the state to opt for home ownership. Rishi Anand (MD & CEO, AHFL) said, "the new branch represents a pivotal moment in our mission to provide accessible housing finance solutions to economically weaker sections of the society."

N-E-W-S



"Various experiments in the past 2,000 years have failed to provide happiness and peace. After Corona the world realized, only India has roadmap to peace and happiness."

Dr Mohan Bhagwat
RSS Chief

Students protest in Jaipur demanding election



Police personnel lathi-charge the agitators during a protest by various student organizations demanding the conduct of Rajasthan University Students Union elections, in Jaipur. | Photo: PTI

Delhi Skill University removes lunch break from time-table

"There is no lunch break"- Delhi Skill and Entrepreneurship University (DSEU) has taken the popular idiom about no free lunches too seriously and removed the breaks from its timetable.

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: "There is no such thing as a lunch break" - Delhi Skill and Entrepreneurship University (DSEU) has taken the popular idiom about no free lunches too seriously and removed lunch breaks from its timetable, sticking to eight hours of back-to-back classes.

In a recent notification, the university, which offers skill-based courses such as B.Sc in Aesthetics and Beauty

Therapy, Medical and Laboratory Sciences and BBA in Facilities and Hygiene Management, has dropped the half-hour lunch break (12:30 pm to 1 pm) from its daily timetable for students.

According to officials, "squeezing five minutes here and there" can suffice for lunch time as the students are "grown-ups". The move has sparked outrage among students, who are objecting to the change.

"Earlier, we used to

HIGHLIGHT

● According to officials, "squeezing five minutes here and there" can suffice for lunch time. The move has sparked outrage among students.

● "Half-hour break is not needed. We have asked directors of every campus to give a lunch break if their timetable slot permits said the Joint Director.

get a lunch break from 12:30 pm to 1 pm, which was included in the timetable. However, now the university has removed it and arranged back-to-back classes from 9 am to 5 pm without giving any reason," said a student on condition of anonymity.

The student also alleged that the lunch break has been removed from the timetables of all 22 DSEU campuses in Delhi. Asked about the move, DSEU Joint Director (Academics) Kamna

Sachdeva said the lunch break has been removed because the university plans to develop a centralized timetable for all its campuses in accordance with the National Education Policy 2020. She also mentioned that campuses have asked teachers to leave students five minutes early from their classes during which students can finish their lunch before the next class. "It is not required to put the half-hour lunch break in the schedule.

Customs officers to get training in simulation technology

KOCHI: The Cochin International Aviation Services Limited (CIASL) and the National Academy of Customs, Indirect Taxes and Narcotics (NACIN) signed an MoU on Thursday to provide training to Customs officers attached to airports in India. In a ceremony held at Cochin Airport, CIAL Managing Director and CIASL Chairman S Suhas exchanged the MoU with NACIN Additional Director Rajeshwari R Nair in the presence of state Minister P Rajeeve.

CIASL said the agreement was signed by T S Suresh, Assistant Director of NACIN and Santhosh J Poovattil, Managing Director of CIASL. "The MoU envisages providing training for customs officers through advanced simulation-based technology," CIASL said in an official release.

The Punjab Police has said, it has averted a target killings with the arrest of a member of a terror module, backed by the banned Khalistani outfit Babbar Khalsa International (BKI).

CHANDIGARH: The Punjab Police on Thursday said it has averted possible target killings with the arrest of a member of a terror module, which is backed by the banned Khalistani outfit Babbar Khalsa International (BKI).

The module was being operated by USA-based wanted terrorist Harpreet Singh alias Happy Passian, a close aide of designated terrorist Har-

TERROR ATTEMPT AVERTED

Babbar Khalsa-backed terror module held: Punjab DGP



Punjab Police DGP Gaurav Yadav addressing media. | File photo

FACTFILE

● Police also recovered a .32 bore pistol along with two magazines, nine live cartridges and an empty bullet shell from his possession.

winder Singh alias Rinda, along with his Italy-based associate Resham Singh,

Cell (SSOC) Amritsar had received an input that Harpreet Singh along with his associate Resham Singh was planning a major criminal activity in Punjab and for this purpose, they tasked their foot soldier Vikramjit Singh, who was travelling towards Chandigarh Road, Amritsar on his motorcycle. The police team cordoned the specified area and apprehended accused Vikramjit, the DGP said. Preliminary investigations have revealed that the accused was carrying out illegal activities on the directions of his foreign-based handlers. Further investigations are on to establish forward and backward linkages in this case, he added.

Director General of Police Gaurav Yadav said.

The accused has been identified as Vikramjit Singh, a resident of Ghaniye Ke Bangar in Batala. Police also recovered a .32 bore pistol along with two magazines, nine live cartridges and an empty bullet shell from his possession.

DGP Yadav said that State Special Operation

MEETS UNION MINISTER JP NADDA

Himachal CM seeks aid for Bulk Drug Park

Press Trust Of India

Himachal Pradesh CM emphasised the need for state-of-the-art medical technology in hospitals to reduce the need for residents to seek advanced medical care outside the state.

SHIMLA: Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu has urged Union Health

Minister J P Nadda to provide additional financial aid for the Bulk Drug Park beng developed in Himachal Pradesh's Una, according to a statement.

Sukhu called on Nadda in New Delhi Wednesday during which he highlighted the Congress-led state government's commitment to enhancing the health sector through improved infrastructure

"I have urged Union Health Minister J P Nadda to provide additional financial aid for the Bulk Drug Park beng developed in Una."

Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu
CM, Himachal Pradesh



and services, according to the official release issued here on Thursday. The chief minister requested him for additional financial assis-

tance for the Bulk Drug Park, citing its critical role in the state's economic development and its potential to generate local employment opportunities. He emphasised the need for state-of-the-art medical technology in hospitals to reduce the need for residents to seek advanced medical care outside the state, the statement said.

Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

AGITATION

Protest over power cuts violent in Bengal, several injured

MANIKCHAK: Several people were injured as a protest by locals over frequent power cuts in West Bengal's Malda district on Thursday turned violent, leading to a clash with the police, officials said.

Protesting against frequent power cuts in the area, locals blocked the state highway at Enayatpur in Manikchak in the morning. When police went to clear the road for traffic, they refused to lift the blockade and started hurling stones at the personnel, SP Pradeep Kumar Yadav said.

The mob also vandalised police vehicles, he said, adding that three police personnel were injured in the attack.

"To bring the situation under control, the Rapid Action Force was called in. It swung into action and dispersed the mob," he said. **PTI**

MISHAP

Assam Govt. in touch with authorities over train derailment: CM

GUWAHATI: Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Thursday said his government is in touch with the authorities concerned follow-

ing the derailment of the Chandigarh-Dibrugarh Express in Gonda district of Uttar Pradesh. At least four coaches of the train, which was headed to the eastern Assam town of Dibrugarh, derailed between Motiganj and Jhilahi railway stations around 2:35 pm, officials said. "HCM Dr @himantabiswa has been briefed about the derailment of Dibrugarh - Chandigarh express in Uttar Pradesh," the Chief Minister's Office (CMO) said on X. "HCM is monitoring the situation and the Government of Assam is in touch with relevant authorities," it said. **PTI**



Those Who Didn't Have Registration

Pro-ILP group drives out 2,500 migrant labourers from Meghalaya : Khasi Union

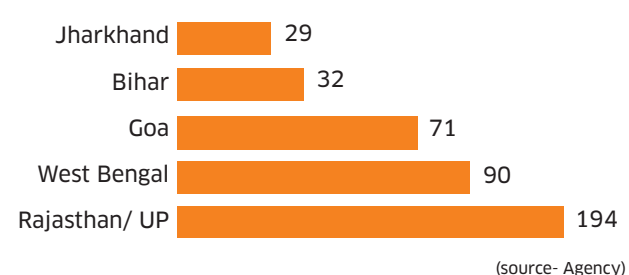


SHILLONG: An influential student union in Meghalaya claimed that pro-ILP activists have driven out around 2,500 migrant workers in the past 12 days, who were found working in the Khasi Jaintia Hills region "without mandatory registration" of the state labour department. Khasi Students Union is one of the pro-Inner Line Permit organisations that have been demanding the implementation of the ILP in Meghalaya to "check the influx of outsiders". Khasi Students Union leader Lambokstar Marngar said, "Over 2,500 migrant workers have been found working without

valid documents in the 12 days. The question also arises whether they are Indian citizens or not." Marngar, who attended the 189th death anniversary of Khasi freedom fighter U Tirot Sing Syiem on Wednesday, demanded an announcement from the state government on whether any case has been registered against illegal migrants. The state government has made it compulsory for migrant labourers to mandatorily register with the Labour Department under the Interstate Workmen Act 1979 and the Meghalaya Identification, Registration (Safety & Security) of Migrant Workers Rules 2020. **PTI**

The Day's NUMBERS

STATES WITH MINIMUM NUMBER OF LEOPARDS IN INDIA



CRIME

Teenage girl gang-raped by 7 accused in West Bengal, all arrested

JALPAIGURI (WB): A teenage girl was allegedly raped by seven people, including four minors, inside a tea garden in West Bengal's Jalpaiguri district, a senior police officer said on Thursday.

The seven accused, named in the FIR by the girl's family, have been arrested in the last three days, the officer said. Four of the seven arrested were minors, he said.

Among the three accused adults, two were remanded to police custody, while the other to judicial custody. The minors were sent to a juvenile home.

The teenage girl had gone to a deserted spot inside the tea garden in the Dooars region at the request of one of the accused, stated to be her boyfriend, the officer said. When she reached the spot, she was raped by the seven on Sunday afternoon, he said, adding that the accused also videographed the act. **PTI**

APPOINTMENT

Justice Sujit N. Prasad appointed acting chief justice of Jh'khand HC



NEW DELHI: Justice Sujit Narayan Prasad was on Thursday appointed as the acting chief justice of the Jharkhand High Court as incumbent Chief Justice Bidyut Ranjan Sarangi demits office after a brief tenure lasting nearly a fortnight. Justice Prasad will assume charge on July 20, a law ministry notification said. Appointed as the chief justice of the Jharkhand High Court on July 3, Justice Sarangi will demit office on July 19. Justice Sarangi was a judge of the Orissa High Court. His name was recommended by the Supreme Court collegium in December last year. **PTI**

"Ensure that no labour in the state is deprived of the benefits of labour schemes in the state."

Lakhan Lal Dewangan
Minister for Labour, Industry and Commerce- Chhattisgarh



Chhattisgarh



DCC held a press conference regarding various problems and issues of the district.

Plantation held in School

PANDARIA: In the primary school Bhuwalpur under Pandaria, a 5-step sapling was planted under Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam initiative and was protected with a triguard. On this occasion, the school's headmaster Anujdas Manikpuri said that planting a tree in life is a matter of good fortune. Mr. Manikpuri said that all children should plant trees in their homes and villages. Trees are a form of God, we all should try to save the environment by planting trees. On this occasion, teacher Kundan Barmate, village senior citizen Loknath Gabel, Pradeep Gabel, Bharti Gabel, Ganga Ram, the headmaster and the school staff were present.

Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

HASSLES

Denizens facing hassle in making of new ration cards in Tilda-Nevra

KHARORA: After the Chhattisgarh assembly elections, with the change of power, the ruling party is making and distributing new ration cards. At present, in the name of ration card distribution in the Tilda Nevra municipality, who knows how many frauds are being adopted. Tax collection officers have been appointed by the municipality for distribution of ration cards, who are busy with their taxation work. It is being told that by organizing a camp in Govardhan Nagar ward number 11 community hall, ration cards of 22 wards are being distributed, where the beneficiaries are facing a lot of difficulties in finding their ration cards. They are leaving their work, business and daily wages and are after the ration card and the municipality employees do not have time to issue tax receipts. OPS Chauhan, President of the social service organization SRS has requested the govt to make proper arrangements for the distribution of new ration cards.

PLANTATION

Dongargaon police plant seeds around the police station premises



DONGARGAON: Under the 'Hamar Hariyari Dongargaon Ped Paudha Lagao Abhiyan', saplings were planted around the police station premises. All the government departments, local citizens and businessmen are also taking a lot of interest in this scheme started to keep the entire development block including Dongargaon green. In this sequence, the police staff made a commendable contribution by planting trees on a large scale in Dongargaon police station premises on Wednesday. During this, teak, banyan, peepal, gulmohar, mango, karonda, karanja etc. saplings were planted. Along with planting this sapling, the police staff has also taken the responsibility of their security.

MLA charges illicit works under BJP admn

MLA have made sensational allegations in a press conference.

Central Chronicle News

KHAIIRAGARH: Congress organization leaders including the MLA have made sensational allegations in a press conference and charged that for the past few months, illegal work is being done under the protection of officers in the district, for which BJP public representatives and leaders are responsible. In the discussion, Congress leaders criticized the state BJP government for injustice with the poor, farmers and youth.

against farmers, poor, traders, youth, MLA Yashoda Verma, Congress District President Gajendra Thackeray, senior Congress leader Neelambar Verma, District Youth Congress President Gulshan Tiwari, Zilla Parishad Chairman Viplov Sahu and other Congress leaders said in a joint statement that due to the fear of ruining farming due to opening of new cement plant between Vicharpur, Pandaria, Bundeli of Chhuikhadan, preparations are being made to open the plant by ignoring the wishes of the farmers despite their protests.

HIGHLIGHT

● Congress leaders said that despite the ban on the manufacture of red bricks to prevent environmental damage, the sand found on the river banks in the district is being extracted arbitrarily

Land brokers are buying land by luring the farmers. To make the facts public, YC and NSUI will go to these villages and run a signature campaign and find out how many people are in favor of opening the plant so that it can be known to

what extent the government is intent on cheating them. MLA Yashoda and Congressmen alleged that illegal work is being done in the entire district under the protection of leaders and officials. Congress leaders said that despite the ban on the manufacture of red bricks to prevent environmental damage, the sand found on the river banks in the district is being extracted arbitrarily due to which the rivers are being eroded. Green trees are being cut from the forest to bake bricks and the Revenue, Mineral and Forest Departments are silent spectators.

Grand reception to Swami ji

KHARORA: The founder of Sadvipra Samaj Seva and the originator of the divine secret science, Sadguru Swami Krishnanand Ji Maharaj was given a grand welcome at Swami Vivekanand Airport. Acharya Hemant ji, President of Sadvipra Samaj Seva, informed that Sadgurudev ji is in Chhattisgarh on the occasion of Guru Purnima and will receive Brahma Diksha on Wednesday from 8 o'clock.

Honour for contributions

Five distinguished persons honoured by BJS for their contributions



ANWARI: The state level convention of Bharatiya Jain Sanghata (BJS) Chhattisgarh Pradesh "Mukhrat Maun - Ek Samajik Utsav" program was organized in Vrindavan Hall. On this occasion, five distinguished persons including Rashi Jain, who hoisted the tricolor on Mount Everest, Gyanchand Chopra who cremated more than 6000 unclaimed bodies, international motivator anchor, Vibhuti Duggad, and Ritesh Jain for special work and Shantilal Chopra who provided medicine, oxygen and food to the victims during the Corona period, were honored by the BJS. On this occasion, Vijay Gangwal was announced as the State President for the upcoming sessions and he was

introduced to the House. Sanjay Singhi was announced as the National Head EOC and Manoj Lunkad as the National Head Career Guidance. On this occasion BJSK National Head Rajendra Lunkad, BJSK's upcoming National Head Nandu Bhai Sankhla, Padmashree Dr. Pukhraj Bafna, National Secretary Pankaj Chopra along with presidents and officials of branches and districts across the state were present. Along with other programs, State Working Committee member Harakh Jain was felicitated by the national officials in the entire house for his excellent work. Officials, district presidents and other members from across the state were present in the entire program.

WORLD YOUTH SKILLS DAY

From sapling to supper: A community celebration

PANDARIA: In the government primary school Dullapur Guru of Pandaria, on the occasion of completion of 1 month of grandson, Head teacher Malti Tiwari organized an invitation feast for the school students on Tuesday. In the invitation feast, children were fed puri, vegetable, rice, dal along with fruits. Apart from this, she planted a banyan tree in the school premises with her husband Rakesh Tiwari and school children and appealed to the people to plant trees and keep the environment clean. In the invitation meal, cluster coordinator Ishwar Tiwari, Primary School Mahli Head teacher Pawan Pathak, Middle School Mahli Head teacher Shobhnath Sahu, teacher Jyoti Sidar, Lata Tiwari and all the students participated.

Youth gain valuable skills through BALCO's VSS

Central Chronicle News

BALCO commemorated World Youth Skills Day with over 100 trainees of Vedanta Skill School.

BALCONAGAR: Bharat Aluminium Company Limited (BALCO), India's iconic aluminium producer and a part of Vedanta Aluminium, is driving socio-economic transformation in Chhattisgarh by upskilling more than 12,000 rural youth since 2010 through its Vedanta Skill School (VSS). To celebrate this milestone, BALCO commemorated World Youth Skills Day with over 100 trainees of Vedanta Skill School. The event featured a variety of activities, including competitions designed to nurture both personal and professional growth. The day



Trainee trying to learn about PV solar technician work.

FACTFILE

● BALCO is driving socio-economic transformation in Chhattisgarh by upskilling more than 12,000 rural youth since 2010 through its Vedanta Skill School (VSS).

also featured enthusiastic dance performances, fashion shows, cooking

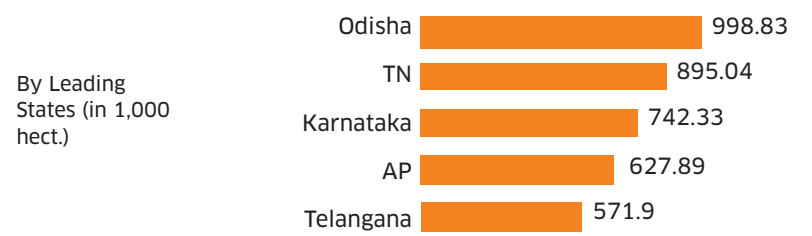
competitions, and the creation of electrical models, covering a range of technical and non-technical activities to engage students across various trades. Kashish Yangde, a trainee in the solar PV installer trade, expressed her aspirations: "I sought financial independence and the ability to support my family. It's immensely rewarding to have gained skills in the renewable energy sector, especially as it garners

growing interest from companies and government bodies alike."

Similarly, Tameshwari Patel, who is currently enrolled in the 45-day sewing machine operator course, shared her experience: "I have always been interested in sewing and used to make clothes for my dolls. When a friend told me about the Vedanta Skill School's sewing program, I decided to join. The training has equipped me to turn my passion into a profession, empowering me to lead a self-sustaining life." Speaking about the transformative impact of the Vedanta Skill School initiative, Rajesh Kumar, CEO and Director of BALCO, said, "At Vedanta, sustainable livelihood development is central to our community efforts.

The Day's NUMBERS

AREA OF WATER RESOURCES ACROSS INDIA IN 2018



PLANTATION

'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' initiative continues with plantation drive in Kurud

KURUD: Under the name of 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam', a fruit tree plantation program was organized in the Gram Panchayat Bhawan premises of Mederka. The main speakers of the program were Harishankar Sonwani, District President Scheduled Caste, Mrs. Nemin Ganesh Sinha, Sarpanch Thaneshwar Sahu (Sector Co-Incharge), Santosh Yadav, Thakur Ram Sahu and others. The main speaker of the program, Hari Sonwani, said that today nature has become unbalanced due to which there is a situation of very high heat and intermittent rainfall. There is no doubt that the "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam" campaign will be able to increase the amount of oxygen, reduce the temperature of the earth, raise the groundwater level and make a significant contribution in pollution control. The country's Prime Minister has taken a pledge to make the whole country green in the name of 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam'. All the countrymen are engaged in fulfilling the same resolution in which tree plantation has started in Mederka.

WARD PROBLEM

Residents of Kaser Para fed up with waterlogged roads



SAKTI: Residents of ward number one have appealed to the collector regarding the problem of road and drain. Residents of Kaserpara Ward 01 had informed the collector that they are facing the problem of road and drain. The drain is flowing on the road due to which the outbreak of dirt and mosquitoes has increased in the locality. The residents of the locality told that they have been living in this problem for the last several years by building their own houses on private land located in the northern part of the main road in Kaser Para. In that area, the municipality has made a paved road for movement as well as electricity and drinking water arrangements, for which the people of the locality have expressed their gratitude to the municipality.

PLANTATION CAMPAIGN

MLA launches 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' initiative

Central Chronicle News

KAWARDHA: On the occasion of World Environment Day on June 5, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has started the Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam campaign. Under this campaign, lakhs of trees will be planted across the country so that the damage to the environment can be reduced for the future.



51,000 fruit and shade trees in Pandaria Assembly by playing her continuous and active participation in this campaign. She started planting more than 100 saplings in each booth coming under Pandaria

Assembly from her native village Ranveerpur and village market Charbhatha from Wednesday. During this time, a large number of BJP officials, workers and residents of the area also participated in this

"The campaign is expressing our reverence towards our mother and mother earth."

Bhavana Bohra
MLA Pandaria

campaign along with the MLA. On this occasion, Bhavna Bohra said that the progress of the country is linked to nature, so being a responsible citizen and

public representative, it is our duty to contribute to the conservation, promotion and protection of the environment. Every citizen of the country is playing an important role in the Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam campaign started by the Prime Minister of India. The "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam" campaign started on the call of Prime Minister is no longer just a campaign but has now become a mass movement in the whole country.

BJP district working committee meeting held

A meeting of BJP district working committee was held.

Central Chronicle News

KHAIRAGARH: On the instructions of the state BJP, a meeting of district working committee was held in the district BJP office Khairagarh, in which state BJP General Secretary Ramji Bharti was present as the main speaker. As the main speaker, state BJP General Secretary Ramji Bharti said that 10 years of excellent work has been done at the Center, while in the last 5 years only corruption had happened in Chhattisgarh, but the public has thrown out the Congress government and the BJP government in Chhattisgarh has been formed on the strength of the workers, in which development work is going on in Chhattisgarh under the leadership of Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai. He further said that during the tenure of Congress, the Congress government worked only for the Congressmen and did nothing for the common people, but now the BJP government is working with commitment for the upliftment of every section of the society in Chhattisgarh. District President Ghamman Sahu said that the third meeting of the District BJP Working Committee was held in the new district KCG and in the meeting, a congratulatory



A meeting of district working committee was held in the district BJP office Khairagarh.

FASTFACTS

● State BJP General Secretary Ramji Bharti said that 10 years of excellent work has been done at the Center.

● BJP government in Chhattisgarh has been formed on the strength of the workers.

motion was presented for PM Modi's 10 years of tenure. District General Secretary Ramadhar Rajak read out the names of the family members of BJP members who have passed away in the last 2 months, Mandal-wise, and District General Secretary Ramadhar Rajak placed a condolence motion and paid tribute by observing

Party's work at Mandal-level reviewed

Former MLA Komal Janghel read out the political introduction of Chhattisgarh and said that BJP has won 10 out of 11 seats in Chhattisgarh and Assembly in-charge Moolchand Lodhi reviewed the party's work Mandal-wise, after which District BJP in-charge Rakesh Yadav congratulated for the victory in the Lok Sabha elections and said that a meeting of every Mandal is to be held between 20 and 25 July, in which a program has to be organized in the name of Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam and on 28 July, the working committee members of the district will go to one booth and will be present in the Mann Ki Baat program.

two moments of silence. District BJP Convenor TK Chandel read out the main points of the President's speech and placed the motion, which was supported by Shashank Tamrakar. State BJP working committee member and Rajnandgaon District Panchayat Vice President

Vikrant Singh proposed a congratulatory message for the PM on becoming the Prime Minister of the country for the third time and said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi won the hearts of 140 crore people in the country and became the Prime Minister for the third time.

English teachers to be promoted

DONGARGAON: Chhattisgarh Government School Education Department has released a list of 160 teachers for promotion of assistant teachers to the post of Principal and for this, counseling is to be done at the district level by the District Education Officer Rajnandgaon. As per information, English medium primary and secondary schools are being run in all the blocks located in the district, in which there is a constant shortage of teachers. With this promotion by the government, the shortage of teachers in schools is expected to end.

Saplings planted in SAGEMS

PANDARIY: On the call of BJP state leadership and as per the instructions of BJP District President Kabirdham, trees were planted by Pandariya Mandal here on Wednesday in Atmanand School premises booth number 85 ward number 7 located at old bus stand. Prominently present in this program were Mandal President Gajpal Sahu, Senior Kuldeep Chhabra, Assembly Coordinator Kalyan Singh, Backward Class Cell State Working Committee Member Chandra Kumar Soni & others.

Diarrhoea outbreak in village -Mundabari, Dilippur, Bhardakala

Central Chronicle News

KHAIRAGARH: A total of 11 people including 2 pregnant women and 3 children are taken ill in diarrhoea outbreak in the region. Two seriously ill patients have been referred to Rajnandgaon and nine patients are being treated at Khairagarh Civil Hospital, while 16 patients have been admitted to the local civil hospital for treatment after complaints of diarrhoea in village Mundabari, Dilippur and village Bhardakala of the block. 9 people were found to be suffering in Muhadabari, all the patients are residents of the same locality of the village. A medical team has been

sent to the villages and camps are being set up to examine the villagers and among the patients undergoing treatment, a pregnant woman along

FASTFACTS

● A total of 11 people including 2 pregnant women and 3 children are taken ill in diarrhoea outbreak in the region.

with an elderly woman has been referred to Rajnandgaon Government Medical College after their condition worsened. The patients undergoing treatment in the civil hospital told that they all use the same boring water for drinking and other purposes.

Vikrant Singh meets Sao for devp of urban bodies

KHAIRAGARH: State BJP Working Committee member and Rajnandgaon District Panchayat Vice President Vikrant Singh met Deputy CM and Urban Administration Minister Arun Sao, where detailed discussions were held for the development of the works of KCG district Municipal Council Khairagarh and Nagar Panchayat Chhuikhadan and Nagar Panchayat Gandai. Singh demanded funds

from the Deputy CM for the development of urban bodies, on which Mr. Sao assured that soon funds will be released for development works in the urban bodies of KCG district. During the meeting, Deputy CM Sao took information from the Zilla Parishad Vice President about the works of the Public Works Department and Public Health Engineering Department of the district.

NEWSLINE

MEETING

Cong delegation meets families of victims



KAWARDHA: The investigation committee formed by the State Congress Committee visited the Baiga tribal dominated Sonwahi in the remote forest area of Bodla of Kawardha. It met the families of the diarrhoea victims and enquired about their well-being and took information from the family members about the incident. They told that since it is a special backward tribal area, there is no facility here. There is no proper arrangement for drinking water and sanitation by the administration before the rains.

POOR INFRA

Bridges built under PMRS not suitable for commuting



FINGESHWAR: The roads and culverts build under Pradhan Mantri Road Scheme are reportedly not fit for commuting, especially in the rainy season. The Kaundkera to Rohina-Teka road of the region built under construction for a long time under the Pradhan Mantri Road Scheme, is also not suitable for commuting as alleged by District Congress Committee President Bhavsinh Sahu, whose village is Teka. He said that the Teka-Rohina road is a busy route all year round and the villagers travel from Teka to Rohina via Rajim-Fingeshwar-Mahasamund etc. and at present, even walking on this road is a risky job.

SUSPENDED

Deputy engineer of Nagar Palika suspended

MUNGELI: On receiving continuous complaints of negligence and absence in the work of Nagar Palika, the Collector took action' and issued an order to suspend the Deputy Engineer of Nagar Palika Deepak Kumar Devangan. It is known that the public had complained to the Minister regarding the works of the Nagar Palika, on which on the initiative of the Minister, the Collector issued an order that important development works were being hampered due to the lack of interest in the work of Sub Engineer Deepak Devangan. The Collector took immediate cognizance of this and directed the concerned officer to investigate against him and submit a report. The said complaint was found to be true in the investigation, after which Deputy Engineer has been suspended.

BJP district working committee meeting held



Central Chronicle News

BALRAMPUR: District Working Committee meeting concluded at BJP District Headquarters, here as per the instructions of the Bharatiya Janata Party State Organization.

The meeting was organized in the presence of Agriculture Minister Ramvihar Netam, Sarguja Lok Sabha MP Chintamani Maharaj, Pratappur MLA Mrs. Shakuntala Singh Porte State Working Committee Member Ramkishun Singh, BJP District President Omprakash Jaiswal and other dignitaries. While addressing the District Working Com-

mittee member, Agriculture Minister Ramvihar Netam said that the District Working Committee of the Joint Fronts of the Bharatiya Janata Party develops the desired workers and increases their leadership capacity and the role of workers is important in taking the party's policies and government schemes to the public.

In the District Working Committee meeting, important discussions were held on political proposal, proposal to elect the Prime Minister for the third time, upcoming organizational work plan and other topics.

Make Koraasi an edu centre

ARANG: Shikshat Yuva Gramin Utthan Seva Samiti made a courtesy call on Arang MLA Sukhwant Saheb, in which the forum proposed a demand to make village Koraasi an education centre and demanded utilities to promote the cause. It should be known that the committee provides career guidance.

Son kills mother over money

GAURELA: In a barbaric incident a son took to kill his own mother here in the district, who was then arrested by the police within an hour of the act. As per information, Arjun Singh father Anand Ram Bhaina age 37 years resident Bahelia Tola, Sarabaha, Police Station Gaurela, District Gaupayam, on 14/07/2024, killed his mother. The accused has been arrested and sent on judicial remand.

Second accuse of HDFC Bank fraud caught

| BANK FRAUD |

Central Chronicle News

Tejendra Sahu, an associate of bank manager Shrikant Tineti, who committed fraud of about two crore rupees from the accounts of HDFC bank account holders, has been caught by Kurud police.

KURUD: Tejendra Sahu, an associate of bank manager Shrikant Tineti, who committed fraud of about two crore rupees from the accounts of HDFC bank account holders, has been caught by Kurud police.

As soon as the information about the arrest of the bank manager's associate Tejendra was received, the victim account holders started reaching the police station in the morning and talked to the officers of Kurud police station in the hope of getting



Kurud police nabbed the accused in Rs 2 cr fraud case.

FASTFACTS

● Kurud police station in-charge, working on the application and bank details of the victims, registered a case of fraud of Rs 1 crore 88 lakh from the accounts of 24 victim account holders.

back the money that was fraudulently withdrawn from their accounts, but as per information, the

huge loot. As soon as the branch manager Shrikant Tineti and his associate Tejendra Sahu feared that their fraud would be exposed, both of them absconded, on which the victim account holders, tired of visiting the bank dozens of times, turned to the Kurud police station.

Kurud police station in-charge, working on the application and bank details of the victims, registered a case of fraud of Rs 1 crore 88 lakh from the accounts of 24 victim account holders and searched vigorously for both the accused and succeeded in catching the main accused of this fraud, branch manager Srikant Tineti, in the month of June, but the branch manager's associate Tejendra Sahu has come under police custody after a full month.

| STRAY CATTLE MENACE |

Cattle on the roads causing accidents

Central Chronicle News

PANDARIA: With the sowing of Kharif crops, a large number of cattle are roaming stray on the roads of the region, which is causing accidents on a daily basis. Also, due to not being visible at night, many cattle are becoming victims of accidents, in which the cattle are losing their lives, while the passers-by's also getting harmed. Two-three people have lost their lives in the city due to colli-



sion with cattle sitting on the road; despite this the administration is not able to make proper arrangements for these cattle. Cattle are reportedly sitting in large numbers on Gandhi Chowk, Teh-

sil Chowk, Padhi Road Chowk, Old Bus Stand, Lormi Road, Kukdur Road of the city, due to which accidents keep happening every day. Not only this the stray cattle also take out goods from the

The cattle owners will be warned by making an announcement in the city, after which appropriate action will be taken.

Komal Thakur, CMO
Municipal Corporation Pandaria

vehicle, as they break the goods kept in the bag and the bike's trunk and eat

the goods, and also damage vegetables, greens, fruits or anything else. As per information, hundreds of cattle live on the roads in the city and not a single Kanji House is operated in the city to keep them.

The Kanji Houses built earlier have turned into ruins and it is said that after keeping the cattle in the Kanji House, the cattle owners did not even come to take them, due to which the Kanji House is almost closed.

Husband kills wife in broad daylight

Central Chronicle News

DONGARGAON: An insane husband killed his wife in broad daylight by slitting her throat with a sickle in the field. The incident is of Buddhuharda village of Dongargaon block. Bhuvaneshwari Sahu, wife of Omprakash Sahu, resident of Kotrasarar, attacked his wife with a sickle on her neck and head while she was working in the field. At the time of the

incident, the deceased woman's two sisters-in-law, Kumari Sahu and Sulochana Sahu were present and they also tried to intervene but Bhuneshwari Sahu died on the spot due to the continuous attack with the weapon. The couple have two children aged eight and six. The murderer Omprakash father Tikam Sahu is a 35-year-old resident of village Kotrasarar and had come out of jail just 15 days ago.



Not a single 'black spot' in my career.

Siddaramaiah
K'taka CM

Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

SHRAMIK BASERA SCHEME

Rented accommodation to construction workers for Rs 5 per day

AHMEDABAD: Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel on Thursday launched a scheme to provide temporary accommodation to nearly 15,000 construction workers at a nominal rate of Rs 5 per day.

For the 'Shramik Basera' scheme, the CM performed the ground-breaking ceremony of 17 dwelling structures to house the labourers in Ahmedabad, Gandhinagar, Vadodara and Rajkot cities, said an official release. Patel was present at one such site in the Jagatpur area of Ahmedabad to lay its foundation stone. He launched the other such facilities virtually, it said. The CM also launched a portal for the Shramik Basera scheme, the release said. In his address at the event, the CM said the scheme will benefit about 15,000 construction workers once the facilities are ready. **PTI**

LITERACY

Investment Awareness Prog empowering women of financial freedom



BALOD: CDSL Investor Protection Fund (CDSL IPF) organized an investment awareness program for women retail investors in Balod.

The program focused on improving financial literacy and empowering women to make informed investment decisions that will lead to their financial freedom. The sessions delved into the core principles of investing and the speakers simplified investment concepts. **PTI**

Getting apprised with functioning

Industries Minister & MP visit IOCL Paradip Refinery, review the operation of refinery



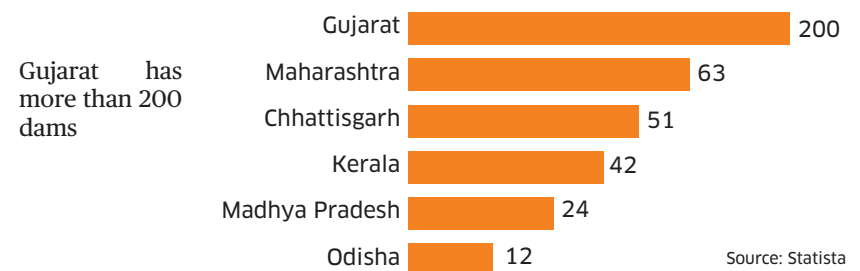
PARADIP: Minister of State (Independent Charge), Industries, Skill Development & Technical Education, Government of Odisha, Sampad Chandra Swain and Member of Parliament, Lok Sabha, Jagatsinghpur, Government of India, Dr. Bibhu Prasad Tarai visited Indian Oil Paradip Refinery on 17th July 2024. The esteemed dignitaries were warmly welcomed by Kausik Basu, Executive Director & Refinery Head, Paradip Refinery, with traditional Uttariya and potted plant. Industries Minister & MP planted sapling on the occasion as part of Maa Pain Gachha Tie' initiative.

During his address, Industries Minister, Swain said that the develop-

mental work of Industrial region of Paradip has already started and people of Paradip will be benefitted by it. Speaking on the occasion, MP, Tarai said that he is determined for the progress of Paradip and the people of the region. ED&RH, Paradip Refinery, Basu said that, Paradip Refinery is the largest Refinery in the eastern coast of India and will drive progress in collaboration with Government of Odisha.

During the visit, Minister and MP reviewed the operation of Paradip Refinery. A comprehensive presentation was made to the dignitaries apprising them about Refinery's operations, safety initiatives, ongoing and future projects. **PTI**

The Day's NUMBERS



REVIEW MEETING

'Strict action against those using banned plastic carry bags'



THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: In the wake of a sanitation worker drowning in a canal full of plastic waste, Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan on Thursday said stringent action would be taken against those using banned plastic carry bags and products. The decision was taken in an online meeting chaired by Vijayan, a statement issued by the Chief Minister's Office (CMO) said. The meeting was attended by ministers of the Local Self Government, Public Works, Labour, Food, Sports and Railways and others. **PTI**

GOVT EFFORTS

Rajasthan to hold citizenship camps for minority refugees

JAIPUR: The Rajasthan government will hold special camps to grant Indian citizenship to minority refugees from Afghanistan, Pakistan and Bangladesh, Health Minister Gajendra Singh said on Thursday. He was replying to supplementary questions on behalf of the home minister during Question Hour in the Rajasthan Assembly. **PTI**

Snipers, FR cameras, app to secure Red Fort on I-Day

The use of spotters, face recognition system (FRS) CCTV cameras and drones are already in the plan of arrangements for the Independence Day celebrations at the Red Fort.

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: As less than a month is left for the Independence Day, the Delhi Police has geared up to deploy snipers, spotters, and FR CCTV cameras. It will also use an app to verify people during the event at the Red Fort, a police official said on Thursday. The attack on former US president Donald Trump has made the role of snipers a crucial one in this Independence Day, they said.

In a meeting regarding security arrangements for the Independence Day celebrations on Tuesday, the attack on Trump was discussed and Police

Commissioner Sanjay Arora, emphasised on stringent security to be put in place, official sources said. The sources said they have planned to increase the number of snipers with Dragunov SVD rifles which were hired during the G20 Summit to guard foreign dignitaries. The rifles have a practical accuracy range of more than 800 metres, they said. The marksmen who were trained to operate these Russia-made rifles during the G20 Summit will be deployed at the Red Fort. They will be deployed at strategic locations during the event, an official said.

The use of spotters,

HIGHLIGHT

● Attack on former US president Donald Trump has made the role of snipers a crucial one in this I-Day.

● app, named 'e-parikshan', has been developed to verify people, workers, and shopkeepers around the venue.

face recognition system (FRS) CCTV cameras and drones are already in the plan of arrangements for the Independence Day celebrations at the Red Fort. The FRS-fitted cameras have been in use for four-five years in Delhi

and their number will be increased to over 1,000 this year, the official said.

The police said a new security feature has been added this year in the form of an app for verification of people, including the residents, around the venue. Deputy Commissioner of Police (North) MK Meena told PTI the planning for the security arrangements at the Red Fort is underway. All measures required to ensure the safety and security of visitors will be taken, he said. Meena said the app, named 'e-parikshan', has been developed to verify people, workers, and shopkeepers around the venue. "This application

is for an internal use of the police force for the verification of people. The technology helps us in streamlining the process of verification, which authenticates the identities of the people coming with its visual range," another police officer said. The officer said the app is being used for the first time during the Independence Day and if all goes well, it may be used across the city for verification. The police has planned to deploy more than 10,000 security personnel, including paramilitary jawans, around the Red Fort and other crucial locations in central and north Delhi.

INFUSING LOVE FOR MOTHERLAND

Never in doubt about country's future: Bhagwat

Press Trust Of India

Bhagwat said, many people were working collectively for its betterment which was bound to show results.

GUMLA: Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat on Thursday asserted that he was never worried about the country's future as many people were working collectively for its betterment which was bound to show results. Bhagwat was addressing a village-level workers meeting organised by Vikas Bharti, a not-for-profit organisation, here.

"There is no doubt about the country's future, good things



RSS Chief Mohan Bhagwat speaks at a village level workers interaction prog.

should happen, all are working for it, we are also making efforts..." he said. The RSS head said people of India have their own nature and many are working for the welfare of the country without desire for any name or

fame. "We have different styles of worship as we have 33 crore Gods and Goddesses and more than 3,800 languages are spoken here and even the food habits are different. Despite the difference, our mind is one and can-

FACTFILE

● Bhagwat added that these days so called progressive people believe in giving back to society which was ingrained in Indian culture.

not be found in other countries," he said.

Bhagwat added that these days so called progressive people believe in giving back to society which was ingrained in Indian culture.

"It is nowhere written in the scriptures but generation by generation it is there in our nature," he said. He also urged the village workers to tirelessly work for the welfare of society.

GROUNDBREAKING RESEARCH

Herb 'Chhoti Kateli' prevents Tuberculosis effectively

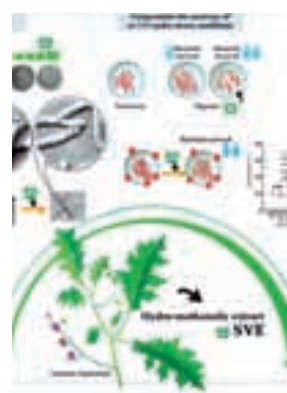
Press Trust Of India

HARIDWAR: TB is caused by bacteria (Mycobacterium tuberculosis) and it most often affects the lungs. TB is spread through the air when people with lung TB cough, sneeze or spit. A person needs to inhale only a few germs to become infected.

According to WHO,

over 1 crore people worldwide were affected in the year 2022 by this disease. Despite being a preventable and curable disease, many people die from TB each year - making it the world's one of the top infectious killers. It is prevalent in almost every country, and in India, a government initiative has been in place since 1962 to combat TB, providing free

Various govt initiatives worldwide have been striving to prevent TB.
Acharya Balkrishna Patanjali



medications to patients. On this occasion, Acharya Balkrishna said that the current treatment modalities include the limited bio availability of anti-tubercular drugs and the propensity of the bacteria to develop single- or multi-drug resistant. Also, the long treatment period of anti-tubercular drugs induces drug-associated hepatotoxicity.

Central Chronicle Classifieds

आवश्यकता है

विश्वविद्यालय, मेकनिकल इंजिनियर, इलेक्ट्रिकल एन्ड इलेक्ट्रॉनिक इंजिनियर, सुपरवाइजर, क्लर्क (महिला), कम्प्यूटर ऑपरेटर, नर्स, ड्राई बसप, स्टीयर की राकवान जकरत हे। संपर्क करे मोबाइल नंबर - 9238513105

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Contact for Classified Advertisement: 94242 03139

Puja Khedkar's mother arrested in land dispute case

She was apprehended early Thu morning from Mahad in Maha's Raigad district.

Press Trust Of India

PUNE: Pune police on Thursday arrested Manorama Khedkar, mother of controversial IAS probationer Puja Khedkar, in a case of allegedly threatening some persons by brandishing a gun over a land dispute, officials said.



land dispute at Dhadwali village in Pune's Mulshi tehsil. The Paud police in Pune rural have booked the Khedkar couple and five others under the Bharatiya Nyay Sanhita (BNS) sections, including 323 (dishonest or fraudulent removal or concealment of property), and relevant provisions of the Arms act.

Celebrities attend re-launch of Subharti TV

Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI: Subharti TV, a popular channel for films and serials full of spiritual, family, comedy entertainment, was re-launched in a grand ceremony held in Mumbai. On this occasion, many celebrities including Pujya Guru Bhagyashree Ji, Actress Upasana Singh, Pankaj Singh Thakur, Rakam Singh Rana, Harish Kumar, Shuaib Sabri, KD Walia, Umed Singh, Helen Kapoor were present as the chief guests.



from Subharti TV to produce a serial. Soon she will produce a serial for this channel. Subharti TV is moving towards new heights. It is noteworthy that the country's famous storytellers are associated with this channel through Shrimad Bhagwat, Shri Ram Katha as well as Shiv Mahapuran, Gau Katha etc. and are guiding the viewers with their knowledgeable thoughts.

Businessman jumps off sea link

MUMBAI: A businessman allegedly committed suicide by jumping off Bandra Worli Sea Link (BWSL) after making a Whatsapp video call to his 22-year-old son telling him about his intention to end his life, a Mumbai police official said on Thursday.

Advertisement for CHHATTISGARH STATE POWER TRANSMISSION COMPANY LIMITED. Includes details about tenders for SLDC and technical specifications.

MANORAMA KHEDKAR

MANORAMA KHEDKAR was apprehended from Mahad in Raigad district and she was brought to Pune where, after the

COMPLETION OF FORMALITIES

COMPLETION OF FORMALITIES, she was placed under arrest," Superintendent of Police, Pune Rural, Pankaj Deshmukh, said.

South East Central Railway Appointment of Station Ticket Booking Agents (STBAs) notification. Details regarding appointment and working hours.

NAME CHANGE advertisements from Raipur. Multiple notices regarding name changes for various individuals and their details.

Advertisement for a coaching center (विद्यार्थी प्रवर्धन केंद्र) offering classes in Raipur. Includes contact information and details about the center's facilities.

NAME CHANGE and AFFIDAVIT advertisements. Includes a notice for Rakesh Kumar Gupta changing his name and an affidavit from Mahesh Kumar Gaipalla.

Affidavit and Name Change advertisements. Includes an affidavit from Mahesh Kumar Gaipalla and another name change notice.

Bank advertisements for Karnataka Bank and Locker Break Open Public Notice. Includes details about locker services and public notice regarding locker break open.

Bank advertisement for Canara Bank with a possession notice. Includes details about a demand notice for a borrower under Section 13(2).

Advertisement for the Green City Municipal Corporation (छ.न.) regarding water supply and public notices. Includes details about the corporation and contact information.

Bank advertisement for Bank of India (BOI) with a possession notice. Includes details about a demand notice for a borrower under Rule 8(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Advertisement for the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) regarding demand notices. Includes details about recovery officer notices and information about the board.

Advertisement for a coaching center (कार्यालय मुख्य महाप्रबंधक, जिला व्यापार एवं उद्योग केंद्र, रायपुर) offering coaching services. Includes details about the center and contact information.

Bank advertisement for Central Bank of India with a possession notice. Includes details about a demand notice for a borrower under Appendix IV Rule 8(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.



QUOTE FROM THE QUOTABLE

Many of life's failures are people who did not realize how close they were to success when they gave up.

[Thomas A. Edison]

Comment

Government buffer stocks can reduce prices during shortages

Buffer stocks are reserves of essential commodities that are maintained to manage fluctuations in supply and demand. Introduced during the Fourth Five-Year Plan (1969-74) in India, they ensure food security, economic stability and price control. For example, buffer stocks of rice and wheat maintained by the Food Corporation of India ensure the continued availability of these key commodities during adverse conditions, thereby supporting food security and price stability. Buffer stocking can be a means of preventing excessive volatility in food prices, similar to the RBI's foreign exchange reserves against the currency market. An increase in climate-driven price volatility – which ultimately helps neither consumers nor producers – only strengthens the case for a food buffer policy.

Buffer stocks are released during periods of shortage to boost supply and stabilize prices, thereby ensuring availability. For example: During the onion price surge in

2019, the Indian government released buffer stocks to boost supply, control prices, and curb inflation, to ensure that onions remained affordable. Maintaining buffer stocks allows the government to prevent a steep rise in prices during supply shortages, thereby balancing market demand. For example: In 2020, the government released pulses from buffer stocks to stabilize prices, ensuring that pulses remained available and affordable despite a decrease in production.

Buffer stocks help smooth out extreme price fluctuations by regulating the supply and demand dynamics in the market. Buffer stocks reduce inflation by increasing supply to the market during shortages, thereby preventing excessive price increases. For example: The release of wheat and rice stocks in 2021 helped control rising food inflation in India, ensuring that staple cereals remained affordable for consumers. Buffer stocks assist farmers by ensuring stable markets, preventing price falls due to excess sup-

ply, and providing price stability. For example: The government purchased excess milk and converted it into skimmed milk powder (SMP) to stabilize milk prices for farmers, preventing financial losses due to excess supply.

Buffer stocks ensure continued access to essential food items, thereby promoting national food security and stability. For example, during the pandemic, essential commodities were distributed to ensure the availability of food for the poor, preventing hunger and ensuring food security. Buffer stocks cushion economic shocks by stabilizing prices and maintaining market equilibrium, thereby contributing to economic stability. For example: the release of buffer stocks during the 2018 drought in Maharashtra helped stabilize prices and support economic stability, preventing an economic crisis in the region.

Buffer stocks mitigate the impact on food availability due to climate-induced supply shocks, thereby increasing climate resilience. By procuring excess produce during surplus

years, buffer stocks provide farmers with a stable market and fair prices, thereby contributing to rural economic stability. Buffer stocks ensure the smooth functioning of welfare schemes, which are critical for economic stability by supporting vulnerable populations and maintaining social stability. For example: The Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKY) relied on buffer stocks to distribute food to the poor during the COVID-19 pandemic, thereby ensuring economic and social stability by preventing hunger and deprivation. As India faces increasing volatility and economic challenges due to climate change, government-controlled buffer stocks will play a critical role in stabilizing prices and supporting economic stability.

By ensuring consistent supply, reducing inflation, and supporting welfare schemes, these buffer stocks will enhance food security and economic resilience, and promote sustainable growth and a stable economic environment in the future.



Priyanka Saurabh

Freelance Journalist

OUR VIEW |

BJP's unity crisis in Uttar Pradesh: A looming threat

The cracks within the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in Uttar Pradesh have become glaringly evident, threatening the party's stronghold in this politically crucial state. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's candid admission at the state party unit's working committee meeting about 'shifting of votes and overconfidence' hampering their performance in the recent Lok Sabha elections has sent ripples through the political landscape. The recent meeting underscored the internal discord when Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya emphasized the supremacy of the party organization over the government. This statement, coupled with Maurya's subsequent meeting with BJP president JP Nadda in New Delhi, hints at an undercurrent of power struggles and differing priorities within the party ranks. Further fueling the speculation, state party chief Bhupendra Singh Chaudhary has also held separate discussions with Nadda and Prime Minister Narendra Modi, pointing to a lack of cohesive strategy among the key stakeholders. The BJP's subpar performance in the Lok Sabha elections, particularly in Uttar Pradesh, has been a major cause for concern. The party managed to secure only 33 seats, a significant drop from the 62 seats it held in 2019. The Samajwadi Party-Congress alliance capitalized on this weakness, winning 43 seats in the state. A particularly stinging defeat came from the Faizabad parliamentary constituency in Ayodhya, where the BJP's loss was especially bitter given the recent inauguration of the Ram Mandir by PM Modi. The Prime Minister's own reduced victory margin in Varanasi, down to 1.52 lakh votes from a whopping 4.79 lakh in 2019, underscores the party's waning influence. With 10 Assembly seats in Uttar Pradesh gearing up for by-elections, the urgency for the BJP to mend its internal rifts cannot be overstated. Yogi Adityanath, once a towering figure and perceived successor to Modi, now faces a diminished stature post the electoral setbacks. As the Samajwadi Party-Congress alliance gains momentum, the BJP's inability to present a united front could result in further erosion of its political ground in the state.

GUEST VIEW |

AP and Telangana chiefs address bifurcation issues

It is commendable that the Chief Ministers of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana have put aside their political differences to resolve longstanding issues stemming from the bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh in 2014. AP Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu initiated the meeting with his Telangana counterpart, A. Revanth Reddy, who is also a former Telugu Desam Party colleague. Both sides agreed to establish high-level committees comprising chief secretarial and ministerial members to address grievances. Contentious issues like water sharing and power distribution remain complex, but it is encouraging that Naidu and Reddy have made a start. Andhra Pradesh and Telangana both claim power payment dues from each other, with Telangana seeking more water allocation. The division of assets and liabilities, totaling a staggering 1.42 lakh crores, was prominently discussed. This includes matters outlined in the AP Reorganisation Act and some that were not specified. Telangana's access to Andhra Pradesh's long coastal corridor is another critical issue for the committees to address. Additionally, the allocation of significant landmark buildings in Hyderabad was also a key point of discussion.



Dr. Ganapathi Bhat

It is impossible to imagine infinity. But we have to accept that the universe is infinite. We cannot escape by saying that it is finite, simply because, if it is so, then the question will arise – "What is there after the finite boundary?" Now, as it is not finite, there must not be any starting point or finishing line. In other words, it cannot have any origin or deathbed.

But according to the Big Bang model, the universe has a finite past. Professor Rudy Rucker said, "In the light of the Big Bang model of the origin of the universe, cosmologists generally believe that the universe has a finitely long past; whether it might have an endless future is an open question."

This is the hurdle the Big Bang—the most widely accepted hypothesis for the origin of the universe—is likely to face. In order to theorize the origin of the universe, it propagates willy-nilly a starting point—the bang—a starting point of space and time! But does not this theory thus limit the infinite?

It is better to view the journey of the universe with no starting point and never-ending. A line is an example of having no bounds.

The number line has the symbol of infinity at both of its ends. It has no starting point and no ending. To put the symbol of infinity in just one of its ends means no infinity at all.

Infinity is the beauty – a joy forever! Sri Aurobindo said, "Freedom comes by a unity without limits; for that is our real being."

We may gain the essence of this unity in ourselves; we may realize the play of it in oneness with all others."

Our ignorance, greed, and ego are creating walls among

ourselves that stop us from realizing our oneness and our infinite single entity.

Everything is one in infinity. And no one can deny infinity! Therefore, we all are one and infinite. We actually hate ourselves when we hate others. The time, space, and numbers cannot be finite. They are infinite. And the infinite means the One – no duality. There is indeed no place for "our god is better than your god" sort of thing.

It is like a fight on whether an elephant is like a trunk or a snake or a rope or a fan after

mistaking a part as a whole.

Infinite is always one. It can never be two parts.

Then how can there be duality in this infinite universe? We believe that light exists because of darkness, goodness exists because of evil, and happiness exists because of sadness.

But how can birth and death or light and darkness or good and evil both exist simultaneously in infinity?

This belief challenges infinity, the One.

We need to ponder on what Einstein had said to get out of

this wrong notion. A teacher told Albert Einstein that the existence of evil nullified the existence of God.

Einstein refuted him by comparing evil with darkness. The logic is clear and simple. Darkness is nothing but an absence of light. It does not exist on its own. Similarly, evil is merely an absence of good.

Sri Aurobindo made it crystal clear when he wrote in The Life Divine (page – 622), "Therefore the relation of truth to falsehood, of good to evil is not a mutual dependence, but is in the nature of a contradiction as of light and shadow; a shadow depends on light for its existence, but light does not depend for its existence on the shadow."

This perspective can also be extended to other dualities we encounter in life. By recognizing the infinite, we transcend the confines of these apparent opposites and embrace a more unified, holistic understanding of our existence.

Such an understanding fosters compassion, empathy, and a profound connection with the universe, helping us to see beyond our limited perceptions and appreciate the boundless nature of reality.

Infinite Universe: Beyond Duality and Limits

The universe's infinite nature challenges our understanding of origin and boundaries, urging us to transcend dualities and embrace a unified, boundless perspective of existence. by Sujit De



The panoramic view of the universe, capturing the concept of boundless space and unity.

YOUR LETTERS

Gandhi advocates respectful discourse

No kudos is enough for Rahul Gandhi for issuing a stern appeal to the troll brigade to refrain from using derogatory language and being nasty towards BJP leader Smriti Irani (revolving around her electoral defeat) by ignoring the hard fact how the latter had launched vicious personal attacks against the former repeatedly. Rightly has Gandhi stressed "Humiliating and insulting people is a sign of weakness, not strength". What an island of sanity amidst the turbulent ocean of intolerant macho chest-thumpers.

Kajal Chatterjee, Kolkata

Rising Terror in Jammu

Recent months have seen a disturbing surge in terrorist attacks in the region, particularly in Jammu, previously less affected by such violence. The spike in casualties has cast doubt on the effectiveness of current counter-terrorism strategies. The abrogation of Article 370 had sparked hope for lasting peace in Jammu and Kashmir. However, with the region now mired in a renewed cycle of terror and violence, it is clear that a re-evaluation of counter-terrorism measures is urgently needed.

MK Nair 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



Record electricity demand of 3,626 lakh units met
Harbhajan Singh
Punjab Power Minister.

Amazon Prime Day 2024: New deals launch event



(L-R) Manish Menghani, Director Content Licensing, Prime Video, India; Akshay Sahi, Head of Amazon Prime, during the launch of the new deals' line-up for Amazon Prime Day.

Growth momentum quickens in Q2: RBI

The second quarter of 2024-25 has begun with signs of quickening momentum in the economy though inflation in the food basket remains a concern.

Press Trust Of India
MUMBAI: The second quarter of 2024-25 has begun with signs of quickening momentum in the economy though inflation in the food basket remains a concern, said the Reserve Bank's July Bulletin released on Thursday. An article on 'State of the Economy' in the monthly Bulletin also said the improvement in the outlook for agriculture

and the revival of rural spending have turned out to be the bright spots in the evolution of demand conditions. Given the high uncertainty shrouding the inflation outlook, it is prudent to eschew the temptation of time inconsistency and stay the course on the straight and narrow path of aligning inflation with the target of 4 per cent. "This does not imply that inflation should reach 4

NUMBER

4

- Consumer price inflation ticked up in June 2024.
- Inflation should reach 4 per cent and stay there before monetary policy.

per cent and stay there

before monetary policy considers a change in stance; instead, based on a careful evaluation of the balance of risks, an enduring movement towards the target should provide signals to forward-looking monetary policy to respond," the article said. Consumer price inflation ticked up in June 2024 after three consecutive months of moderation as a broad flare-up

in vegetable prices halted the overall disinflation that had been underway, it said. "The argument that food price shocks are transitory does not seem to be borne out by the actual experience over the past one year - too long a period for a shock to be termed as transitory!" said the article authored by a team led by RBI deputy governor Michael Debabrata Patra.

Housing prices in top 30 tier II markets rise

NEW DELHI: Housing prices in top 30 Tier II markets have risen by up to 94 per cent in the last four years on high demand for residential properties, according to real estate data analytic firm PropEquity. The data relates to primary residential markets of the 30 markets. PropEquity, which is listed on stock exchanges, has compared the average launch price of projects during 2023-24 fiscal year as against the rates during 2019-20. The 30 markets are Amritsar, Mohali, Ludhiana, Chandigarh, Panipat, Dehradun, Bhiwadi, Sonapat, Jaipur, Agra, Lucknow, Bhopal, Indore, Visakhapatnam, Vijayawada, Guntur, Mangalore, Mysore, Coimbatore, Kochi, Trivandrum, Raipur, Bhubaneswar, Ahmedabad, Gandhi Nagar, Vadodara, Surat, Nashik, Nagpur and Goa. As per the data, as many as 24 Tier II markets witnessed a double-digit growth.

Infosys Q1 profit up 7 pc to Rs 6,368 crore

Press Trust Of India
Infosys expects its operating margin to be 20-22 per cent in the current fiscal year.

BENGALURU: IT major Infosys on Thursday reported 7 per cent rise in consolidated net profit at Rs 6,368 crore for June quarter FY25 and raised its growth outlook for the financial year. In the year-ago period, the company clocked a profit of Rs 5,945 crore, according to a BSE filing. The net profit in April-June fell 20 per cent from Rs 7,969 crore in the preceding March quarter. For the current fiscal year, the company raised revenue growth guidance to 3-4 per cent in constant currency terms from 1-3 per cent projected earlier. It expects to hire 15,000-20,000 freshers



Infosys CEO and MD Salil Parekh (left) and CFO Jayesh Sanghrajka (right) during the announcement of Quarter 1 financial results of the company.

FACTFILE

- Company raises growth outlook for FY25

depending on the growth during the year. "We had an excellent start to FY25 with strong and broad-based growth, operating margin expansion, robust large deals, and the highest ever cash generation. This is a testimony to our differentiated service

offerings, enormous client trust, and relentless execution," said CEO and MD Salil Parekh. The company's operating margin during the quarter stood at 21.1 per cent. Infosys expects its operating margin to be 20-22 per cent in the current fiscal year. "With our focused approach for generative AI for enterprises working with their data sets on a cloud foundation, we have strong traction with our

clients. This is building on our Topaz and Cobalt capabilities," Parekh added. The company won large deals worth USD 4.1 billion during the quarter. "We had very strong performance on large deals in the first quarter which gives us more visibility into the full year," Parekh said. Share of the financial services segment, which is the biggest contributor to Infosys' revenue, recorded 0.3 per cent decline on a constant currency basis to 27.5 per cent. While the retail segment's share fell 3 per cent to 13.8 per cent, the communication segment's share rose 5.4 per cent to 12.1 per cent and energy, utilities, resources, services grew 6.3 per cent to 13.3 per cent on a constant current basis. Parekh said the company is witnessing improvement in financial service revenue in the US.

BizBriefs

BEST OF THE REST

Q1 RESULTS

Havells India Q1 net profit up 42 pc at Rs 407.51 cr

NEW DELHI: Havells India Ltd on Thursday reported a 42 per cent jump in consolidated net profit at Rs 407.51 crore in the first quarter ended June 30, 2024 as a scorching summer led to robust sales growth. The company had posted a consolidated net profit of Rs 287.07 crore in the same quarter last fiscal, Havells India said in a regulatory filing. Consolidated revenue from operations in the first quarter stood at Rs 5,806.21 crore, as compared to Rs 4,833.8 crore in the corresponding period a year ago, the company said. Total expenses in the quarter under review were higher at Rs 5,334.54 crore, as compared to Rs 4,516.59 crore in the year-ago period. Electrical consumer durables segment clocked revenue of Rs 1,055.42 crore in the first quarter of this financial year, up from Rs 877.52 crore in the same period a year ago.

INDICATORS

Share MARKETS

Market	Close	%chg
Sensex	81,343	+0.78
Nifty	24,800	+0.76
Nifty, MidCap	57,111	-0.96
Nifty SmallCap	18,829	-1.22
Nifty Bank	52,620	+0.43

Closing rates as on July 18, 2024 at 5:30p.m. (IST)

Forex RATES

Foreign currency Vs Rupee

US Dollar	83.62 (+)
Euro	91.20 (+)
Chinese Yuan	11.51 (+)
UAE Dirham	22.76 (+)
Pakistan Rupee	0.29 (-)
Sri Lanka Rupee	0.27 (+)

On June July 18

World INDICES

Stock	Value	% chg
Dow Jones (US)	41,338	+0.34%
FTSE 100 Index	8,235	+0.58%
Nikkei 225 (JPN)	225: 40,126	-2.36%
CSI 300 (CHN)	300: 3,520	+0.55%

Index at 05:30 p.m. (IST, July 18, 2024)

How the markets behave today?

Sensex breaches 81,000 level, Nifty closes at record 24,800 as IT shares shine

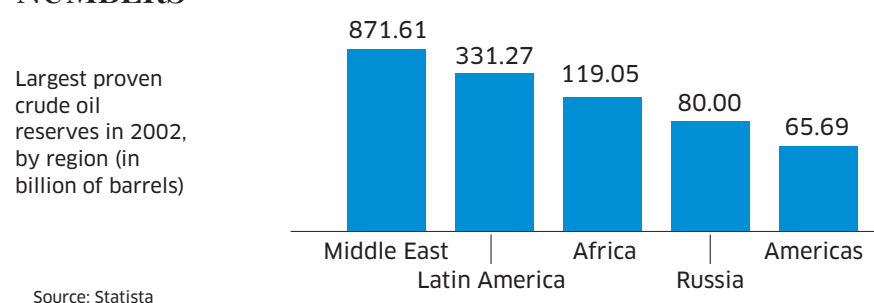


MUMBAI: Stock markets remained on record-smashing course for the fourth straight day on Thursday with benchmark Sensex breaching the 81,000 mark for the first time and Nifty scaling the record 24,800 level driven by buying in IT, oil&gas and FMCG shares. Rebounding from its early lows, the 30-share BSE Sensex rose by 626.91 points or 0.78 per cent to settle at a fresh closing high of 81,343.46. The index opened on a weak note and hit a low of 80,390.37 points in early trade. However buying in IT shares TCS, Infosys and Tech

Mahindra and index heavyweight Reliance Industries helped the index pare losses in the afternoon session. The barometer surged 806 points or 0.99 per cent to hit a new record intra-day peak of 81,522.55. The broader Nifty also pared early losses and climbed 187.85 points or 0.76 per cent to settle at an all-time closing high of 24,800.85. **MAJOR GAINERS:** Bajaj Finserv, TCS, Infosys, M&M, Tech Mahindra, Hindustan Unilever, SBI and HCL Tech. **MAJOR LOSERS:** Asian Paints, JSW Steel, NTPC and Adani Ports.

The Day's NUMBERS

WHERE ARE THE LARGEST OIL RESERVES?



SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Airtel Foundation launches 'Bharti Airtel Scholarship Program'

NEW DELHI: Bharti Airtel Foundation, the philanthropic arm of Bharti Enterprises, is commemorating its 25 years with the launch of a prestigious 'Bharti Airtel Scholarship Program'. This merit-cum-means based Scholarship Program aims to support deserving students from diverse socio-economic backgrounds with a focus on girl students, pursuing Technology-based Engineering UG and integrated programs (up to 5 years) in the top 50 National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) (Engineering) colleges, including IITs. This will be applicable to students eligible for admissions in August 2024. Rakesh Bharti Mittal, Vice Chairman of Bharti Enterprises and Co-Chairman of Bharti Airtel Foundation said, "As we reflect on the last 25 years, the Bharti Airtel Foundation is proud to have touched 6 million+ lives through our educational initiatives. With this pioneering Bharti Airtel Scholarship Program, we are expanding our commitment to empower students from diverse socio-economic backgrounds, particularly girl students, to achieve academic excellence.

BULLION MARKET

Gold zooms for sixth day in a row, rallies Rs 700 on buying support

NEW DELHI: Gold price surged by Rs 700 to Rs 76,400 per 10 grams in the local market here on Thursday on fresh domestic demand as well as depreciation in rupee. According to All India Sarafa Association, the yellow metal prices had closed at Rs 75,700 per 10 grams in the previous session. Extending its gains for the sixth straight session, the precious metal jumped by Rs 700 to Rs 76,400 per 10 grams in the national capital. Meanwhile, gold of 99.5 per cent purity zoomed by Rs 750 to Rs 76,100 per 10 grams.



UNION BUDGET

MSME for doubling loan limit to Rs 20 lakh

Press Trust Of India
NEW DELHI: The finance ministry in the forthcoming Union Budget needs to double the loan limit to Rs 20 lakh under the MUDRA Yojana, and expand the credit guarantee cover for unsecured loans for MSMEs from Rs 2 crore to Rs 5 crore. MSMEs also want incentives from the gov-

ernment to help them sell products globally. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will present the Union Budget for the current fiscal on July 23 in the Lok Sabha. On expectations from the Budget, Navin Saini, chief business officer (Retail & MSME), Arka Fincap said the government will continue its agenda to provide a strong foun-



datation for MSMEs, bolstering their growth. "To achieve this, they should consider increasing the loan limit of the Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana

(PMMY) scheme from Rs 10 lakh to Rs 20 lakh and expanding the credit guarantee cover for unsecured loans for MSMEs from Rs 2 crore to Rs 5 crore. "These measures will provide MSMEs with greater access to necessary financial resources, enabling them to thrive and contribute significantly to the economy," Saini said.

"My father was like, 'I can do any job in Mumbai, even if it means mopping floors because the family wouldn't get to know about it. My father had a very struggling time during his youth.'"

Vicky Kaushal
Actor



& Glitters

OTT Watch



"Barzakh" premieres July 19 on ZEE5

"Barzakh," starring Fawad Khan and Sanam Saeed, premieres July 19, 2024, on ZEE5. This highly anticipated series by AsimAbbasi will release two episodes weekly, Tuesdays and Fridays at 8 PM IST, also available on Zindagi's YouTube channel.



Legendary Bollywood star joins Laughter Chefs!

Laughter Chefs buzzes with excitement as Bollywood legend Dharmendra joins the fun! Nia Sharma, sharing a sneak peek on Instagram, thrilled fans with a snapshot featuring the iconic actor and the show's vibrant cast.



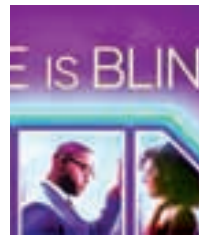
Colin Firth joins 'Young Sherlock' on Amazon Prime

Colin Firth joins Guy Ritchie's "Young Sherlock" series on Amazon Prime. He plays Sir Bucephalus Hodge, alongside Hero Fiennes Tiffin as the young detective. Ritchie directs the eight-episode adaptation of Andy Lane's books.



ZEE5 honours MT Vasudevan Nair

ZEE5's "Manorathangal" honors MT Vasudevan Nair's legacy with stars like Kamal Haasan, Mammootty, Mohanlal, and FahadhFaasil. Premiering August 15, it explores human nature in Kerala through nine stories directed by top names in Malayalam cinema.



Love Is Blind: UK debuts on Netflix

Netflix's hit reality show Love Is Blind is debuting in the UK, promising a new season filled with singles seeking love beyond appearances. Premiering August 7, it follows a successful global run.

CLOSE UP

Meena Kumari biopic starring Kriti Sanon delayed to 2025

Fashion designer Manish Malhotra's announcement of a Meena Kumari biopic is trending, garnering widespread attention

Central Chronicle News

Kriti is watching Meena Kumari's notable films, including *BaijuBawra*, *Sahib Bibi Aur Ghulam* and *Pakeezah*. She is studying her performances and mannerisms to internalize the nuances that made her an icon.

The highly anticipated Meena Kumari biopic, directed by Manish Malhotra and starring Kriti Sanon, has encountered delays. Initially planned to begin filming in October 2024, the project has now been rescheduled for 2025. According to reports from Mid-day, the delay is attributed to extensive script refinement and the meticulous pre-production process required for recreating the iconic actress's life and era authentically. Insiders suggest that the extended timeline may benefit the period drama, allowing for thorough costume design and historical accuracy. Originally slated to start in October 2023, the biopic has faced previous postponements, underscoring the challenges of paying homage to Meena Kumari's enduring legacy in Indian cinema amidst mounting anticipation from fans and critics alike.



Meena Kumari Biopic: Kriti Sanon and Manish Malhotra's project delayed again; filming expected to begin in 2025



Other projects starring Kriti Sanon

Kriti Sanon has had a great year at the movies, with her romantic comedy *Teri Baaton Mein Aisa Uljha Jiya* impressing the audience. She received a lot of love for her performance as SIFRA, a robot, and also for her chemistry with Shahid Kapoor.

Later, she starred in *Crew* as an air hostess alongside Kareena Kapoor Khan and Tabu. The heist comedy garnered immense acclaim and proved to be a commercial success. Next, Kriti is set to feature in the mystery thriller *Do Patti*, in which she will share the screen with Kajol.

| HOLLYWOOD |

Adele's surprise announcement: A break from music after Las Vegas residency

Central Chronicle News

Adele has delivered surprising news to her fans by announcing a hiatus from music despite her upcoming Adele Las Vegas residency at The Colosseum, scheduled to conclude in November. In a video shared by a fan, she expressed her intention to explore new professional opportunities in the future, including a break from making music altogether. During an interview with German broadcaster ZDF, Adele elaborated on her decision, stating, "I don't have any plans for new music at all." She



emphasized her desire for a significant break after her Las Vegas resi-

dency, expressing interest in pursuing other creative endeavors. This announcement marks a departure for the celebrated singer, whose last album, "30," garnered six Grammy nominations and won British Album of the Year. Reflecting on her upcoming performances, Adele highlighted her excitement about connecting intimately with audi-

Bob Odenkirk says Steve Carell was a better choice than him for *The Office*.

HIGHLIGHT

• Adele shares a shocking update about her music career. The musician claims to be looking into other career prospects while also sharing that no new music is currently in works.

ences despite performing in large venues. She acknowledged the challenges of fame, revealing, "I miss everything about before I was famous, I think probably being anonymous the most. I don't like being famous."

CineBriefs

BEST OF THE REST

Bollywood

Chidambaram's Hindi directorial debut with Phantom Studios

Filmmaker Chidambaram, renowned for the Malayalam hit "Manjummel Boys", is set to make his Hindi directorial debut with Phantom Studios. The film, which grossed over Rs 200 crore, marks his entry into Hindi mainstream cinema. SrishtiBehl, CEO of Phantom Studios, expressed excitement about the collaboration, highlighting Chidambaram's storytelling prowess. She emphasized their commitment to showcasing diverse voices in Hindi cinema. Chidambaram, whose debut "Jan.E.Man" garnered attention, expressed gratitude for the opportunity to expand his narrative horizons.

Web Series

Actor Pankit Thakker is set to debut on OTT with 'MohMaaya'

Actor Pankit Thakker is set to debut on OTT with "MohMaaya," directed by Ankush Bhatt. Excited about his lead role, he sees the film as a career opportunity. Known for versatility from TV shows like 'Barsatein - MausamPyaarKa' and 'Dill Mill Gayye,' Pankit values professionalism and collaboration on set. He enjoys diving into diverse characters, focusing on their motivations and emotions to create memorable performances. For him, acting is about continuous growth and learning. With "MohMaaya," Pankit aims to bring his character to life authentically, embracing the challenge and creativity that come with each new role.

The Bollywood hot pair

Emma Roberts and Cody John announce engagement after publicly dating since August 2022



Actress Emma Roberts, known for "American Horror Story," and actor Cody John, from "In the Dark," are engaged. Roberts, recently seen in "Space Cadet," revealed the news on Instagram, captioning a photo with "Putting this here before my mom tells everyone." John, also recognized for "Wu-Tang: An American

Saga," made their relationship public in August 2022 with a sweet post. Roberts, who values privacy, previously dated Garrett Hedlund, with whom she shares a three-year-old son named Rhodes. They reportedly met through mutual friends, highlighting their journey from colleagues to now happily engaged partners.

Fashion

Karisma Kapoor slays in Rahul Mishra blazer over netted dress

Karisma Kapoor stunned in a black netted dress and Rahul Mishra blazer, showcasing a blend of elegance and modernity. Her ensemble featured an ankle-length dress with intricate net detailing, offering a textured allure. Layered over this was a taupe-colored blazer adorned with shimmering black fabric and sheer patches, adding subtle glamour.



Trending on Insta



@abhaydeol

AbhayDeol shows off DJ skills at Kolkata Club in Instagram video

AbhayDeol flaunted his DJ skills at a Kolkata club, rocking a black t-shirt and glasses while spinning tracks that had the crowd dancing and cheering in a lively Instagram video he shared.

@priyankachopra

Priyanka Chopra's love for Bhindi

Priyanka Chopra showed her love for bhindi on Instagram, resharing a reel where a young boy expresses his fondness for the vegetable, saying he can eat anything with it and loves its taste.





FineDine

AQUARIUM DINING SERENITY

Dive into deliciousness: Cafe Sukoon's aquarium ambiance

Escape to Cafe Sukoon for a dining experience like no other, where fish-filled aquariums set the stage for unforgettable meals.



Cafe Sukoon where you treat yourself with peace and joy.



HIGHLIGHT

● Journey into relaxation and flavor at Cafe Sukoon, where underwater charm meets gourmet cuisine.

ized through unwavering belief and support from the community. As India's pioneering Aquarium Cafe Restaurant, Cafe Sukoon continues to innovate, offering a unique blend of ambiance, hospitality, and culinary excellence. Come and immerse yourself in the calmness of Cafe Sukoon—a sanctuary where dreams swim freely and each meal becomes a rejuvenating escape from the hustle and bustle of daily life. Whether you seek solitude or wish to celebrate with loved ones, Cafe Sukoon promises an unforgettable experience where delicious food, soothing surroundings, and cherished moments converge harmoniously.

FoodPick

MUST TRY WHEN TRAVEL

Eggless delights at 'First Bite'

If you're craving sweets but concerned about sugar or prefer gluten-free options, First Bite in Shankar Nagar offers a perfect solution. They specialize in a variety of cakes, cheesecakes, and cookies—all available in eggless versions. What sets them apart is their ability to customize cakes to suit your preferences. Whether you're looking for a guilt-free treat or have specific dietary needs, First Bite ensures you can indulge without compromise. Located in Shankar Nagar, it's your go-to spot for delicious, tailored desserts that cater to a range of dietary preferences and tastes.



Ritz launches new toasted chips

Ritz Crackers has launched two enticing new flavors of toasted chips for its second March Madness sponsorship: sweet habanero and honey BBQ. These flavors are set to elevate the snacking experience during game-watching sessions, whether at home, with friends, or at events like Fan Fest in Phoenix, Arizona. Perfect for casual snacking while following tournament brackets or celebrating with fellow fans, these chips promise to add a flavorful twist to the excitement of game madness.



Colorful momo delights on NIT Road

If you've savored momos in Raipur, but haven't experienced the colorful varieties yet, head to Rich Momos on NIT Road. They boast a tantalizing selection including fried and Manchurian momos, each bursting with distinct flavors. Not stopping there, Rich Momos also tempts with a menu featuring mouthwatering burgers and sandwiches. Whether you're craving the traditional steamed momos or eager to explore new tastes, this spot promises a delightful culinary adventure. Located conveniently on NIT Road, Rich Momos is your go-to destination for a satisfying meal where every bite promises to be a flavorful delight.



Rosewater Lemonade

Ingredients
1 cup fresh lemon juice, 1/2 cup rosewater, 1/4 cup simple syrup (adjust to taste), 2 cups cold water, Ice cubes, Lemon slices (for garnish), Edible rose petals (for garnish), Fresh mint leaves (for garnish)

How to make it
In a pitcher, combine fresh lemon juice, rosewater, simple syrup, and cold water. Stir gently until well mixed. Fill glasses with ice cubes. Pour the mixture over the ice cubes. Garnish each glass with lemon slices, edible rose petals, and fresh mint leaves. Serve immediately and enjoy your refreshing rosewater lemonade!



Snickers Martini

Ingredients
1 oz vodka, 1 oz Irish cream liqueur, 1 oz chocolate liqueur, 1 oz hazelnut liqueur, 1 tablespoon caramel syrup, Ice cubes, Crushed peanuts (for garnish), Chocolate syrup (for garnish), Caramel syrup (for garnish)

How to make it
In a cocktail shaker, combine vodka, Irish cream liqueur, chocolate liqueur, hazelnut liqueur, and caramel syrup. Add ice cubes and shake well until chilled. Drizzle chocolate syrup and caramel syrup inside the rim of a martini glass. Strain the mixture into the prepared glass. Garnish with crushed peanuts. Serve immediately and enjoy your decadent Snickers martini!



Cinnamon Coffee Smoothie

Ingredients
1 cup brewed coffee (cooled), 1/2 cup almond milk, 1 banana, 1 tablespoon honey (adjust to taste), 1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon, 1/4 teaspoon vanilla extract, Ice cubes, Whipped cream (for garnish), Ground cinnamon (for garnish)

How to make it
In a blender, combine brewed coffee, almond milk, banana, honey, ground cinnamon, and vanilla extract. Add ice cubes and blend until smooth. Pour the smoothie into glasses. Garnish with whipped cream and a sprinkle of ground cinnamon. Serve immediately and enjoy your refreshing cinnamon coffee smoothie!



Imagine stepping into a soothing haven in Raipur, where dining is not just about food, but an immersive experience amidst the serene beauty of aquariums. Welcome to Cafe Sukoon, where every visit promises a peaceful retreat and moments of joy. Cafe Sukoon caters to diverse tastes with a menu starting at just Rs. 200, ensuring affordability without compromising on quality. Whether you crave hearty pastas or crave-worthy pizzas, each dish is crafted with care using fresh, locally-sourced ingredients to delight your senses. More than just a place to eat, Cafe Sukoon invites guests of all ages to create lasting memories. Celebrate special occasions like birthdays and anniversaries with thoughtful gifts that add a personal touch to your dining experience. Capture these cherished moments in their charming photo booths, designed to preserve smiles and laughter for years to come.

The journey of Cafe Sukoon is a testament to dreams and determination—a vision real-

Drumstick soup: Monsoon's immunity-boosting elixir

Drumstick soup is a monsoon delight renowned for its immunity-boosting properties. Packed with nutrients like vitamins C and A, calcium, and iron, this soup not only enhances immune function but also promotes overall health. Its distinctive flavor, derived from the drumstick's tender pods and leaves, combined with spices and herbs, makes it a comforting choice during rainy seasons.



GOOD DINING |

Exploring basket weave Ravioli: A visual feast or food fad?



The internet is abuzz over a viral video featuring a unique culinary creation: Basket Weave Ravioli. With 1.4 million views and counting, the dish showcases pasta strips woven into a colorful, checkered pattern. After filling it with a blend of mascarpone, feta cheese, and spinach, the chef seals and cooks the ravioli to perfection in a buttery sauce. Viewers are captivated by its visual appeal and innovative technique, though opinions vary. While some admire its beauty, others express skepticism. Regardless, this inventive dish continues to spark debate and fascination, adding a delightful twist to traditional pasta-making techniques.

| GOAN CULINARY EXCELLENCE |

Chef Avinash Martins' unparalleled creations

Central Chronicle News

Chef Avinash Martins found himself catapulted into a whirlwind of culinary creativity when he received the call that would define his year—a request to craft the menu for the Ambani wedding, a celebration that resonated across India's social elite. Known for his innovative blend of Goan flavors with global influences, Chef Martins embarked on a journey to curate an unforgettable dining experience. His preparations began with meticulous tastings at Antilia, the Ambani residence, where dishes like tender coconut carpaccio and honey bimbli emulsion captivated the palates of the Ambani family themselves. The menu, a departure from conventional

vegetarian fare, excluded staples like paneer and tofu in favor of Martins' distinctive creations. For the wedding at Mumbai's Jio World Convention Centre, Martins designed a menu that showcased his culinary prowess. Highlights included tender coconut pao de queso, mini toddy sannas, and a mango-curry-based wok tossed edamame and Brussels sprouts kismur, which garnered praise from celebrity guests.

HIGHLIGHT

● Chef Avinash Martins impresses the Ambani family with his unique menu for the wedding of Anant Ambani and Radhika Merchant, showcasing traditional Goan food with a modern twist.



Some of the dishes served by chef Avinash Martins at the main wedding function at NMACC



Reflecting on his journey from the merchant navy to haute cuisine, Martins expressed gratitude for the opportunity to represent Goan culinary heritage on such a grand scale. "I left a white-collared job," he mused, emphasizing his commitment to showcasing Goan ethos through his cooking. The event marked not just a career milestone for Martins but also a testament to his dedication and passion. As he continues to redefine Indian gastronomy with each creation, Chef Avinash Martins' legacy at the Ambani wedding remains a shining example of culinary excellence and cultural fusion.



We are well on our way to making it to the next Olympics (in Los Angeles).

Maninder Pal Singh
Cycling Federation of India (CFI) secretary general

India to begin Asia Cup defence against Pakistan

The Women's Asia Cup kicks off with a high-stakes match as defending champions India face arch-rivals Pakistan in Dambulla on Friday.



In addition to the rich form shown in recent outings to clinch the Group A clash here. While India are coming off a 1-1 draw against

South Africa earlier this month with the second of the three T20Is being washed out, Pakistan will be short on game-time as well as confidence since their last outing was in England in May when the hosts blanked them 3-0.

Smriti Mandhana's rich form with the bat will be India's greatest weapon at the top of the order but the biggest gain from recent all-format outings has been the way their bowling has shaped up, with pacers and spinners putting on a combined show.

India pacer Pooja Vastrakar's eight wickets across three outings against South Africa indicate her form but additionally, Radha Yadav's successful return to the mix of spinners has been encouraging. The spin attack also includes Deepti Sharma, Sajeevan Sajana and the sprightly Shreyanka Patil.

Even though Pakistan retained Nida Dar as skipper for the Asia Cup, the squad has undergone significant overhaul since the debacle in England.

Three players, Iram Javed, Omaira Sohail, Syeda Aroob Shah, who have not played any matches so far this year, were included with the uncapped Tasmia Rubab while six others were dropped.

Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

PARIS OLYMPICS

Italian swimmer Giorgio Minisini ends career after Olympic snub

ROME: With no men picked to compete in artistic swimming at the Paris Olympics, where they are eligible for the first time, a former world champion is ending his career this week. At the Italian national championships, four-time world gold medalist Giorgio Minisini said he is competing for the last time at age 28. "Obsession is a young man's game," Minisini, who was left off the Italian Olympic team in April, wrote on his Instagram account Tuesday. Minisini and Bill May of the United States were the two most likely Olympic pioneers aiming to be picked for Paris as the first men to compete in artistic swimming. The sport debuted at the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics as synchronized swimming. However, the 96 athletes picked by 18 different nations for the Olympics were all women. **PTI**

CRICKET

Geoffrey Boycott undergoes successful surgery to remove throat tumour



LONDON: England cricketer great Sir Geoffrey Boycott has undergone a successful surgery to remove a tumour from his throat, his daughter Emma said. The former England batter had undergone extensive chemotherapy for the same in 2002. But in May, the 83-year-old learnt his cancer had returned. "Just to let everyone know my Father, Geoffrey, has successfully come out of surgery this evening after a 3 hour operation to remove his throat cancer. "Yet to see him but surgeon says it went well." **PTI**

Historic Indian Debut

Quintal becomes 1st Indian rider to compete at World Superbike Championships



CHENNAI: Rider Kavin Quintal is all set to make a historic debut at the WorldSBK SSP300 competitions and become the first Indian rider to participate in a World Superbike Championship.

Thanks to the opportunity provided by the Irish team, Team#109 Retro Traffic Kawasaki and its management company Gaman Racing Global Service, Quintal's entry was accepted for the SSP event in the fourth round which begins at Most, Czech Republic on Friday. SBK, founded in 1988, is an event for heavily modified production

sports motorcycles and consists of a series of rounds held on permanent racing facilities.

The 19-year Chennai star, Quintal, will be filling in for the Irish team's main rider, Spaniard Daniel Mageda, who suffered an injury after leading the Supersport 300 class, in an unfortunate crash that paved the way for the Irish team to rope in the Indian.

Quintal, a world-class rider, is currently competing in the European Stock Championship within the FIM JuniorGP and in the Asia Road Racing Championship. **PTI**

The Day's NUMBERS

HIGHEST TEAM TOTALS IN T20 INTERNATIONAL CRICKET

Afghanistan tops the chart	Afghanistan	278/3
	Czech Republic	278/4
	Australia	263/3
	Sri Lanka	260/6
	India	260/5

Source: ICC

SOCCER

Lionel Messi asked to apologize for Argentina players' racist chant

LONDON: Lionel Messi faced calls to apologize for racist chants made by Argentina's players after they won the Copa America. An Argentinean government official said Messi, who is the team captain, and the president of the country's soccer federation, Claudio Tapia, should apologize after a video was shared on social media showing members of Argentina's triumphant squad singing a racist chant about French players with African heritage.

Midfielder Enzo Fernandez said he was "truly sorry" for the incident and his Premier League club Chelsea said it had begun disciplinary action, describing discriminatory behavior as "completely unacceptable." It is unclear from the video if Messi - widely regarded as one of the greatest soccer players of all time - participated in the chant. But Argentina's sports sub-secretary, Julio Garro, said he should say sorry. **PTI**

PARIS GAMES

Badminton player Mathias Christiansen withdraws from Paris Olympics



PARIS: Denmark mixed doubles badminton player Mathias Christiansen has withdrawn from the Paris Olympics, a decision his national federation on Wednesday called the result of multiple unintentional errors made in reporting his whereabouts in line with anti-doping regulations. The Badminton World Federation confirmed Christiansen's absence from the field and the removal of his team with partner Alexandra Boje from the mixed doubles draw. **PTI**

Press Trust Of India

DAMBULLA: The Women's Asia Cup is set for a blockbuster start when defending champions India take on arch-foes Pakistan in a prime-time clash here on Friday, with the eight competing teams hoping to firm up their combinations ahead of the T20 World Cup in October.

Harmanpreet Kaur's India are the team to beat

HIGHLIGHT

● India aims for Asia Cup glory with stellar T20 record.

● Pakistan seeks redemption with revamped squad under skipper Nida Dar.

going into this iteration of the Asia Cup, having won the competition three out of four times in the T20 version and each of the four times in 50-overs format.

Additionally, India are also the most successful team in the Women's Asia Cup T20 with 17 wins in 20 matches. They beat Bangladesh in the final of the last edition in 2022.

India's record against Pakistan has also been stellar in the shortest format with 11 wins against three defeats in 14 matches so far and Kaur's team will lean on it in

Carapaz earns his first Tour de France stage win

SUPERDEVOLUY: Richard Carapaz claimed his first Tour de France stage win after showcasing his climbing prowess in the final ascents in the Alps. Two-time champion Tadej Pogacar kept the overall race lead. The 17th stage, covering 178 kilometers (110 miles) from Saint-Paul-Trois-Châteaux to Superdévouly, started with a gradual 130-kilometer climb through the Drôme region and presented no major challenges for the peloton. However, the last part of the race was a different story with the climbs of Col Bayard and Col du Noyer. Carapaz and Simon Yates led an early breakaway of 50 riders. As they approached the final climb, Carapaz launched a decisive attack on Yates before reaching the summit of Col du Noyer.

Press Trust Of India

Despite battling illnesses, H S Prannoy is determined to excel in Paris Olympics.

NEW DELHI: Despite being ravaged by a series of illnesses, including a recent bout of chikungunya, seasoned Indian badminton player H S Prannoy remains resolute in his quest for an Olympic debut. The 32-year-old Kerala shuttler, a 2022 Thomas Cup winner and a world and Asian Games bronze-medalist, has battled through a chronic stomach disorder, a persistent back injury, and a recent week-long episode of the mosquito-borne viral disease. However, he is focused on building his stamina for the grind that



FACTFILE

● Prannoy's coach emphasizes building stamina and endurance for upcoming Olympic challenges.

● Training includes specific drills to enhance speed and handle long rallies efficiently.

awaits him in Paris.

Helping him in this journey is his coach and former player, RMV Gurusaidutt. "The preparations we started after the Australia Open are on point. Though Prannoy struggled, he always showed up for training and gave his best," Gurusaidutt told PTI. Despite the recent rough patch, Gurusaidutt is confident and doesn't feel that

the latest illness will cause "too many changes" in Prannoy's training routine.

Following his world championship bronze in 2023, Prannoy faced another stomach disorder, similar to his past chronic acid reflux problem. This led to six first-round exits, a semifinal, and a quarter-final appearance this year. To address minor issues related to speed and enduring long rallies, the coaching team has introduced specific drills.

"We wanted to play longer matches and improve his speed," said Gurusaidutt. "People were pushing him at pace, making him move quickly. We wanted to prepare him for sharp shots and cross-courts, ensuring he feels comfortable."

CHASING OLYMPIC DREAMS |

Srihari Nataraj aims for Paris Olympics semifinals

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Standing on the 2023 National Games podium with 10 medals, eight of them gold, Indian swimmer Srihari Nataraj was utterly exhausted. Competing non-stop since 2017, the relentless grind had taken its toll.

"I needed time off to rest because my 2023

I just needed time off to rest because my 2023 season was crazy and so hectic with so many races.

Srihari Nataraj
Indian swimmer



season was hectic with so many races. If I didn't, my body would have broken down," Nataraj told PTI. Refreshed after a much-needed break, the 23-year-old is ready for his second Olympics, competing in the 100m backstroke event.

He qualified for the Paris Games via the Universality Quota, despite his disappointment at

not meeting the qualifying time. "I got the quota spot. It might be a step back, but I still got it. I'm taking it as motivation."

Training has improved, resulting in two silver medals at the Mare Nostrum meet in May. Aiming to better his personal best, Nataraj hopes to secure a semi-final spot at the Paris Olympics.

Sports News

Can Neeraj, Sindhu create history in Paris?

After a best-ever haul of seven medals, including Neeraj Chopra's historic gold at the Tokyo Olympics, India will aim for another rich catch at the Paris Games. Leading the charge once again is Neeraj, India's safest bet for an Olympic medal as he aims for a second successive gold.

Golden boy Neeraj set for a monumental date with history



Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: A gold medal in Paris would elevate Neeraj's status as the greatest ever athlete in Indian sport, making him the only athlete

from the country to win two individual gold medals at the Olympics. Neeraj emerged the new superstar of Indian sport with his gold medal at the Tokyo Olympics three years ago as he

ended the country's long wait for an Olympic medal in track and field. The Indian Army subedar created Indian sporting history when he won the javelin throw with an effort of 87.58 metres to become only the second Indian to win an individual Olympic gold medal after Abhinav Bindra, who won the gold medal in men's 10m air rifle shooting at the Beijing Olympics in 2008. Apart from the Olympic gold, Neeraj has triumphed in every major event -- clinching gold medals in the World Athletics Championships, the Asian Games, the Commonwealth Games and the Asian Championships along with the prestigious Diamond League title.



Sindhu eyes historic Olympic hat-trick

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: P V Sindhu is poised to make history at the Paris Olympics. Another medal would make her the first Indian to win three Olympic medals. She is already the first Indian woman and the second Indian athlete to win two Olympic medals,

with a silver in Rio 2016 and bronze in Tokyo 2021. Despite recent struggles and a two-year title drought, Sindhu's five World Championships medals and her comeback from injury showcase her resilience. Training in Germany, she aims to regain her top form and achieve Olympic glory.

Avinash Sable is one of top medal prospects in Paris

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Just weeks ahead of the Olympics, 3000m steeplechase runner Sable clocked his career-best run at 8:09.91 seconds to finish a creditable sixth in the Paris Diamond League in a field boasting of all the top runners he will compete against at the Paris Games in a couple of weeks. In the process, Sable, 29, also bettered his National record by more than a second -- breaking it for an incredible 10th time in his career. The Maharashtra runner took up running only in 2015 after he joined the Indian Army's athletics programme. He first broke the National record in 2018 when he clocked 8:29.88s at



the 2018 Open Nationals in Bhubaneswar, bettering a 30-year-old mark previously held by Gopal Saini in 1981 at the Asian Championships in Tokyo.

Since then he has been breached the National record at regular intervals to emerge as one of India's best long distance runners of all time.

Chanu targets another historic lift

Mirabai Chanu is India's lone weightlifter at the Paris Olympics. Chanu also has a chance to create history as a medal in Paris will not only make her only the second Indian woman to win two Olympic medals but it will also firmly cement her position as India's most successful weightlifter, having also won a gold and silver at the World Championship along with two golds at the Commonwealth Games. Chanu became only the second weightlifter to win an Olympic medal after Karnam Malleswari when she bagged the silver medal in Tokyo. But following that historic achievement, the Manipuri lifter was laid low with injuries in the last three years.



Boxer Lovlina eyes another medal in Paris

Pugilist Lovlina Borgohain's ascent continues. The 5' 10" boxer has transformed from a Tokyo 2020 bronze medalist to a serious medal contender in Paris, competing in the more natural weight class of 75kg. Borgohain's exceptional footwork and agility, honed during her kickboxing days, are on full display at this new weight. While a slight decrease in speed is natural, it's been offset by increased punching power. The 26 year old's dedication is evident. Since Tokyo, Borgohain has secured World Championship gold and Asian Games silver medals in the 75kg category.



CRICKET

Surya to lead India in T20Is; Rohit, Kohli decide to play ODIs

Press Trust Of India

Suryakumar Yadav will captain India's T20 team against Sri Lanka, with **Rohit Sharma** leading the ODI squad.



NEW DELHI: Big-hitting batter Suryakumar Yadav was on Thursday named captain of the Indian T20 team for the three-match series against Sri Lanka starting July 27, while ODI skipper Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli were included for the 50-over series against the same team next month. Shubman Gill has been named vice-captain for both the formats. Riyan Parag, who scored seven half-centuries in the Vijay Hazare Trophy, and Delhi speedster Harshit Rana are the two new faces in

the ODI squad. **T20I Squad:** Suryakumar Yadav (C), Shubman Gill (VC), Yashasvi Jaiswal, Rinku Singh, Riyan Parag, Rishabh Pant (WK), Sanju Samson (WK), Hardik Pandya, Shivam Dube, Axar Patel, Washington Sundar, Ravi Bishnoi, Arshdeep Singh, Khaleel Ahmed, Mohd. Siraj.

ODI Squad: Rohit Sharma (C), Shubman Gill (VC), Virat Kohli, KL Rahul (WK), Rishabh Pant (WK), Shreyas Iyer, Shivam Dube, Kuldeep Yadav, Mohd. Siraj, Washington Sundar, Arshdeep Singh, Riyan Parag, Axar Patel, Khaleel Ahmed, Harshit Rana.

Odisha FC faces tough group challenge

NEW DELHI: Indian club Odisha FC were drawn alongside Etihad Club (Jordan) and Lion City Sailors FC (Singapore) in Group B of the preliminary stage of the 2024-25 AFC Women's Champions League, following the draw conducted in Kuala Lumpur on Thursday.

Odisha FC, the champions of the 2023-24 Indian Women's League, will travel to Jordan to play in the preliminary stage, which will be held in a centralised league format from August 25 to 31. Thirteen sides will contest the preliminary stage, which features four groups - one group of four teams and three groups of three. The four group winners will qualify for the 12-team group stage, joining the other eight clubs that have qualified directly.

WRESTLING

Reetika Hooda struggles to get visa for coach Mandeep

Press Trust Of India

Reetika Hooda, preparing for the Olympics, struggles to secure a visa for her coach Mandeep.



NEW DELHI: At a time when Reetika Hooda should be focussing only on her Olympic preparations, the Haryana wrestler is left to plead with the IOA officials to arrange for a visa for her coach Mandeep, who has been excluded from the list of approved support staff.

Reetika is the first Indian woman wrestler to qualify in the heavy-weight 76kg division. The country's first ever female U-23 world champion, Reetika, had requested the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) in May to allow her coach and physio to travel with her. She also sent a similar mail to the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) in June.

While the five other qualified wrestlers' request for a travelling coach has been approved, Reetika has been left out. "I was surprised to see that everyone has been assigned the travel with personal coach. Antim (Panghal) has been sanctioned both her coaches and I have not been given even one," Reetika told

HIGHLIGHT

● Haryana wrestler pleads with IOA for coach's visa. Other wrestlers approved, Reetika left out.

PTI. "When I had applied, a few days after that I was told that no one is being allowed to travel with personal coach but now I see that everyone has been allowed except me." Vinesh Phogat will travel with Belgian Woller Akos while Antim will have support of her coaches Bhagat Singh and Vikas, who is travelling as her sparring partner. Anshu Malik (57kg) will have her father Dharamvir as her personal coach and Amir will travel with Nisha Dahiya (68kg).

STOKES JOINS HUNDRED

Ben Stokes and England stars set for The Hundred

Agencies

LONDON: England captain Ben Stokes will play in The Hundred this year after the conclusion of England's test series with West Indies, the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) said on Thursday. Stokes, who last played in the competition in 2021, will be available to his team Northern Superchargers, coached by Andrew England batters Zak

Crawley, Ben Duckett, Ollie Pope, Joe Root, Harry Brook and Jamie Smith will also play in The Hundred after the West Indies series concludes. "The availability of England Men's bowlers will be dependent on workload and international selection," the ECB said. "But Gus Atkinson, Matthew Potts and Dillon Pennington are all likely to feature in The Hundred from the early



The availability of England Men's bowlers will be dependent on workload and international selection. Chris Woakes is expected to be available from Tuesday 6 August. ECB Sources

rounds. Chris Woakes is expected to be available from Tuesday 6 August." The ECB said it expects the players selected for the first test against Sri Lanka at Old Trafford from Aug. 21 to be available for The Hundred's playoffs on Aug. 17 and 18. England will host Sri Lanka for three tests, with the final two matches to be played in London at the Lord's from Aug. 29 and the Oval from Sep. 6.

Devi Priya scores six goals for Manipur

Press Trust Of India

KOLKATA: Devi Mutum Priya led Manipur Hockey to a dominant 12-0 victory over Assam Hockey in the 2nd Hockey India Junior East Zone Championship in Kolkata, scoring six goals. Other scorers for Manipur included Reena Kojam, Tanu Shoren-sangbam, Chanu Leishangthem Natali, and Devi Laishram Ritu. In another women's match, Hockey Jharkhand defeated Hockey Bihar 10-0, with

Mundu Sukarmani scoring three goals. Hockey Bengal secured a 3-0 win against the Hockey Association of Odisha. In the men's section, the Hockey Association of Odisha earned a hard-fought 2-0 victory over Hockey Jharkhand, Hockey Bihar triumphed 7-2 over Assam Hockey, and Manipur Hockey came from behind to beat Hockey Bengal 2-1. Captain Silheiba Lisham and Khangembam Somikant Singh scored for Manipur.

World



Next American president has the heart of a lion.
Donald Trump Jr
Republican

Commemoration at the US military base of Camp Darb



Yoko Sakato and Valerie Matsunaga relatives of soldiers who fought in the 442nd Infantry Regiment during the World War II, are flanked by US Army Staff, as they attend a commemoration. Photo: PTI

Human Rights urges Lanka to scrap terrorism act

The New York-based rights group also urged the US, UK and the EU to prevail upon Sri Lanka to repeal the law, which it has not done despite repeated pledges to end the practice.

Press Trust Of India

COLOMBO: Human Rights Watch has urged Sri Lanka to repeal its Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA), claiming the island nation has used it to target perceived opponents and minority communities without credible evidence to support the allegations. While some victims have suffered years of arbitrary detention and torture, others are persecuted even after the case

against them is dropped," Human Rights Watch (HRW) said in a statement on Wednesday. There is no mention whatsoever of any immediate reason for the organisation to come out with a statement. "Sri Lanka's extensive domestic security apparatus routinely uses baseless accusations of terrorism to target innocent people, silencing critics and stigmatising minority communities," HRW Deputy Asia

HIGHLIGHT
● The HRW also recommended that foreign partners including the United States, EU, and UK should insist that Sri Lanka abide by its commitments to repeal the law. Director Meenakshi Ganguly said. Sri Lanka has come under repeated and increased international pressure to repeal the PTA

after it was adopted in 1979 to counter the separatist terrorism moved by Tamil armed groups. In early 2023, Sri Lanka published a draft anti-terrorism bill, which aimed to improve the draconian nature of the PTA and was severely criticised for allowing authorities to arbitrarily detain people and hold them in detention without filing charges. The HRW statement reminded that in a 2022 speech to the United

Nations Human Rights Council, the then Sri Lankan foreign minister pledged a moratorium on its use, but "under President Ranil Wickremesinghe, detentions under the PTA have continued." "Such is the chilling effect of the law that in September 2023 the International Monetary Fund found that 'broad application of counter-terrorism rules' restricts civil society scrutiny of official corruption," it added.

Top court recognises some rights for same-sex couples

SEOUL: South Korea's top court ruled Thursday that same-sex couples are eligible to receive the same health insurance benefits as heterosexual couples, a landmark verdict hailed by human rights groups. The Supreme Court said it ruled that the state health insurance agency's refusal to provide spousal insurance coverage for gay couples was an act of discrimination that violates the constitutional principle of equality. Thursday's ruling is final and cannot be appealed. "Today's ruling is a historic victory for equality and human rights in South Korea," Amnesty International said in a statement. "The court has taken a significant step towards dismantling systemic discrimination and ensuring inclusivity for all."

India's first overseas Jan Aushadi Kendra inaugurated

Press Trust Of India

PORT LOUIS: External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has inaugurated India's first overseas Jan Aushadi Kendra in Mauritius, testifying the "close" bilateral cooperation, especially in the key health sector. On Wednesday, he jointly inaugurated India's first overseas Jan Aushadi Kendra with Mauritian Prime Pravind Kumar Jugnauth, "testifying to the close cooperation between our countries, especially in the important sector of health," the Ministry of External Affairs said in a statement. "Delighted to inaugu-



Union External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar during the inauguration of the new Mediclinic Project at Grand Bois, in Mauritius.

FASTFACTS
● Jaishankar was in Mauritius on a two-day visit from June 16 to 17, one of the first countries he visited in his current term as External Affairs Minister.
● Jaishankar called the Mediclinic the "newest expression of our friendship".

he added. Jaishankar and Prime Minister Jugnauth also inaugurated a modern medical facility built with Indian grant assistance in Grand Bois on Wednesday. Jaishankar called the Mediclinic the "newest expression of our friendship". "Joined Prime Minister @KumarJugnauth in inaugurating the new Mediclinic Project at Grand Bois in Mauritius. PM @narendramodi has rightly termed the India-Mauritius relationship as "Khoon ka Rishta" (blood relation)," he said in a post on X. "Delivery of this project, which will provide healthcare services to more than 16,000 residents is the newest expression of our friendship. And of the people-centric development partnership that India-assisted projects offer," he said.

rate along with Prime Minister @KumarJugnauth the first overseas Jan Aushadi Kendra in Mauritius. This Aushadi Kendra is the delivery of the promise made by PM @narendramodi," Jaishankar said in a post on X. "The India-Mauritius health partnership project will supply cost-effective, Made-in-India medicines to augment public healthcare and enhance well-being,"

106 rare crocodile eggs are found in Cambodia

Press Trust Of India

PHNOM PENH: Conservationists in Cambodia found 106 eggs of rare Siamese crocodile species in a western Cambodian wildlife sanctuary, officials said Thursday, calling it the biggest discovery in the last 20 years, giving new hope for the world's rarest crocodile species' survival in the wild.



The group discovered the species eggs in Cardamom National Park in May. Between June 27 and 30, a

This discovery indicates that the area is a key habitat for wild crocodiles, providing hope for the species recovery.
Wildlife Officials Cambodian sanctuary

agriculture and environment along with the conservation group Fauna & Flora. "This discovery indicates that the area is a key habitat for wild crocodiles, providing hope for the species recovery," the statement said. The area and the young reptiles have been under the protection of Cardamom National Park Wildlife Sanctuary rangers, it added.

To Lam becomes caretaker of Communist Party

HANOI: Vietnamese President To Lam on Thursday became the caretaker of the Communist Party because of party chief Nguyen Phu Trong's poor health, the party said in a statement.



Briefs

NEPAL
19 bodies recovered after landslide swept two buses into river

KATHMANDU: Rescuers in Nepal have so far recovered 19 bodies, including that of four Indians, after two buses were swept into a swollen river following a landslide in the Chitwan district last week, sources here said on Thursday. The landslide happened in the Simaltal area along the Narayanghat-Mugling road in Chitwan district on Friday. Out of 54 people, three people swam to safety soon after the incident. Twenty-four people, including seven Indian nationals, were travelling on the first bus heading towards Kathmandu from Birgunj. Another bus heading to Gaur from Kathmandu was carrying 30 people. The two buses plunged into the Trishuli River when heavy mudslides hit them. Bodies of nineteen people have been recovered from the Simaltal twin bus accident site so far. Out of 19 bodies, four corpses belong to Indian nationals, according to the Armed Police Force sources. PTI

POLITCS
'World is on fire' because of Biden, says Trump's aide



MILWAUKEE: A top national security aide of former US president and the Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump has alleged that the world is unstable today because of the policies of incumbent President Joe Biden. "After 16 years of wars and chaos, the world looked different when President Trump was in the White House. PTI

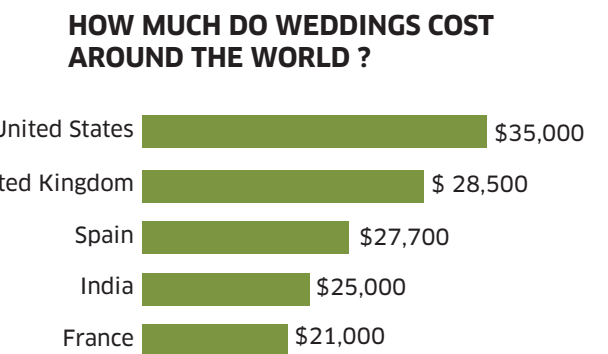
South Africa's president to open Parliament after historic election created a coalition govt



CAPE TOWN: South African President Cyril Ramaphosa will open a new parliamentary term Thursday to mark the official start of business for his 11-party coalition government, an uneasy union brought together by an historic election result. Ramaphosa's speech will likely outline the priorities for the new government, which were made clear after his once-dominant African National Congress party lost its parliamentary majority for the first time in the country's May 29 election. Voters driven by anger over

extremely high levels of unemployment and inequality and the failing state of many basic public services handed the ANC its worst ever result in a national election. In the biggest shift in South African politics since the end of the apartheid system of white minority rule in 1994, the long-ruling ANC dropped to just 40 per cent of the vote and no party won a majority. The ANC has been forced to share power with others for the first time in South Africa's 30 years of democracy, including with what was the main opposition Democratic Alliance. PTI

The Day's NUMBERS



4 people arrested for supplying Hezbollah drones used against Israel

MADRID: Three people were arrested in Spain and one more in Germany on suspicion of belonging to a network that supplied the Lebanese militant group Hezbollah with parts to build kamikaze drones that would have been used in attacks in northern Israel, Spanish author-

Advertisement for 'Mund Ka Na Khulna' (Mund का ना खुलना) featuring a graphic of a mouth and text in Hindi. It includes contact information for 'Kalkaji Bhai' and a phone number: 9827143060/8871003060.