

Central Chronicle

Around 95K trees felled in Hasdeo Aranya : Govt

53 lakh saplings had been planted to compensate for the loss and for 'mine reclamation'.

NEW DELHI: Around 95,000 trees have been felled for coal mining in the biodiversity-rich Hasdeo Aranya forest in Chhattisgarh and over 2.73 lakh more will be cut in the coming years, the government informed the Rajya Sabha on Thursday. Replying to a question by AAP MP Sandeep Kumar Pathak, Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav said that according to the Chhattisgarh government, 94,460 trees have been felled in the Parsa East Kete Basen Mine (PEKB). A total of 53,40,586 trees have been planted to compensate for the loss and for "mine reclamation



Activists allege thousands of trees felled in Hasdeo for coal mining.

HIGHLIGHT

● 2.73 lakh more trees are required to be felled in Hasdeo Aranya. and translocation". He said that 40,93,395 of the

newly planted trees have survived. The minister informed the Rajya Sabha that 2,73,757 more trees are required to be felled in Hasdeo Aranya in the coming years. There are three adjacent coal blocks in the Hasdeo Aranya coalfield region in Chhattisgarh's Surguja district: Parsa, Parsa East Kente Basan (PEKB), and Kente Extension Coal Block (KECB).

40.93 lakh of the newly planted trees have survived.

Bhupender Yadav
Environment Minister

All three coal blocks have been allocated to the Rajasthan Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Ltd. The forest is spread over 1,70,000 hectares and is much larger than the country's capital, Delhi. According to the Indian Bureau of Mines, coal reserves in the pristine forest amount to 5,179.35 million tonnes. In January this year, the NGT took suo motu cognizance of protests against the tree cutting.

5 Naxalites with bounty of Rs 19 lakh surrender

SUKMA: Five Naxalites, collectively carrying a cash reward of Rs 19 lakh on their heads, surrendered in Sukma district on Thursday, police said. They turned themselves in before senior police officials here citing that they were disappointed with atrocities committed by senior Naxalites and "inhuman" and "hollow" Maoist ideology.



Rashtrapati Bhavan's Durbar Hall, Ashok hall renamed

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Venues for different ceremonial functions, Rashtrapati Bhavan's iconic 'Durbar Hall' and 'Ashok Hall' were on Thursday renamed 'Ganantra Mandap' and 'Ashok Mandap', respectively.

Last year, the famous Mughal Gardens on the Rashtrapati Bhavan premises was rechristened 'Amrit Udyan'. "Rashtrapati Bhavan, the office and the residence of the president of India, is a symbol of the nation, and an invaluable heritage of the people. Continuous efforts are being made to make it more accessible to people. There has been a consistent endeavour to make the ambience of the Rashtrapati Bhavan reflective of the Indian cultural values and ethos," a statement issued by the President's Secretariat said.

Downpour in Mumbai, red alert issued

Press Trust Of India

Heavy rains leads to waterlogging on roads, delays trains; two more lakes overflow.

MUMBAI: Heavy rains lashed Mumbai and its suburbs on Thursday, causing waterlogging on roads in some areas that led to traffic snarls and also delayed local train operations. Owing to incessant rains in the catchment areas, Vihar and Modak Sagar lakes started overflowing. With this, four of the seven reservoirs providing potable water to the metropolis are now overflowing, which improved the overall water stock, officials said. The IMD predicted moderate to heavy rainfall in the city and suburbs with possibility of very heavy rainfall at isolated places in next 24 hours starting 8 am.

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SC rules states can tax mines

NEW DELHI: The legislative power to tax mineral rights vests with the states and the royalty paid on minerals is not a tax, the Supreme Court ruled on Thursday in a landmark judgement which will give a huge revenue boost to mineral-rich states. A nine-judge constitution bench headed by Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud, in a majority 8:1 verdict, said Parliament does not have the legislative competence to tax mineral rights under Entry 54 of List I of the Constitution which pertains to regulation of mines and mineral development by the Centre.

'Tribals displaced due to LWE unwilling to return'

NEW DELHI: Tribal families displaced from Chhattisgarh due to LWE are unwilling to return to the state despite the availability of rehabilitation schemes and security arrangements through security camps, the government told Parliament. Replying to a question by Congress MP Phulo Devi Netam, Union Minister Durgadas Uikey told the RS that the state government had formed teams to conduct surveys.

PEKB MINE, SURGUJA
(PARSA EAST KANTA BASAN MINE)

5-STAR RATING BY THE MINISTRY OF COAL FOR FOUR CONSECUTIVE YEARS

A PROMISE FULFILLED, MILES AND MILES OF GREEN BELT CREATED

WE HAVE PLANTED MORE THAN

12,00,000

TREES ON RECLAIMED LAND AND LAID THE FOUNDATION FOR A GREEN AND BRIGHT FUTURE

- ▶ TWO LAKH MORE TREES WILL BE PLANTED IN 2024
- ▶ NURTURING 5.50 LAKH SEEDLINGS FOR PLANTATION
- ▶ PLANTED 85,000 TREES USING THE MIYAWAKI TECHNIQUE
- ▶ NEW RECORD: REGENERATED 87,000 SAL TREES
- ▶ FLOURISHING BIODIVERSITY
- ▶ SUCCESSFULLY TRANSPLANTED OVER 9,000 TREES

*THESE ARE REAL PICTURES OF PEKB MINE

RAJASTHAN RAJYA VIDYUT UTPADAN NIGAM LIMITED

Raipur



Sky Walk to be completed according to the original plan.

Arun Sao
Deputy Chief Minister.

Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

COMPASSIONATE APPOINTMENTS

Naxal-affected families to receive compassionate appointments

RAIPUR: In a significant move under the Chhattisgarh government's rehabilitation policy, the families of those deceased due to Naxal violence will be granted compassionate appointments in government service. This initiative, driven by Chief Minister Vishnu Dev Sai, aims to expedite welfare schemes for the benefit of all sections of the state. In a recent meeting of the Bijapur District Level Rehabilitation Committee, it was decided that 58 individuals from Naxal-affected families will receive government jobs in the first phase. Superintendent of Police Dr. Jitendra Yadav announced that these 58 eligible applicants would be given compassionate appointments initially. The process involved a review meeting where cases received from the Superintendent of Police's office were evaluated.

FELICITATION

AIMA state unit felicitates Reeba Benny winning Silver Medal in New Zealand



RAIPUR: All India Malayalee Association (AIMA) Chhattisgarh State unit felicitated Miss Reeba Benny who won Silver Medal in the recently concluded Junior Championship held at Christ Church, New Zealand in a felicitation function organized in a private hotel here in Raipur. Vinod Pillai (State President) presided over the meeting. Vijay Anand from Kayamkulam, Kerala was Chief Guest. AIMA presented a cheque for Rs 51000 to Ms Reeba Benny. Reeba Benny's Parents were also present in the function. AIMA members, executive committee members and Governing body members of organizational members were present in the function.

5-month-old baby diagnosed with Wiskott-Aldrich syndrome Bone marrow transplant can treat blood disorders with success rate of 90 per cent

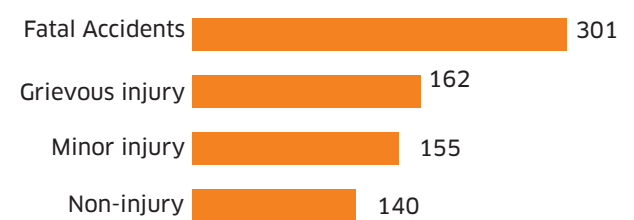


RAIPUR: 5-month-old baby Kiyansh was treated for Wiskott-Aldrich Syndrome, a rare genetic disease. This syndrome affects the proper functioning of the child's immune system and disrupts the production of platelets. This makes patients more likely to bleed. According to the National Institute of Health, only 1 to 10 out of every 10 lakh boys have Wiskott-Aldrich syndrome. A child suffering from a rare genetic disease was treated with bone marrow transplant in Jabalpur. Dr. Gaurav Kharya, Director of the Department

of Bone Marrow Transplant and Cellular Therapy at Indraprastha Apollo Hospital, Delhi, conducted genetic tests to confirm the treatment and recommended immediate stem cell transplant for Kiansh. Dr. Kharya explains, stem cells are versatile cells found in the bone marrow. They have a remarkable ability to differentiate into various specialized cells. In fact, bone marrow transplant can cure many blood disorders like thalassemia, sickle cell anemia and primary immune deficiencies.

The Day's NUMBERS

TYPE OF ROAD ACCIDENTS IN 2022 (IN PERCENT)



Source : I Ministry of Road Transport, Highways, Go

FAKE CERTIFICATES

Allegations of fake disability certificates in Chhattisgarh Govt jobs

RAIPUR: In a development reminiscent of the recent IAS Pooja Khedkar case, the Chhattisgarh Divyang Seva Sangh has alleged that 21 state officers are holding government positions based on fraudulent disability certificates. This revelation was made during a press conference at the Raipur Press Club. The Sangh provided the media with a list of these 21 officers, which includes - 7 Deputy Collectors, 3 Accounts Officers, 3 Naib Tehsildars, 2 Cooperative Inspectors and 3 Veterinary Doctors. The Sangh has accused Rural Agriculture Extension Officer Gulab Singh Rajput (posted in Lormi), Doctor MK Rai (posted in Mungeli), and Health Joint Pramod Mahajan (posted in Bilaspur) of being complicit in the fraudulent recruitment process. Demanding strict action, the Chhattisgarh Divyang Seva Sangh has given the government a 15-day ultimatum to address the issue, threatening to organize a protest by the disabled community in Raipur on August 21 if appropriate measures are not taken. The state government's response is currently awaited. If the allegations are substantiated, this could potentially uncover a significant scam within the state's recruitment processes.

ROADSHOW

Elecrama world's largest electrical show kicks off in Chhattisgarh



RAIPUR: Elecrama, the flagship showcase of the Indian Electrical and allied Electronics Industry, launches its 16th edition with an inaugural roadshow today in Raipur. This roadshow marks the beginning of a series of events leading up to the main exhibition, highlighting the latest advancements and innovations in the electrical sector. The Raipur roadshow was graced by esteemed speakers from the Chhattisgarh State Electricity Regulatory Commission, Chhattisgarh State Power Generation Company Ltd, Chhattisgarh State Power Transmission Company Limited, who highlighted the state's strides in electrical infrastructure and its future initiatives.



CM Vishnu Deo Sai took part in the Green Summit organized by CII in a resort nearby on Thursday.

Green Steel to open avenues for economic progress

Green Steel summit to make by Indian Steel Industries carbon-emission free.

Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: 'In order to face the challenges of Climate Change entire world is now heading towards Green Steel. Being one of the leading states in steel production, Green Steel has brought large scale possibilities for Chhattisgarh also. This will not only help in achieving the targets set for reducing carbon emission, but would open avenues for better economic achievements with new initiative in

this field, says Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai while speaking at the inauguration of Green Steel Summit 2024 organised at a resort near capital city here on Thursday. This Summit has been organised with an objective to make by Indian Steel Industries carbon-free. In this Summit the well-known industrialists and businessmen from all over the country are participating. On this occasion Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai in his address extended

HIGHLIGHT

● Chhattisgarh is among one of the leading steel manufacturers in India and Green Steel holds lot of prospects in Chhattisgarh.

greetings to Confederation of Indian Industries (CII) for organising of this Summit saying that Chhattisgarh is among one of the leading

steel manufacturers in India. In the public sector field in State, there are big steel manufacturing units like Bhilai Steel Plant (BSP), Nagarnar Steel Plant, apart from many small and medium scale steel plants in private sector.

Chief Minister further said that Bhilai Steel Plant is one of the largest Steel Plant of Asia and there are huge reserve of iron ore in Chhattisgarh and in which Bailadila, Rawghat and Dalli-Rajhara area the main. Chhattisgarh

contributes about 20% of the total steel production in the country. Chief Minister Sai highlighting on the global concern on the pollution caused by the steel industries said that the Prime Minister Narendra Modi has put forth a view point of achieving target of zero carbon emission by 2070. On this occasion office bearers of CII, industrialists Ashish Saraf, Siddharth Agrawal, Suvendra Behara, Sanjay Jain, PV Kiran Anant were also present.

| INCOMPLETE SKYWALK |

BJP's dream project 'Sky Walk' to be completed soon

Central Chronicle News

Sky Walk was designed to facilitate city traffic and will now proceed as per the approved design.

RAIPUR: Two major projects that have been pending in Raipur for years are set to be completed soon. The Sky Walk near Shastri Chowk will be finished, and the road between Sharda Chowk and Tatyapara Chowk will be widened. These decisions were made in a meeting chaired by Chief Minister Vishnudeo Sai on Thursday during a lunch break in the Assembly.

MLAs Rajesh Munat, Motilal Sahu, and other public representatives attended the meeting. Deputy Chief Minister Arun Sao announced that the



Deputy Chief Minister Arun Sao inaugurated the training program for PWD engineers.

FACTFILE

● Road widening project will proceed, with any additional expenses to be covered accordingly.

Sky Walk, initially halted after the formation of the Congress government, will be completed according to the original plan. The Sky Walk was designed to facil-

itate city traffic and will now proceed as per the approved design.

Chief Minister Sai highlighted the second major decision, the widening of the road between Sharda Chowk and Tatyapara Chowk. A committee, chaired by the Raipur Collector, will be formed to oversee this project. This committee will assess the land compensation

required and the amount of land needed, submitting a detailed report within 30 days. Based on this report, the road widening project will proceed, with any additional expenses to be covered accordingly.

These initiatives aim to improve the infrastructure and traffic management in Raipur, ensuring smoother transit and better urban planning.

| WORLD HEPATITIS DAY |

It's essential to focus on liver health: Dr Prakash

Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: 25 July 2024 marks World Hepatitis Day, a global initiative aimed at raising awareness about viral hepatitis and promoting measures to prevent and control this potentially deadly disease.

It's essential to focus on liver health, a cornerstone of overall well-being. Dr. Prashant Kumar Singh, Gastroenterology says, "The liver is a powerhouse organ responsi-

ble for digestion, detoxification, and nutrient storage. Prioritizing its health can significantly improve your quality of life." A balanced diet rich in fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and lean proteins supports liver function. Avoiding excessive alcohol and fatty foods can prevent liver diseases such as fatty liver disease and cirrhosis. Staying hydrated helps the liver in its detoxification processes. Regular



exercise not only maintains a healthy weight but also reduces liver fat, promoting optimal liver function. Getting vaccinated against

Prioritizing its health can significantly improve your quality of life.

Dr. Prashant Kumar Singh
Gastroenterology

hepatitis A and B and practicing safe hygiene are crucial steps in preventing viral hepatitis, which can cause severe liver damage. Regular

medical check-ups are essential. Blood tests can detect liver function anomalies early, making treatments more effective. If you experience symptoms such as jaundice, fatigue, or abdominal pain, seek medical advice promptly.

On this World Hepatitis Day, remember that the liver is resilient but not invincible. Adopting a liver-friendly lifestyle today can prevent severe health issues tomorrow.

Committee to probe purchase irregularities

Tribal Welfare Minister Netam announced during Question Hour.

FASTFACTS

● Kondagaon MLA Lata Usendi had raised the issue seeking high-level probe into the irregularities in procurement.

Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: Minister for Tribal Welfare Ramvichar Netam on Thursday announced to investigate the reported irregularities in Solar Street Light procurement across Chhattisgarh including Kondagaon, through Legislative Assembly committee.

Netam made the above announcement while replying to a question raised by the Kondagaon MLA Lata Usendi in Chhattisgarh Legislative Assembly during Question Hour session. She sought the information related with the procurement of Solar Street Light from the Prime Minister Model Housing Scheme. She said that the RTI information revealed that complaint has been registered by three persons on the issue. On grounds of huge irregularities, she raised demand for probe into the entire procurement, through the Legislative



Chhattisgarh Vidhan Sabha. File Photo

Caste certificate of more than 200 govt employees found fake



Minister for Tribal Welfare Ramvichar Netam informed the Chhattisgarh Legislative Assembly that the caste certificates of 230 Government employees have been found fake. While investigation in several cases, has been complete whereas probe in several more cases. Netam made the above statement while replying to a question raised by the Congress MLA Sheshraj Harbansh during Question Hour session. Minister Netam said that probe process in 452 cases has been complete whereas investigation in 72 cases is underway. He added that the concerned departments have been asked to take legal action apart from registering FIR against the accused.

Assembly committee.

In his reply, the Minister said that irregularities have been reported

in the procurement of Solar Light not only in Kondagaon by across the Chhattisgarh. He said that

the Assembly committee would finalise the points of investigation into the entire irregularities.

Over 100 Projects Under Amrit 2.0 Scheme

RAIPUR: Union Minister Tokhan Sahu informed that 111 projects worth Rs 2541 cr have been approved under the Amrit 2.0 scheme in Chh'garh, in response to a question by MP Brijmohan Agrawal in the LS. Out of these, 18 projects have been granted Rs 772.5 crore, and 93 projects worth Rs 1769 crore are in the detailed project report/tender stage. Rs 94.23 crore has been released for the development of the tribal circuit, covering Jashpur-Kunkuri-Mainpat-Kamleshpur-Maheshpur-Kurdar-Sarodhadadar-Gangrel-Kondagaon-Nathia Nawagaon.

Pending cases of appointment

RAIPUR: General Administration Department (GAD) has sought information from all the Head of Departments (HoDs), District Collectors on the issue of pending cases of appointment on Compassionate Ground. GAD has also sought information over the appointments being made so far on the above grounds. Secretary GAD Mukesh Bansal said that 10% is the limit for the appointment for Grade III whereas there is no limit of appointment in Grade IV category.

Government to probe irregularities in Beltara land sale-purchase

Central Chronicle News

HIGHLIGHT

● Housing Minister announced to conduct state-level probe into the entire cases.

RAIPUR: Minister for Housing OP Choudhary on Thursday announced that the state-level team would probe the alleged irregularities in the land sale-purchase and registration being carried out in Beltara in Bilaspur District. Choudhary made the above statement in Chhattisgarh Legislative Assembly while replying to a question raised by Beltara MLA Sushant Shukla from Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). In his question, the BJP MLA Shukla alleged that sale and registration of land is being made in small land unit despite the ban imposed by state government.

In his reply, the Minister said that Vigilance Cell has been constituted

to see into special cases related with Industrial and Diversion land. He further assured the MLA that immediate action would be taken if found any irregularities on sale of prohibited land records. Similarly, the Raipur West MLA Rajesh Munat also sought investigation into the cash payment instead of cheque or draft payment of registry fee of stamp duty. In his reply, the Minister said that there is no increase in the Registration fee not Guideline rate has been increased but added that 30% waiver on stamp duty has been cancelled.

V-C to give admissions in RSU till July 31

RAIPUR: Vice Chancellor has been given the authority to give admission to the students in first Semester in Graduate courses in the current academic session till July 31. Department of Higher Education has issued a circular in this regard for admissions in Colleges.

Above extension of date for admissions would be against the

vacant seats in government and non-government colleges affiliated with Pt Ravishanker Shukla University here. Principal would give offline admission against the vacant posts which would be open for General category students. However, an Online update of the status would be essential on the portal of University of such students.

NEWSLINE

ENERGY

CSEB MD Shukla inaugurates Power Sub-center



RAIPUR: The 132/33 KV power sub-center in Gullu, Raipur, has been energized with an additional 40 MVA power transformer. This will benefit over 100 villages and more than 12,000 consumers in the area.

Chhattisgarh State Power Transmission Company's Managing Director Rajesh Kumar Shukla inaugurated the 40 MVA power transformer at the 132/33 KV power sub-center in Gullu. The sub-center is receiving power supply from the 132 KV Mathkharora sub-center through a 19 km long line, built at a cost of around Rs 33 crore. MD Transmission Shukla said that the state's transmission system has seen significant growth since its formation, with the capacity of extra-high voltage transformers increasing from 3552 MVA to 25,354 MVA. He added that several major steps are being taken to improve the quality and ease of power supply, which will benefit consumers in the near future.

KARGIL VIJAY DIWAS

COMMEMORATING THE COURAGE, VALOUR AND SACRIFICE OF ARMY BRAVEHEARTS

BATTLE OF TOLOLING

Indian Army launched its attack on Tololing in the last week of May 1999. Point 4599 was captured on 06 June 1999. Tololing was captured by gallant troops by 12 June 1999.

BATTLE OF TIGER HILL

Tiger Hill was one of the highest peaks in the Dras - Kargil Sector. Eviction of Pakistani troops from this feature was one of the most important objectives for the Indian Army during the Kargil operation and the peak was captured on 04 July 1999.

BATTLE OF KHALUBAR

Khalubar Ridge due to its location, dominates all approaches towards the Line of Control. Our Artillery destroyed enemy sangars, disrupted communication & supply lines. Some of the most heroic deeds of valour were witnessed in this sector.

BATTLE OF POINT 4875

Point 4875 located in Mushkoh Valley dominated National Highway from Dras to Matayan. The troops of Indian Army fought valiantly to recapture this strategically important peak.

OPERATIONS IN BATALIK

The first success of Operation Vijay was achieved in this Sector in the area of Rockfall on 09 June 1999. The subsequent attacks were launched on Point 4875, Garhi, Point 5000 and Jubar Complex. The Batalik Sector was cleared of the enemy by 07 July 1999.

OPERATIONS IN KAKSAR

This was the area where the first Indian patrol while moving to re-occupy the winter vacated posts, got ambushed. When a search party was attacked, the seriousness of situation emerged. This Sector saw bitter fighting and Indian Army launched multiple attacks to dislodge the Pakistanis.

Lieutenant Manoj Kumar Pandey PVC (Posthumous) 1/TI GI

Rifleman Sanjay Kumar PVC IS JAK RIF

Captain Vikram Batta PVC (Posthumous) IS JAK RIF

Grenadier Yogender Singh Yadav PVC IS GRENADIERS

ON KARGIL VIJAY DIWAS I BOW TO EVERY VALIANT SOLDIER WHO FOUGHT FOR INDIA TILL THE VERY LAST BREATH. THEIR HEROIC SACRIFICES INSPIRE US.

Visit us at www.indianarmy.nic.in | www.facebook.com/Indianarmy.adgpi | www.twitter.com/adgpi | [adgpi-Indianarmy](https://www.youtube.com/adgpi-Indianarmy) | [@Indianarmy.adgpi](https://www.instagram.com/Indianarmy.adgpi)

Bhilai



"An effective plan has been made to prevent traffic jams during Shiv Mahapuran Katha."

Satish Thakur
DSP, Traffic

Water level on rise in River Sheonath

10000 cusecs water released from Mongra Barrage.



Water flowing above Mahamara Anicut on Thursday.

Central Chronicle News

FASTFACTS

BHILAI: After a slight decrease, the water level is again rising in River Sheonath after Mongra Barrage released 10000 cusecs of water on Thursday. All the dams of Tandula Division are gradually getting filled to the capacity. Due to continuous rains in the catchment area of River Sheonath and release of water from Mongra Barrage, water is flowing about eight feet above Mahamara Anicut in Durg. People living in low lying areas near the River have been asked to remain cau-

● **Water flowing eight feet above Mahamara Anicut.**

● **All dams of Tandula Division getting filled to the capacity.**

tious. The authorities are constantly monitoring the situation in Tandula, Kharkhara and other tributaries of Sheonath. Executive Engineer SK Pandey (Water Resources Department, Tandula Division) informed that 10000 cusecs of water is being released from Mon-

310.4 mm rainfall recorded

An average rainfall of 310.4 mm has been recorded from June 01 to July 25. The highest rainfall of 539.1 mm has been recorded in Patan and the lowest 202.9 mm in Bori. 270.0 mm rainfall in Durg, 219.5 mm in Dhamdha, 275.8 mm in Bhilai 3 and 355.2 mm in Ahiwara. On July 25, 0.4 mm rainfall was recorded in Durg, 1.3 mm in Dhamdha, 17.3 mm in Patan, 5.8 in Bhilai-3 and no rainfall in Bori and Ahiwara.

gra Barrage. If the rains continue, more water can be released from Mongra Barrage. He informed that due to continuous rains, Tandula reservoir has been filled upto 46 percent, Kharkhara reservoir

upto 58 percent, Khapri reservoir up to 74 percent and Gondli reservoir is filled upto 27 percent of its capacity. Water accumulation would further increase in these reservoirs if the rains continue.

Saplings planted at Kamdhenu University

BHILAI: Under the Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam campaign for awakening social consciousness towards the environment, tree plantation was done at Dau Shri Vasudev Chandrakar Kamdhenu University. District Panchayat CEO Ashwani Devangan led the plantation drive. Registrar Dr RK Sonawane, Finance Officer SB Kale, Director Research Dr GK Dutta, Dean Dr Sanjay Shakya, Dr Dilip Chaudhary, Directors, Professors, employees and students planted Karanj, Neem, Gulmohar and other plants.

Traffic advisory for Shiv Mahapuran

BHILAI: Traffic Police has issued an advisory for Shiv Mahapuran Katha scheduled to begin on July 26 at Jayanti Stadium. All vehicles with VIP passes will enter from Berojgar-Tiraha and park their vehicles in front of Shaheed Park. Entry of all types of vehicles will be prohibited from Utai Tiraha to Jawahar Udyan Chowk (Forest Avenue Road). Walking from Jayanti Stadium Cutting (Forest Avenue Road) to the event venue will be prohibited.

BSP's Enforcement Deptt to rehabilitate stray cattle in City

Central Chronicle News

BHILAI: Amid the rainy season, stray cattle often turn to township roads in search of green grass. This increasing number of stray cattle on roads has posed a serious traffic hazard. The Enforcement Section of the Town Services Department of SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant is running a campaign to rehabilitate stray cattle from Bhilai Township. Under this campaign, stray Cows, Bulls, and Buffaloes are caught from various areas of the township and rehabilitated at

Kanji House where they are taken care of. The Enforcement Department of BSP caught as many as 11 stray cattle

HIGHLIGHT

● **Stray cattle on roads pose serious traffic hazard**

on July 24, 2024 and rehabilitated them at the Kosa Nagar Kanji House. Whereby 10 stray Buffaloes and 1 stray Cow were caught from the BMDC and Civic Centre areas of the township and sent to Kanji House.

76 villagers of Pahdor avail free health services

BHILAI: The Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Department of the Plant organized a one-day free Health Camp, at Model Steel Village Pahdor on July 24, 2024. A total of 76 villagers from Pahdor, availed free health services at the day-long Health Camp. Free medicines were also distributed to villagers attending the camp.

The Medical Team from the CSR department, comprising, Dr Nishi Minj, Medical Consultant, Rekha Dev,

Nursing Staff, for Blood-Sugar, HB, and BP examination, SB Rai, Pharmacist, and Manzoor Ali, for registration, volunteered their services for the Medical Camp at Pahdor village. Rajni Rajak, from the CSR department, was also present during the Health Camp. It is noteworthy that conducting Health Camps is one of the prime initiatives, through which BSP's CSR Department has contributed substantially towards Public Health and medicine.

NEWSLINE

PREVENTION

Fight-the-bite at Hostels



BHILAI: CMHO chaired a meeting with the hostel superintendents and shared tips to prevent various seasonal diseases. CMHO Dr Manoj Dani asked them to conduct a Fight the Bite campaign to prevent dengue, malaria, etc. He asked to provide immediate treatment in case of diarrhoea, vomiting, dysentery and infectious diseases. He detailed anaemia, sickle cell and other diseases. The superintendents were asked to prevent water accumulation and breeding of mosquitoes in coolers, tyres and other places. Considering the weather, hot and fresh food and clean drinking should be served to children.

ANTI-TERROR

NIA conducts raid at the resd of CMM leader

BHILAI: National Investigation Agency (NIA) conducted a raid at the residence of Chhattisgarh Mukti Morcha leader and labour leader Kala das Dahariya on Thursday morning. He runs an NGO named "Rela" which works for farmers, labourers and tribals. His NGO receives funding from across the nation. The NIA team reached his residence around 05:00 hrs in the morning. The team conducted searches and seized a laptop and other devices. Dahariya has been instructed to appear at NIA Office in Ranchi on August 01.

CRIME

Two persons arrested for molestation from Rajnandgaon

BHILAI: Police arrested two persons from Rajnandgaon on charges of molestation. The victim lives in a rented house in Jamul. On July 18, her acquaintances from her in-laws' village visited her house. Finding her alone the accused molested her. Police arrested the accused Amjad Ali Khan son of Haji Mulla Khan of Kabirdham and Maniram Sahu son of Phool Singh of Kabirdham under Section 75(1)(1) 3(5) of BNS.

RECRUITMENT

Anganwadi Worker vacancy

BHILAI: Recruitment is being done on the vacant posts of Anganwadi Worker under Integrated Child Development Project Durg-Urban. Applications can be submitted till August 06 at Project Office in Panch Building Durg or by registered post during office hours. Anganwadi Worker is to be recruited for Anganwadi Center Santarabari Center No 02, Ward 26 Santarabari Ward and Subhash Nagar Center No 02, Ward 43 Kasaridih East.

Rich tributes paid to Martyr Kaushal Yadav

Central Chronicle News

Kaushal gave supreme sacrifice during Kargil War.



BHILAI: Shaheed Kaushal Yadav who attained martyrdom on July 25 during Kargil War was remembered on Thursday. Former minister of CG and Congress leader Badrudin Qureshi paid homage to martyr Kaushal Yadav. After observing two minutes of silence, paying tribute he said that in Kaushal's memory the HUDCO ward of BMC was declared as Shaheed Kaushal Yadav Nagar by the then Chief Minister Digvijay Singh.

During Operation Vijay in 1999, Kaushal Yadav single-handedly fought 30 Pakistani soldiers and defeated them on the peak of Zulu Top. While fighting for the country, he gave supreme sacrifice and became a martyr. The fam-

ily members recollected that on joining Indian Army, Kaushal Yadav got posting in the 9 Para Unit. In the year 1989, he was posted in the 9 Para Unit Udhampur. In the Kargil war of 1999, he got the command of Operation Vijay in Zulu Top. Martyr Kaushal Yadav was given the responsibility of liberating Zulu Top from the Pakistani soldiers. On July 25, 1999, Kaushal Yadav along with his comrades defeated the Pakistani soldiers at Zulu Top. Martyr Kaushal Yadav killed a total of 5 Pakistani soldiers and then attained martyrdom, prior to which he hoisted the tricolour at Zulu Top.

Ration card renewal till Aug 15

BHILAI: The ration cards in Durg district are being renewed through Citizen App and Dealer App of Government Fair Price Shop. So far, about 85 percent of ration card holders have got their ration cards renewed. Food Controller CP Dipankar informed that for the convenience of the remaining 15 percent ration card holders, the state government has extended the date of ration card renewal till August 15, 2024.

Redressal Camp postponed

BHILAI: The district level Public Grievance Redressal Camp scheduled to be organized on July 26, 2024 in village Anda of Durg development block of the district has been postponed in view of the adverse situations arising due to heavy rains in the area.

'Lodging juveniles in jail is violation of basic rights'

WORKSHOP ON PAN-INDIA CAMPAIGN

Central Chronicle News

Workshop on Pan-India Campaign for identifying juveniles in jails and rendering legal assistance

BHILAI: District Legal Services Authority Durg under the guidance of Principal District and Sessions Judge Dr Pragya Pachouri (Chairman, DLSA), a one-day training program regarding Pan India Campaign 2024 to identify juveniles in jails and provide legal aid as per the guidelines of NALSA was organized on Wednesday in District Court, Durg.

Janardan Khare (Principal Magistrate, Juvenile Justice Board, Durg); Bhagwan Das Panika (II Civil Judge, Senior Divi-



Principal Magistrate addressing the workshop.

FASTFACTS

● **Juveniles should be subjected to hardships of adult criminal justice system**

sion, Durg), Puneet Ram Gurupanch (V Civil Judge Senior Division); DSP Sanjay Pundir and Sudarshan Mahalwar (Legal Aid Defense Counsel, Durg) conducted the workshop. Child Welfare Officers,

Advocates of Jail Legal Aid Clinic, Police Personnel and Paralegal Volunteers were present.

Principal Magistrate Janardan Khare said that children are not criminals but they are juveniles in conflict with the law. He explained the proceedings to determine the age of a juvenile in conflict with the law. In absence of a school mark sheet or certificates, birth certificate, etc, a bone test

should be done to determine the age. Meanwhile, the Police should send the person to the Observation Home under the provisions of JJA. He described the role of police under JJA and cleared the doubts of police personnel. Sudarshan Mahalwar said that if a convict or under trial appears to be juvenile, the police should produce the person before the Juvenile Justice Board.

SAFETY AWARENESS

Safety Awareness Week concludes at BSP

Central Chronicle News

BHILAI: Mechanical Services Department of SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant observed Safety Awareness Week from July 15 to July 19, 2024, at Tools Tackle Workshop inaugurated in the presence of SK Gajbhiye, CGM (Mechanical) as Chief Guest. Departmental employees from all sections of Mechanical Services Department including EBSI and Survey Engineering, Crane Engineer-



ing, Lubrication Engineering, Bearing Engineering, Hydraulic & Pneumatic Engineering, and condition-based monitoring system (CBMS) took part in the Safety Week. SK Gajbhiye discussed potential safety hazards of the main

activities of all sections of the department and shared insights on ways to minimize the risk of critical tasks by safe operating practices. During this week-long programme, lectures on safety by various expert speakers were

organized. The safety programmes organized during the week include a safety video by Sanjesh Kumar, AGM (Bearing Engineering), demonstra-

tion of Fire extinguishers by Fire Services Department, demonstration of First Aid by OHS, discussions on Near Miss Cases, TBT & Safety governance by Safety Engineering Department, and lecture on Gas safety delivered by EMD Department. The valedictory ceremony was held in the presence of J Thulasi Dasan, GM (SED) as Special Guest. He discussed road safety and its importance in the present scenario.



"Follow safe operating practices to minimize the risk of critical tasks"

SK Gajbhiye
CGM (Mechanical), BSP



“Present the report of basic infrastructure in all the government schools soon.”

Chandrakant Verma
Collector Khairagarh



Chhattisgarh

Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

EDUCATION WEEK

Variety of activities engage active mothers on 2nd day of Education Week

DONGARGAON: On the occasion of FLN Day, on the second day of Education Week, various activities were organized among active mothers in Chando Government Primary School of the region on Tuesday. Contribution of smart TV and contact device in FLN, use of exercise book, demonstration of decoding, use of e-magical box, use of IVRS, contribution of community and mothers for fast learning and Selfie with Success Kamal were well presented.

The teachers present in the program were encouraged for their important contribution in FLN and better digital use in learning. Similarly, in the Ullas program, proper support and guidance was also given to encourage illiterates and create a smooth environment for teaching and learning. Along with this, smart mothers were honored by orienting them for education through play under education in the courtyard.

MARTYRDOM DAY

Naxalites announced to celebrate Martyrdom Week from July 28 to Aug 3

JAGDALPUR: Like every year in Bastar, Naxalites have announced to celebrate Martyrdom Week in the areas under their influence.

Bastar Police is also on alert mode regarding this week running from 28th July to 3rd August. At the same time, the police suspect that they may try to make inroads again in those areas where the police base was lost after their reach, hence Bastar IG Sunderraj P. has ordered all the police stations of all the districts of Bastar division. And the posts have been alerted. At the same time, SPs of all the districts related to Naxal campaign have talked about continuously running Naxal eradication campaign. So that during this week of Naxalites, the terror of Naxalism can be reduced in Naxal affected areas.



Diarrhea cases on decline

Due to continuous rain in dist, mosquito infestation is likely to increase.

Central Chronicle News

KHAIRAGARH: Due to continuous rain in the district, mosquito infestation is likely to increase, due to which the health department is on alert mode especially in some identified malaria zones of rural and forest areas along with urban areas.

After the monsoon has become active for the last three days, it has been raining intermittently in the district and unnecessary water is also accumulating due to rain. Due to water logging, the conditions for the growth of mosquitoes have more than doubled these days. In these conditions, the possibility of malaria has increased, while vigilance



Rush at the district hospital of patients on the rise.

is also necessary regarding dengue. Due to moisture in the weather after the rain, the cases of diarrhea in the district have now reduced.

Last week, more than a dozen diarrhea patients were found in Mundabari, but now the situation regarding diarrhea is normal. Due to lack of good rain and heat along with humidity, diarrhea patients were being found continuously last

month. It is being told that in the last 2 months, more than 200 patients had diarrhea, but after the change in weather, the situation is now normal.

Due to continuous rain and humidity, the number of cold, cough and viral fever patients has increased in the district in the last week. More than 100 patients are being found every day with cold, cough and

FACTFILE

• The health department has issued a notice regarding precaution from mosquito-borne diseases such as malaria and dengue.

viral infection.

The number of patients with cold, cough and viral infection has increased in the major health centers of the district, Khairagarh, Chhuikhadan, Gandai, Salhewara, Jalabandha, Thelkadih, Bazar Ataria, Pandadah, Mudhipar and in big town areas as well and patients are reaching the hospital in these areas every day.

Admn on high alert against job fraudsters

KORBA: Korba District Administration has urged the general public to be cautious about money or any other demand in the name of getting jobs in the departments and complain about it immediately. From time to time, advertisements are issued in various departments under the district administration for appointment/recruitment in various posts on regular/contractual basis. The recruitment process for all these posts is done completely under government instructions and in a transparent manner. If any government/non-government person demands money or any other demand in lieu of these recruitments.

New office bearers of CMS

New office bearers of Chhattisgarh Manas Sangthan Tehsil Bhakhara elected

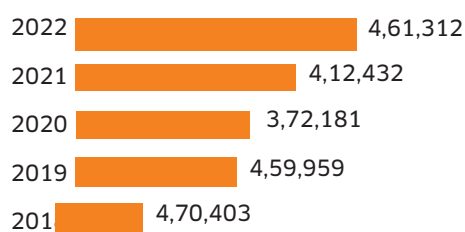


ANWARI: Election for the second term of Chhattisgarh Manas Sangathan (CMS) Tehsil Bhakhara was organized on Sunday, on the auspicious occasion of Guru Purnima, at Sahu Bhawan Bhatheli. Election Provincial President and Founder Champeshwar Singh Rajput elected new office bearers for the second term as per the guidelines. At the beginning of the program, guests and members present worshipped Lord Ram and Goddess Saraswati. Thereafter, election for various posts was conducted in the presence of Election Incharge and Provincial Chief

Advisor Manmohan Sahu, Provincial General Secretary Radha Sahu, District President S. D. Manikpuri Manas Sangathan Dhamtari, District Secretary Dularwa Ram Sahu and life members of the organization in which Nitesh Kumar Manikpuri Bhatheli Bhakhara was elected as President of Manas Sangathan Tehsil Bhakhara, Vice President Ravi Sahu Bhaishod, Women Vice President Miss. Shashikala Sahu, Singdehi, Treasurer Sunil Sahu Bhatheli, Secretary Vaibhav Kiran Bhakhara, Joint Secretary Dharmendra Das Vaishnav Bhatheli were elected.

The Day's NUMBERS

TOTAL NUMBER OF ACCIDENTS DURING 2018-22



Sources - Ministry of Road Transport, Highways, Go

EDUCATION WEEK

Variety of activities engage active mothers on second day of Education Week

DONGARGAON: On the occasion of FLN Day, on the second day of Education Week, various activities were organized among active mothers in Chando Government Primary School of the region on Tuesday. Contribution of smart TV and contact device in FLN, use of exercise book, demonstration of decoding, use of e-magical box, use of IVRS, contribution of community and mothers for fast learning and Selfie with Success Kamal were well presented. The teachers present in the program were encouraged for their important contribution in FLN and better digital use in learning. Similarly, in the Ullas program, proper support and guidance was also given to encourage illiterates and create a smooth environment for teaching and learning. Along with this, smart mothers were honored by orienting them for education through play under education in the courtyard. Block core committee member Deepamala Sahu, Headmistress of Primary School Munjalpathri and Dhaneshwari Vinayak, Teacher of Pre-Secondary School Kolihamati and Headmistress were present in the program.

HONOURED

Bhumika Dhruv secures first position in entire G'band in Eklavya Exams



RAJIM: Guru Purnima cum felicitation ceremony was organized in Primary School Sindhauri, in which Bhumika Dhruv D/o Ramgopal Dhruv and Durga Dhruv was honoured by the School Development Committee for securing first position in entire Gariaband in Eklavya examination. On the said occasion, School Development Committee Chairman Sohan Verma, educationist Tarachand Sahu, Panch Lakhan Lal Verma, Bishan Sahu, Hemant Yadav, Madhuri Dhruv, institution head Nand Kumar Sinha, teachers namely Ganesh Ram Kumhar, Urvashi Tarak, Mrs. Hemlata Thakur, Kumari Preeti Devangan, cleaning staff Chandrika Sahu and all 111 children of the school were present.

YOUR TAX FUELS INDIA'S PROGRESS



File your Income Tax Return to boost India's Growth Engine

- The returns may be filed by visiting www.incometax.gov.in
- Following are the consequences of delay in filing the return of income:
 - ✦ Certain losses cannot be carried forward.
 - ✦ Levy of interest under section 234A.
 - ✦ Levy of fee under section 234F
- Filing of Income Tax Returns in time also helps taxpayers in various ways like:
 - ✦ ITRs help in offering hassle-free access to loans and credit facilities
 - ✦ ITRs help in processing of VISA applications
- Check your Form 26AS, AIS and other relevant documents before submission. Do not claim wrongful deductions and exemptions.

ATTENTION!

Individuals and Entities (whose books of accounts are not required to be audited) e-File your Income Tax Return (ITR) for A.Y. 2024-25 on or before **31st July, 2024**

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Income Tax Department
Central Board of Direct Taxes



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Launch regular campaign to ensure removal of stray cattle from chowks, NH and main roads.

VK Langhe
Collector Koriya



Chhattisgarh

Budget aims to uplift one & all: Kiran Deo

Central Chronicle News

JAGDALPUR: State President of Bharatiya Janata Party, Kiran Singh Deo, while welcoming the provisions made in the first full budget of the third term of the NDA government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, said that this budget of the Central Government is for the villages, poor, farmers, youth. It will write a new chapter of women's development. The Central Government has made a provision of Rs 1 lakh crore for the employment and skill upgradation of the youth and with the provision of Rs 2 lakh crore on new employment, the Central Government has taken full care of the young talent. Shri Dev said that the resolution to launch Tribal Unnat Gram Abhiyan expresses the commitment of the Central Government for the upliftment of tribals, which will benefit 5 crore tribals in 63 thousand villages across the country. Shri Dev said that this budget of Amritkaal is balanced and important in every sense.

Kiran Singh Deo said that by making a pro-



vision of Rs 2.66 lakh crore for rural development projects, target of development in agriculture sector and Rs 11,500 crore for irrigation, focus will be on 109 crops along with the production of pulses, oilseeds and vegetables. Expressed gratitude towards Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman for making sure arrangements for the welfare of food donors by making new announcements.

BJP should clarify whether Bastar should get Rs 5.5 crore or Rs 1,000 crore for rail: Rekhchand Jain

Former MLA and Parliamentary Secretary Rekhchand Jain has said that the Union Budget presented on Tuesday is disappointing for all sections of the society. This has also been confirmed by the stock market. The BJP has started making false praises of the provisions made in the budget for the ambitious railway line of Bastar, which is condemnable. The BJP government had announced Rs 500 crore for the railway line in the interim budget presented five months ago. Rs 500 crore has also been announced in the budget presented on Tuesday. In such a situation, it should be clearly told to the people of Bastar whether Bastar will get Rs 500 crore or Rs 1000 crore for this railway line. Shri Jain has said that due to lack of provisions in the budget to provide solace to the rural, poor, farmers, women etc. sections, there is great disappointment among these sections.



Provision of funds for Dalli-Rajhara-Jagdalpur rail line is a welcome decision: Kashyap



Regarding the budget presented today by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, Forest Minister Kedar Kashyap said that this first budget of the third term of Prime Minister Narendra Modi is a budget that will accelerate the development of the country. Our farmer brothers will benefit from the provisions made in this budget to give more impetus to agricultural schemes. Forest Minister Shri Kashyap expressed his gratitude to Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and said that the far-reaching thinking of the country's Finance Minister has made the budget universally relevant. In this budget, provision of budget funds has been made for 233 km railway line from Dalli Rajhara to Jagdalpur, an important demand of Bastar division, it is a matter of great happiness for all of us.

| SPORTS COMPETITION |

Cluster level basketball competition commences

Central Chronicle News

140 participants from 17 Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas (JNVs) of Bilaspur cluster under Bhopal division took part in this competition.

BEMETARA: Cluster level basketball competition was organized from July 22 to 23 at PM Shri Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya Bahera, Bemetara. 140 participants from 17 Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas (JNVs) of Bilaspur cluster under Bhopal division took part in this competition.

Games for boys and girls were organized in the cluster level basketball competition, in which competition for U-14, U-17 and U-19 age groups was certain. Teams from other districts started arriving at



Cluster level basketball competition was organized from July 22 to 23 at PMSJNV, Bahera, Bemetara.

FACTFILE

● On the first day of this competition, basic skill trials of dribbling, passing, shooting, rebounding, layup shot were conducted for all the participants.

● An evening cultural program was organized in the school premises.

JNV Bemetara from Sunday morning itself.

To make a successful outline of the cluster

level basketball competition, a seminar was organized with all the escort escorts and all the school staff from various schools under the chairmanship of school Principal Lakshmi Singh. In her address, the Principal welcomed and greeted all the attendants on behalf of the school family and also appealed to everyone for cooperation to make the program successful.

The competition was inaugurated on Monday

morning. It was presided over by the school Principal Lakshmi Singh. On the first day of this competition, basic skill trials of dribbling, passing, shooting, rebounding, layup shot were conducted for all the participants. On the basis of this trial, a competition was held for the children, in which merit was made by the officials and experienced PT teachers according to the performance of the children.

An evening cultural program was organized in the school premises, in which the chief guest was the District Magistrate of Bemetara district, Mr. Ranbir Sharma, guest ADM Mr. Anil Vajpayee, Joint Collector Mrs. Ankita Garg, District Education Officer Mr. KK Banjare, SDM Ghanshyam Singh were present.

as if a flood of people pours in here. The amazing self-manifested Ardhanarishwar Shivaling is enshrined in the sanctum sanctorum of this ancient Shiva temple located in the middle of the village. Every year, devotees of Lord Shiva come from far and wide to perform Jalabhishek, Dudhbhishek and Rudrabhishek of this Shivaling and after performing Puja, they pray for the desired result.

Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

ESCAPE

Two juvenile delinquents escape from Juvenile Home in Korba

KORBA: There is a need for improvement in the system of the Juvenile home in Korba. The operation of this Juvenile home is dependent on the cook and the house keeper, in which the bureaucracy is coming to the fore. If we talk about the security system, it seems to be just a makeshift one, taking advantage of which the juvenile delinquents escaped. Incidents of incest had occurred in Katghora and Pali police station areas. In this case, the police had taken provisional action against two delinquent boys. They were sent to Risdi Chowk Juvenile Home under Civil Line police station. Like every day, after having dinner, the Juvenile home was closed. Both the boys also went to sleep in their beds like other delinquent children.

REACTION

Budget will take the country on the path of development: Mahesh Kashyap

JAGDALPUR: Bastar MP Mahesh Kashyap said that this general budget is an important budget of Amritkaal. This is a budget that will take the country on the path of development and progress. He said that a strong foundation has been laid through this budget to fulfill the dreams of the countrymen and prove the resolve of a developed India. Now the country will move faster towards the resolve of a developed India. This budget will play an important role in shaping the economic prosperity of India. The poor, youth, farmers, middle class and women power have all been taken care of in this budget.



Unprecedented NAAC-A++ ranking

CU receives top tier autonomy from UGC after three years of relentless efforts



BILASPUR: Another milestone has been achieved with Guru Ghasidas University (Central University) attaining an unprecedented NAAC A++ ranking. Under the able leadership, skilled guidance, and vision of Vice-Chancellor Professor Alok Kumar Chakrawal, the university has received such autonomy at the national level. He emphasized that this will infuse new energy into the university in the fields of research, innovation, and skill development. Prof. Chakrawal noted that Chhattisgarh has immense potential for development.

Expressing joy over the Category One autonomy conferred by the UGC, Vice-Chancellor Professor Chakrawal stated that this is a moment of pride, as Chhattisgarh's only central university has received such autonomy at the national level. He emphasized that this will infuse new energy into the university in the fields of research, innovation, and skill development.

Prof. Chakrawal noted that Chhattisgarh has immense potential for development.

The Day's NUMBERS

From 2018 to 2022

Sources-Statista

TOTAL NUMBER OF FATALITIES IN ROAD ACCIDENTS

2022	1,68,491
2021	1,53,972
2020	1,38,383
2019	1,58,984
2018	1,57,593

INSPECTION

Collector conducts surprise inspection of primary and pre-secondary schools

JAGDALPUR: Bastar Collector Vijay Dayaram conducted a surprise inspection of primary school and pre-secondary school Bodanpal-I and pre-secondary school and primary school Palli Chakwa of Bastar development block on Monday, the first day of education week. He assessed by looking at the attendance registration of teachers who were absent from Bodanpal School for a long time. Also, after observing the recorded number of students in the school, the concerned CSC expressed displeasure over the low attendance of the students as against the number recorded. He directed to ensure 100% attendance of children in the school, directed to issue an explanation by the concerned CSC for not giving the correct reason for the low attendance of the children and for not taking any action by them to bring the children to school. During the school inspection, he also observed a class on TLM Day on the first day of the education week to give knowledge to children by making the science subject interesting by using local materials. During this, Collector Shri Vijay and District Panchayat CEO Prakash Sarve also observed the quality of food after having midday meal with the school children.

UNVEILING

MLA Kunwar Singh Nishad unveils the statue of Dr. Ambedkar in Kisna



BALOD: On the occasion of Guru Purnima, Gunderdehi MLA Kunwar Singh Nishad unveiled the life-size statue of Bharat Ratna Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar in the middle school premises of village Kisna of development block Dondi Lohara of Balod district. On this occasion, amidst the drizzle of rain, he said that the great human being, the architect of the Indian Constitution, Dr. Ambedkar, by composing the Indian Constitution, gave the message of sovereignty, social justice and world brotherhood.

On the demand letter of Sarpanch Gram Panchayat Kishana, Sunita Khaparde, MLA Nishad approved the construction of the stage shed and the statue enclosure (steel railing) in the middle school premises. MLA Nishad further said that Dr. Ambedkar had given the slogan of 'Be educated, get organized and struggle'.

| MYSTICAL SHIVLING |

Beldarsivani's Shivaling: A truly divine mystery

Central Chronicle News

KHARORA: Lord Shiva's favourite Shravan month has started from Monday. It is a special month for the worship of Mahadev. There are five Mondays in Shravan month. There are many temples in the country and the world is full of miracles and mystery. Each has its own story and ancient historical belief. But the unique self-manifested Shivaling of



a village named Beldarsivani, located at a distance of just 5 km from Kharora, still remains a mystery for

the world. The fame of this place has spread not only in the region but also in the entire state.

Shivaling changes its form three times a year according to the seasons.
Pt. Santosh Sharma

There is a continuous flow of devotees throughout the year. In the month of Sawan and Mahashivratri, it seems

Signature campaign against cement factory

Villagers said that we do want to open a factory by selling our land; this makes it clear that more than 95% of the villagers are against the cement factory.

Central Chronicle News

KHAIRAGARH: A signature campaign against a cement factory under construction in the district has been initiated by the Congress party, and the campaign has been initiated from village Pandaria of the district and on the first day of the campaign, 48 out of 51 people have registered their disagreement by signing the protest letter prepared against the cement factory.

In a press conference held at the district headquarters Khairagarh under the joint aegis of District Youth Congress and District NSUI under the leadership of MLA Yashoda Neelambar Verma and District Congress President Gajendra Thackeray, it was decided to run a signature campaign to know the opinion of the public on the cement factory to be opened between the villages of Vicharpur, Sandi, Pandaria and Bundeli of the district.

On 22nd July, the representatives of Youth Congress started the signature campaign from village Pandaria, on which 48 people opined not to sell their land and the cement factory will not be opened. During this, the villagers



Signature campaign against a cement factory under construction in the district has been initiated by the Congress party from village Pandaria of the district.

FASTFACTS

● Congress' signature campaign started from village Pandaria of KCG and in the campaign 48 out of 51 people signed the protest letter.

said that we do want to open a factory by selling our land; this makes it clear that more than 95% of the villagers are against the cement factory. The villagers said that if we are removed from the village, then the government should also clear the stand on rehabilitation and future resources of the villagers. The villagers

Villagers are filing complete details

Under the signature campaign, in order to know the inclination of the villagers, signature is being obtained on the protest or support letter by the villagers. In the protest letter, the person after filling his entire details protest over opening of cement factory and if at all the cement factory is started going against the wishes of the villagers, the Congress party would take to streets and launch a movement. In the signature campaign Congmen in large number were present.

told that when the decision to open a cement factory came, it was decided unanimously among all the villagers that no villager would sell his land, but some people of the village sold their land, the brunt of which will have

to be borne by other villagers. It was also decided after the campaign that if the cement factory starts against the wishes of the people, then Congress will take to the streets and protest in accordance with the sentiments of the villagers.

SWC hearing on July 26

KORBA: State Women Commission will hear cases received from the district, related to harassment of women by the bench constituted by the Commission Chairperson Dr. Kiran Mayi Nayak and other members. This hearing will be held in the District Panchayat hall on July 26, 2024 from 11 am.

SGS to be organized till July 26

KOREA: Collector and District Magistrate Vinay Kumar Langeh has ordered to organize a Special Gram Sabha (SGS) in every Gram Panchayat headquarters of the district by July 26. In this meeting, along with the quorum, the Sarpanch, Panch and Secretary will be responsible for ensuring 100% attendance of the members in the Gram Sabha.

The proceedings of the special Gram Sabha will be conducted as per Section 129 B (3) of the Chhattisgarh Panchayat Raj Act 1993. The presence of Anganwadi workers, school head teacher, and operator of fair price shop, employment assistant, health friend, Patwari, handicapped friend, field staff of total cleanliness campaign and other field workers will be mandatory in the Gram Sabha.

Budget stands for Sabka Saath - Sabka Vikas: Pahadiya



Central Chronicle News

FINGESHWAR: Expressing his reaction on the budget, Chhattisgarh Chamber of Commerce State Minister Gariaband District Incharge Arendra Pahadiya has said that this budget will take the country towards prosperity and all sections of the society have been taken care of in this budget. He also said that while this budget will empower the middle class, the benefits of strong schemes to empower the tribal society, Dalits and backward class people will become a milestone for them. Regarding the budget from a business

HIGHLIGHT

● Chhattisgarh Chamber of Commerce State Minister Gariaband District Incharge Arendra Pahadiya has said that this budget will take the country towards prosperity

point of view, Pahadiya said that this budget is public welfare, inclusive, employment oriented and development oriented and with special focus on measures to improve business in the budget, taking forward these reforms and simplifications will increase the flow of capital in the country, which will in return increase employment and prosperity along with development in business.

Water filled in the premises of Silpatti School

KHARORA: As rains continue to lash the region, students also are facing the blue of the rains as water filling in the premises of the Government Primary School located in Gram Panchayat Silpatti of Tilda block is being reported. Though this situation arises every year, the school management has informed the responsible people many

times but since no action has been taken, this year too the school building of Government Primary School Silpatti is completely filled with water. Students especially of lower primary classes are facing difficulty in going to and coming from school, for which the parents have demanded action on the part of the administration.

Middle aged man murdered and thrown in canal



Central Chronicle News

A body of a middle-aged man was found early in the morning on the banks of the canal going from the main road of the city to Dongaria.

LORMI: The dead body of a middle aged man has been found in the canal going to Lormi-Lakhasar-Dongaria. Prima facie the case appears to be murder, the middle aged man was crushed with a brick and thrown in the canal. According to the information received, the body of a middle-aged man was found early in the morning on the banks of the canal

going from the main road of the city to Dongaria and a large crowd started gathering at the spot, and the news of the murder spread like a sensation in the entire city. The middle-aged man has been killed by some suspicious people, first he must have been hit with a brick on the road and then the body must have been thrown in the canal because blood marks and dragging marks were clearly visible on the road, 3 to 4 bricks were also scattered nearby, it is suspected that someone must have killed him first and then thrown him in the canal. For investigation, police sniffer dog, and forensic experts help was also taken, but no clue was found.

Tree plantation organised

KHAIRAGADH: A tree plantation cum cycle distribution program was organised in Higher Secondary School Mudhipar, with former MP and State BJP Vice President Madhusudan Yadav present as Chief Guest. District Panchayat Chairman and District BJP President Ghuman Sahu presided over the program.

Kharif Crop insurance Last date is July 31

BIJAPUR: As per information by Deputy Director Agriculture Mr. PS Kusre under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana, farmers of the district can get the main crops paddy irrigated, paddy unirrigated, moong, urad, peanuts and kutki insured. At the same time, the last date for Kharif crop insurance for the year 2024-25 has been fixed as 31st July.

SMC meets admn for resolution of problems

Central Chronicle News

The school management committee informed that new classrooms are being built at a cost of 80 lakhs under D.M.F. and the contractor who is working at a slow pace should be issued a notice and appropriate action should be taken.

RAJIM: The Chairman and members of the School Management Committee (SMC) of Government Ram Vishal Pandey Utkrish English Medium School of the city, met the Gariaband Collector, District Education Officer and DMC Gariaband and discussed with the Gariaband Collector about the problems of the school, especially the problems related to teachers, buildings, open school centers,



SMC members discussed with the Gariaband Collector about the problems of the school.

lack of peons, watchmen, problems in non-sages middle schools, as well as various demands related to setting up an English medium school at another place.

Taking the shortage of teachers seriously, the Collector directed the District Education Officer to send a teacher immediately and also said that as soon as the order for

appointment of surplus teachers is received from the Chhattisgarh Government, then wherever there is a shortage of teachers, arrangements for teachers should be made immediately. The school management committee informed that new classrooms are being built at a cost of 80 lakhs under D.M.F. and the contractor who is working at a slow

pace should be issued a notice and appropriate action should be taken. The management committee told the collector that studies are affected a lot due to it being an open school centre and if it is shifted to another school, then the studies of the students of Atmanand English Medium and Hindi Medium will not be affected.

SAFETY MEETING |

Road Safety Committee meeting concludes

Central Chronicle News

KOREA: A meeting of the District Level Road Safety Committee was held in the Collectorate hall under the chairmanship of Collector Vinay Kumar Langeh. In the meeting, he reviewed the works and activities being done to prevent road accidents in the district and to make citizens aware and follow traffic rules. Both the Collector and SP Suraj Singh Parihar directed the officials of



Police Department, Public Works Department, and National Highway to take all necessary measures to prevent more deaths or serious injuries in road accidents or possible accidents at places marked as hot spots.

Collector Mr. Langeh directed to take necessary action including installing high mast lights at places like Kharwat Check, Chadaha Petrol Pump, Jamghana Bypass, etc., and installing dividers, speed break-

Take necessary action including installing high mast lights at places in different chowks and installing dividers, speed breakers etc.

VK Langeh
Collector Korea

ers, reflectors or signboards to prevent accidents. Along with this, instructions were given to Nagar Palika, Janpad Panchayat and Animal Husbandry Department to run continuous campaigns to remove cattle from crossroads, national highways, and state highways. Baikunthpur and Shivpur-Charcha Municipal Corporation officials were instructed to immediately remove encroachments, shops, carts etc. on the roadside.

Cleanliness festival celebrated in village

Central Chronicle News

RAJNANDGAON: A two-day cleanliness festival was celebrated in village Kirgi Rivagahan of Rajnandgaon development block recently by the cooperation of the District Panchayat and ABIS 'Pehal'. The main objective of the two-day cleanliness festival was to make the villagers aware to make the village ODF Plus, under which the message of cleanliness was given by the school

children through poster competition, street play to create awareness about segregation.

Apart from this, the children demonstrated Jugaad from junk and inspired the villagers for proper management of plastic. Gram Panchayat Sarpanch Smt. Purnima Sahu, District Panchayat Dongargaon ACEO Hori Lal Sahu, Principal Narotam Lal Kamariya including a large number of villagers were present in the program.

NEWSLINE

RESOLVE

Collector instructs to resolve public grievances soon



GAURELA: Collector Leena Kamlesh Mandavi reviewed the applications submitted by the people and instructed the concerned officers to resolve them as soon as possible in the Collector Jandarshan regarding various problems and demands. In the case of some applications, she told the officers to inform the beneficiaries who are not eligible for the benefits of the schemes that they are not eligible to take the benefit and do not make them visit the office unnecessarily.

HONOURED

Anju Pandey honoured



KHARORA: Kharora Zone teacher Anju Pandey was honored by Chhattisgarh's largest literature forum "Vakta Manch", Raipur. Kharora; for her excellent work in the field of writing. She was honored with Sahitya Shri Samman by Chhattisgarh state level social organization "Vakta Manch" in Chhatrasal Bachhawat Smriti Rachnakar Samman ceremony in the auditorium of New Rajendra Nagar, Raipur by Guru Ghasidas Sahitya Academy Sanstha Manch. The program was inaugurated by lighting the lamp in the presence of Dr. Surendra Rawal, former Vice Chancellor, Chairman of the Vakta Manch, Educationist and Special Guest Dr. Suresh Shukla, Chairman of Vakta Manch, Revered Rajesh Parate, Convener Shubham Sahu, Litterateur Kiran Lata Vaidya.

HONOURED

Kainaat' honoured with Sahitya Shri Samman



KARELI BADI: Chhattisgarh's social, cultural and literary organisation Vakta Manch honours outstanding authors every year. On 21st July, Hasda's child poet Niyati Sahu 'Kainaat' was honoured with Sahitya Shri Samman at Guru Ghasidas Sahitya Academy, New Rajendra Nagar, Raipur. The programme was inaugurated by chief guest Dr L S Nigam, former Vice Chancellor of Shankaracharya University, Bilai, presided by litterateur Surendra Rawal, special guest K P Saxena and children's literature writer Kiranlata Vaidya, with the prayers of knowledge-giving mother Sharda.



Strive to contribute towards devp of all sections of society.

Droupadi Murmu
President



Maratha reservation activist Manoj Jarange Patil speaks during a programme.

Strategy for assembly elections on Aug 29: Jarange

Jarange was speaking to reporters at a private hospital in Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar where he is undergoing treatment after his latest hunger strike for reservation.

Press Trust Of India

SAMBHAJINAGAR: The strategy regarding the coming Maharashtra assembly elections will be declared on August 29, Maratha quota activist Manoj Jarange said here on Thursday. He and his followers will support any political party or leader who champions the cause of reservation for the Marathas, he said. Elsewhere, BJP leaders continued to target him, asking why he never spoke against NCP (SP) chief Sharad Pawar or Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Uddhav Thackeray. Jarange was speaking to reporters at a private

hospital in Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar where he is undergoing treatment after his latest hunger strike for reservation.

"We will declare our strategy of contesting assembly elections on August 29, and a meeting will be held for this. We will field our own candidates, and also stand with those who are standing with the Maratha community and will give us in writing that they support Maratha reservation. No matter what caste and community they belong to," he said.

In Mumbai, BJP MLA Ashish Shelar asked why Jarange did not say a word against those who

HIGHLIGHT

● **BJP MLA Ashish Shelar asked why Jarange did not say a word against those who never made any effort to get reservation for the Maratha community.**

● **He and his followers will support any political party or leader who champions the cause of reservation for the Marathas, Jarange said.**

never made any effort to get reservation for the Maratha community.

"In fact, these persons were the ones who

ensured that the reservation got cancelled," he added, without naming anyone. "He is raising doubts against those who gave reservation and retained it, and many students and youth had benefitted from it, but he does not utter a word against those who got it cancelled. When Sharad Pawar was chief minister (in the 1990s), the Maratha community did not get reservation (in the OBC quota). Did Jarange ever speak against him?" Shelar asked.

"Later, with support from Sharad Pawar, Uddhav Thackeray became chief minister, and during his tenure

the reservation could not be retained in the court. Did Jarange ever speak against Uddhav Thackeray, Sharad Pawar or even (state Congress chief) Nana Patole?" the BJP leader further said.

"The Bharatiya Janata Party has always supported the demands of the Maratha community....Devendra Fadnavis and the BJP tried to get Maratha reservation legally sanctioned. As long as Jarange is talking about reservation, we are with him. But the moment he crosses the line and makes political statements, we will also be compelled to cross the line," said Shelar.

Govt doctors on indefinite strike

CHANDIGARH: Government doctors in Haryana began an indefinite strike on Thursday hitting services in the state-run hospitals. The strike has been called by the Haryana Civil Medical Services Association, which represents government doctors in the state, to protest the non-fulfilment of their various demands.

In a bid to resolve the issue, government representatives are holding talks with the doctors' body here. The talks began in the afternoon.

The doctors' demands include the formation of a specialist cadre for them and a career progression scheme that ensures parity with their central government peers.

The association called for a shutdown of health services in the government hospitals as a mark of protest.

DU hikes fees for first-year students in UG, PG and PhD

Press Trust Of India

The new fee structure for the academic calendar that begins in August was approved by Vice Chancellor Yogesh Singh in June.

NEW DELHI: The Delhi University has hiked fees for students enrolled in first-year undergraduate, postgraduate and PhD programmes as well as foreign students seeking admission from the 2024-2025 academic session.

The new fee structure for the academic calendar that begins in August was approved by Vice Chancellor Yogesh Singh in June. According to the new fee structure, the course fee for first-year BTech students has been



Delhi University.

FACTFILE

● **According to the new fee structure, the course fee for first-year BTech students has been raised by 3.70 per cent, i.e. from Rs 2.16 lakh to Rs 2.24 lakh.**

raised by 3.70 per cent, i.e. from Rs 2.16 lakh to Rs 2.24 lakh. "The hike has been affected only for the first year students currently in accordance with university guidelines," a senior official at the Faculty of Technol-

ogy told PTI. The varsity has raised several components of the fee structure, including tuition fees, students' welfare fund, development fee, facilities and services charges, and economically weaker section support fund.

NEW RESEARCH |

Nearby 'super-Jupiter' detected: IIT Kanpur

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: A nearby "super-Jupiter" exoplanet -- about 12 light years away from Earth -- was detected and could be one of the coldest, according to an international study, including researchers from IIT Kanpur. Estimating the temperature on the planet at two degrees Celsius, the

authors said that Epsilon Indi Ab is colder than any other imaged exoplanet -- planets existing outside of our solar system. The closest one is Proxima Centauri b at about four light years from Earth, according to NASA, the US space agency. Images of Epsilon Indi Ab were captured using NASA's James Webb Space Telescope.

It is a little warmer and more massive, but is more similar to Jupiter than any other planet.

Elisabeth Matthews
Max Planck Institute for Astronomy

Previously imaged exoplanets tend to be



the youngest, hottest exoplanets that are still radiating much of the energy from when they first formed, according to the authors of the study published in the journal Nature.

As planets cool and contract over their lifetime, they become significantly fainter and, therefore, harder to image, they said.

Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

DEMAND

'Declare Santhal Parganas, Malda, Murshidabad as UT'

NEW DELHI: BJP member Nishikant Dubey on Thursday demanded that parts of Jharkhand and West Bengal be declared a Union Territory to deal with the challenge posed by the increasing number of illegal immigrants from Bangladesh in the region. Raising the issue during Zero Hour in the Lok Sabha, Dubey said the population of Adivasis in the Santhal Parganas region of Jharkhand was on a decline due to the growing influx of "Bangladeshi infiltrators". "I demand that Malda, Murshidabad, Araria, Kishanganj, Katihar and the Santhal Parganas region be declared as a Union Territory and the National Register of Citizens (NRC) be implemented there," he said. He said Bangladeshi infiltrators were settling in the region and marrying tribal women, who were contesting elections from seats in the zilla panchayat to the Lok Sabha. **PTI**

RAIN FURY

Two feared trapped as landslide hits bungalows in Lavasa city



PUNE: One person died in a rain-related incident, while two individuals were feared trapped after a landslide hit three bungalows in Lavasa city in Pune district on Thursday amid heavy showers, police said. Lavasa, a private, planned city located around 65 km from Pune city, has recorded 453 mm rainfall in a 24-hour period ended at 8.30 am on Thursday, officials said. The district's Mulshi tehsil, where Lavasa is located, has been experiencing incessant rains since Wednesday evening. **PTI**

Navaratna company

NMDC's R&D facility is making giant strides, silently impacting global mining and steel sector



HYDERABAD: Since its establishment in 1958, NMDC has consistently pushed boundaries to emerge as the country's single-largest iron ore producer and the world's eighth-largest. This remarkable journey of over 66 years has not only seen the Navaratna company making giant strides within and outside the country, including acquiring a mine in Australia and operationalising a three million tonnes per annum (MTPA) steel-producing unit in Chhattisgarh, but also significantly impacting the global mining and steel sector. However, what often goes unnoticed is the versatility of its well-equipped R&D centre. Beyond the media spotlight, this unit serves

in-house projects and regularly takes up sponsored work for external clients, including SAIL and AM/NS India. This underlines the centre's significant impact and its proven ability to cater to diverse needs, providing reassurance of its capabilities.

Established in 1975 in Faridabad, the R&D unit was initially set up to support in-house projects and domestic organisations in various fields, including mineral processing, bulk solids handling, agglomeration, hydrometallurgy, etc. UNIDO and DSIR recognise it as a Centre of Excellence, a testament to its knowledge and technology transfer to the domestic and global industry. **PTI**

The Day's NUMBERS

STATE WISE DATA OF FOREST COVER (IN SQ KM)

Madhya Pradesh	94,689
Madhya Pradesh has the highest forest cover.	
Arunachal Pradesh	67,248
Chhattisgarh	55,861
Odisha	52,472
Maharashtra	50,628
Karnataka	38,727

Source: Statista

DEBATE

LS adjourned twice amid war of words between treasury, Oppn benches

NEW DELHI: The Lok Sabha was adjourned twice in the post-lunch period on Thursday as a war of words broke out between the treasury and opposition benches, triggered by Congress MP Charanjit Singh Channi's spat with BJP's Ravneet Singh Bittu.

Participating in a debate on the Union Budget, Channi referred to the assassination of Bittu's grandfather, former Punjab chief minister Beant Singh.

This led to a war of words between Channi and Bittu, who recently quit the Congress to join the BJP.

Bittu, the Minister of State for Railways and Food Processing Industries, countered by making certain personal remarks against Channi and former Congress president Sonia Gandhi, triggering an uproar.

Amid the angry exchange of words, Congress member

Amrinder Singh Raja Warring tried to enter the Well of the House, but was stopped by Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi. **PTI**

Central Chronicle Classifieds

<p>वाहन बेचना है</p> <p>महिंद्रा बोलेरो पिकअप (नैवसी ट्रक) नया जेरा, अच्छा कंडीशन एवं रनिंग कंडीशन में बेचना है। संपर्क करे :-</p> <p>97521 04674</p>	<p>मशीन बेचना है</p> <p>यात्री बोटल फिलिंग प्लांट, बोटल ब्लोडिंग एवं लेब कॉन्ट्रोलिंग के साथ, अच्छी कंडीशन में मशीन बेचना है। संपर्क</p> <p>9424108959, 9924281910</p>
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QUOTE FROM THE QUOTABLE

"There are no secrets to success. It is the result of preparation, hard work, and learning from failure."

[Colin Powell]

Comment

Tax-free bank deposits: A solution for India's liquidity crisis

Indian banks are currently grappling with a significant deposit crunch. The loan-deposit ratio has surged to 80%, the highest since 2015, indicating that banks are using a substantial portion of their deposits for loans. In the fiscal year 2023, bank deposits grew at a rate of 9.6%, while loans expanded by 15.4%. According to the Reserve Bank of India, from January 1 to June 14, 2024, bank deposits decreased by Rs. 3.5 lakh crore compared to the previous year, while loans saw a 19% year-on-year increase. This growing gap between loans and deposits underscores a pressing issue.

The essence of banking lies in balancing deposits and loans. Profits depend on maintaining a healthy difference between these two elements. However, the cost of liabilities, or deposits, is rising, while loan rates remain relatively stable. This disparity is exerting pressure on banks' net interest margins and net interest income. Although loan disbursement is expected to increase, the rising

cost of deposits is a significant concern.

In the past, banks increased their deposit bases by offering higher interest rates. Now, however, the increased cost of deposits is squeezing net interest margins and reducing operating profits. Simultaneously, a high outflow of deposits is introducing liquidity risks. One major factor contributing to this deposit problem is the regulatory requirement for banks to set aside a portion of their deposits for the cash reserve ratio (CRR) and statutory liquidity ratio (SLR). This reduces the amount available for lending. Recently, banks have used their surplus SLR holdings to boost loan growth amid slow deposit growth, further depleting their SLR buffer. This dual challenge of maintaining profitability and raising deposit rates necessitates government intervention in the budget. The government has also made the interest on savings and recurring deposits taxable to increase revenue collection. While term deposits were already taxed, this additional taxation is detrimental.

Banks rely on deposits to lend money, but their deposit bases are dwindling. Without sufficient deposits, the risk of bank business failures increases.

In the current scenario, the banking sector hopes the government will recognize this issue and abolish the tax on bank deposits. This measure would encourage investors to deposit money in banks, expecting higher returns. Many Indians still consider bank investments safe compared to the stock market, insurance, and mutual funds. Taxing deposits forces the common people to seek alternative investment options.

Moreover, taxing bank deposits significantly impacts the elderly, especially those without pensions whose only livelihood source is their bank deposits. Although tax is levied only after a certain income, health expenses rise significantly with age. Private hospitals charge exorbitant fees, and basic medical facilities are still inadequate in many government hospitals. Banks have made two critical mistakes: they stopped offering

attractive deposit schemes and diverted funds to increase mutual fund and insurance business. Bank employees began encouraging customers to invest in mutual funds and insurance, promising higher returns. Consequently, customers withdrew money from term and savings accounts to invest in these alternatives. In the June quarter of the current financial year, banks' net interest margins are expected to decline further due to the cash crunch and rising deposit demand, potentially reducing net interest income by 4.8% and net profit by 6%.

Reserve Bank of India Governor Shaktikanta Das has expressed concern over the widening gap between loans and deposits. He advised banks to reassess the viability of their current business models. In light of this, banks need to reevaluate their strategies. Additionally, the government should consider making bank deposits tax-free. Implementing such provisions in the budget could help Indian banks overcome the liquidity crisis.



Satish Singh

Ahmedabad Based Senior Columnist. Views are personal.

OUR VIEW |

Ensuring integrity in exams a vital national priority

The Supreme Court verdict on the NEET controversy, following weeks of student trauma, brings a pragmatic end to calls for a re-exam. While the decision to avoid a re-test for 24 lakh aspirants is practical, it sheds light on deeper issues within our educational and testing systems. Chief Justice DY Chandrachud's remark that the leaks did not amount to a 'systemic breach' offers temporary relief but fails to address underlying vulnerabilities. The leaks in Hazaribagh and Patna, revealed by the National Testing Agency (NTA) and IIT-Delhi, challenge the integrity of a crucial exam for aspiring medical professionals. The Supreme Court's reliance on the NTA to manage affected students' cases reflects a stopgap measure rather than a sustainable solution. Additionally, the UGC-NET's cancellation in June intensifies concerns about the robustness of our examination processes. The Ministry of Education's swift action, based on undisclosed inputs from the Union Home Ministry, underscores the fragility of our examination infrastructure. The lack of transparency regarding the nature of the compromise has fueled distrust and anxiety among students. These incidents highlight the urgent need for a comprehensive overhaul of our examination and testing framework. The proposal by Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan to establish a high-level committee to review the NTA's structure is a positive step. However, this initiative must be paired with robust measures to enhance security, transparency, and accountability. Recurrent examination scandals not only undermine the credibility of our educational institutions but also jeopardize the futures of countless young candidates. In a nation striving to harness its demographic dividend, ensuring the sanctity of examinations is non-negotiable. The government must prioritize reforms to restore faith in the system and fulfill the aspirations of the youth. This effort is crucial for maintaining the integrity of our education system and supporting the dreams of millions of students.

GUEST VIEW |

The interplay of happiness and sorrow in life

Happiness and sorrow are intertwined like shadows in life. When one fades, the other emerges. Sorrow can stem from various aspects such as health issues, job loss, relationship strains, or unfulfilled dreams. Happiness, often seen as a smile, can be elusive when dreams are shattered. People aspire for status and respect, but when these dreams fail, sadness follows. Many live with dreams of happiness unfulfilled. True happiness often arises not from material wealth but from fulfilled dreams. Understanding and managing the interplay of happiness and sorrow defines our emotional journey. The support of loved ones during tough times can transform sorrow into resilience, helping us navigate the ups and downs of life. This emotional balance is crucial for achieving a fulfilling and contented existence. Reflecting on personal values and maintaining a hopeful outlook can further enhance our ability to find joy amidst challenges. Ultimately, embracing both happiness and sorrow as parts of life enriches our experience and fosters growth.



Vijay Garg

The world is a great gymnasium where we can make ourselves strong. This distinctive declaration of Swami Vivekananda came as he confronted the complexity of life in its entirety. We frequently become desperate and unwilling to take risks in our life. But success stories of individuals who made an incomparable impact in the lives of people, often declare that there had been resounding preparations to cut their ways through the intricacies of the world around them. Vivekananda's life itself was an example for this. He had suffered severe adversities as a young man. His transformation into a spiritual personality under the guidance of his master had given him painful testimonies. His family suffered multiple problems and Vivekananda, with the desire to become a monk had, from time to time affectionately stood by his mother and others in his family.

The complexity of the world's multiplicity poses mounting challenges and our approach to such situations would help us strengthen our mind and body. We often have two options to choose from, either to stay away from the challenges the world offers or to face them. Every moment is a fresh lesson, and every lesson brings a fresh

learning. Success or failure, the learning that comes with it carries its essential power to transform us. Vivekananda's approach of counting the world as a gymnasium where we build our muscles and mind irrespective of the adverse outcomes it sometimes takes us through, supplies tremendous energy and succor to create a creative momentum.

Thus, we fail to surrender to defeating tendencies. Even the toughest moment in our life becomes an easy pass as the learning we receive from its toughness holds the capacity to strengthen our individual faculties. If the world is a

gymnasium, it would indubitably generate tremendous energy. It becomes a space where dullness is a crime, a space that reminds us about our real potential, the space that allows us to gain confidence, composure, consistency and precision; where we realize how important it is to break the boundaries of our personal infirmities.

As we begin to understand the world with this commitment for self-improvement; the chaos, the irregularities and the discomforts that we see around, do not diminish our purpose. We understand the fact that we are truly designed to navigate the ship

of life through the calamitous waters of the world, an analogy that would otherwise help us stick to the purpose, the goal that we are supposed to gather our activities in the gymnasium for. So, what Swami Vivekananda makes us firmly believe is that in the world, the gymnasium has only one thing to offer, that is strength. With his spiritual radiance and intellectual exuberance Vivekananda expounded for us a new outlook that we have no choice but to imbibe without a second thought. In fact, his resounding admiration for life in this world takes us beyond mere skin-deep

indulgences.

Essentially, what is admirable in his dealing with this philosophy of life on the planet earth is a basic outlook. He says that the world cannot be a loveless institution. The supreme reality that puts the spark of love in every being cannot be loveless. Therefore, he aspires to call divinity that religions, especially the Indic ones, propose their people to explore as the fundamental aspect of life's existence; without realizing which, he says, the chaos that we are shaken up on a daily basis will not end. Independence, self-reliance, purity, kindheartedness and much more, he says, would become achievable milestones of life, if these basic principles of goodness that exist in creation are recognized and explored, realizing their value. Elucidating it further, Vivekananda says that in the process of earning the resources himself to the best of his ability, what he admired to execute was his own plans and he continued saying that it was easy for him to die attempting it. "When death is certain, it is best to sacrifice oneself for a good cause", he concludes. In principle, life on the planet Earth, especially that in India, he says, is for a cause.

Develop eagerness to live for a greater purpose

Navigating life's complexities requires resilience and strength. Inspired by Swami Vivekananda, embracing challenges can fortify our minds and bodies. By M.R.Lalu



The picture captures the theme of facing life's complexities and strengthening the mind and body, inspired by Swami Vivekananda's philosophy.

YOUR LETTERS

Top Court bemoans child marriages

The Supreme Court states prosecuting those responsible for child marriages won't solve the issue due to its deep social dimensions. Higher incidences are in Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Telangana, and Assam, while the Northeast, excluding Assam, shows a decline. With over 40% of the world's child brides, India struggles with poverty, illiteracy, and viewing girls as burdens. Early marriage leads to educational setbacks, health issues, and despair, despite laws like the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006.

Dr. Ganapathi Bhat, Akola

Suvendu's controversial statement

Suvendu Adhikari's call for the BJP to represent only its voters doesn't label Muslims as "foreigners" in their own land. However, a high Constitutional authority has previously branded Indian Muslims as "infiltrators" due to their faith, a much more severe and communal stance. In this context, while Adhikari's statement is concerning, it pales compared to the earlier, more blatant communal remarks from a high-ranking official. This raises questions about the shock value and the communal undertones in Indian political discourse.

Kajal Chatterjee, Kolkata

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



Budget projection of 10.5 pc nominal GDP reasonable.

Ajay Seth
Economic Affairs Secretary

Bhutanese delegation at Adani's industrial sites



Adani Group Chairman Gautam Adani with Bhutan's King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck and others during the delegation's visit to the Group's industrial project sites at Mundra and Khavda.

'I-T Act review attempt to make it simpler for taxpayers'

I-T Act review is an attempt to make the 'bulky' law 'simpler' to understand and comfortable to use for taxpayers along with aligning new tech processes with it.

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The budget announcement about a comprehensive review of the Income Tax Act, 1961, is an attempt to make the "bulky" law "simpler" to understand and comfortable to use for taxpayers along with aligning new technology processes with it, CBDT Chairman Ravi Agrawal has said. The Act that started its journey in 1922 contains

298 sections, 23 chapters and other provisions in its current form of 1961. Speaking to PTI during a post-budget interview on Wednesday, Agrawal said the Act has seen "redundancies" over a period of time making it "thick and bulky."

"The taxpayers also feel that the Act is not so simple, as it ought to be, it is cumbersome, so the attempt is if we can make this Act simpler,

NUMBER

298

• The taxpayers also feel that the Act is not so simple.

• It is also important to review the law as technology has become an integral part of tax administration

simpler to comprehend, simpler in terms of language, simpler in terms of presentation, then that hitch of the taxpayer to actually not see the Act and take the help of a tax practitioner or someone (maybe eased)" "We are working towards how can we make it (Income Tax Act) simple so that the taxpayer feels comfortable seeing the provisions himself or herself and that it is more user

friendly," the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) head said.

It is also important to review the law as technology has become an integral part of tax administration and "we have to see where the gaps are and how we actually can align technology with the provisions of the Act," Agrawal said. We are looking to undertake further improvements (in the law), he added.

Nestle India profit rises 7 pc to Rs 746.6 cr

NEW DELHI: FMCG major Nestle India Ltd on Thursday reported an increase of 6.9 per cent in its net profit at Rs 746.60 crore for the quarter that ended June 2024. The company had posted a net profit of Rs 698.34 crore in the April-June same period a year ago, according to a regulatory filing from Nestle India. Nestle India's revenue from the sale of products was up 3.75 per cent to Rs 4,792.97 crore in the June quarter. It was at Rs 4,619.50 crore in the corresponding period last fiscal. Its total expenses in the June quarter were up 2.7 per cent to Rs 3,844.01 crore. Nestle India's domestic sales were up 4.24 per cent to Rs 4,608.50 crore in the June quarter, as against Rs 4,420.77 crore in the corresponding period last year. However, its exports were down 7.17 per cent to Rs 184.47 crore.

Strongest incentives from the state should be for EVs: BMW

Press Trust Of India

There is potential for EVs in India and the company is looking to drive in more products here.

NEW DELHI: German luxury carmaker BMW said incentives are necessary to support the growth of the electric vehicle segment. The company, which introduced the all-electric MINI Countryman and electric scooter CE04 in the country, said the market here is still evolving and efforts should continue to smoothen and accelerate this transition.

In a press conference here, BMW Group Senior Vice President, Region Asia Pacific, Eastern Europe, Middle East and Africa Jean-Philippe Parain stated that the "strongest incentives from the state should be for EVs". Incentives allow to bring an electric model to a price point where transition



BMW Group Senior Vice President Jean-Philippe Parain.

FACTFILE

• Globally BMW is among the top sellers of EVs along with Tesla and BYD.

tives allow to bring an electric model to a price point where transition

In India the total tax incidence on hybrid vehicles in the country is 43 per cent, which is inclusive of GST, while battery electric vehicles attract a tax of about 5 per cent.

Parain stated that there is potential for EVs in India and the company is looking to drive in more products into the country. Parain also noted that the automaker, besides introducing new models, is also investing in establishing charging infrastructure to aid the growth of the segment. BMW on Wednesday introduced the all-new 5 Series Long Wheelbase in the country with price starting at Rs 72.9 lakh. The company also introduced the new Mini Cooper S and the new all-electric MINI Countryman priced at Rs 44.9 lakh and Rs 54.9 lakh respectively. BMW Motorrad introduced premium electric scooter CE 04 at Rs 14.9 lakh.

COMPACT SUV GLIMPSE |

Skoda shares design glimpse of all-new compact SUV

Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI: The Skoda Auto India juggernaut continues to roll on the brink of its 129th year anniversary globally, and the 24th in India. After a host of customer and product actions across the year and beginning 2024 with the announcement of an all-new compact SUV, Skoda Auto India pro-

vided a secondglimpse of this all-new car. Speaking on the release of the design teaser, Petr Janeba, Brand Director, Skoda Auto India, said: "We began 2024 with the announcement of our all-new compact SUV. Midway through 2024, we are well on track. Our compact SUV is undergoing rigorous testing on our roads across India



and we are continuously enhancing the finer nuances together with our production preparations, high competencies

and quality local supplier partner ramp-ups. The new Compact SUV will truly democratize our European technology on Indian roads. As it is based on a larger car platform, our compact SUV will have the 'big car' feel within a compact footprint and thus have a great appeal for new car buyers, in line with our brand commitment to

India, as the most important market for Skoda Auto outside Europe. A majority of the Skoda cars produced outside Europe are manufactured in our local factories and we are exporting locally produced Skoda cars to 14 countries." Being based on the MQB-AO-IN platform that is developed for larger cars like the Kushaq and Slavia.

BizBriefs

BEST OF THE REST

Q1 RESULTS

Canara Bank Q1 net profit up 10 per cent to Rs 3,905 crore

NEW DELHI: State-owned Canara Bank on Thursday posted a 10 per cent rise in its net profit to Rs 3,905 crore for the first quarter ended June 30, on account of reduction in bad loans. The Bengaluru-based lender had earned a net profit of Rs 3,535 crore in the year-ago period. During the quarter, the bank's total income increased to Rs 34,020 crore, as against Rs 29,823 crore a year ago, Canara Bank said in a regulatory filing. Interest income grew to Rs 28,701 crore during the period under review, from Rs 25,004 crore in the corresponding quarter a year ago. On the asset quality side, the bank's Gross Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) moderated to 4.14 per cent of gross advances as of June 30, 2024, from 5.15 per cent by the end of first quarter of the previous fiscal. Net NPAs also came down to 1.24 per cent of the advances, from 1.57 per cent at the end of first quarter of last year.

INDICATORS

Share MARKETS

Market	Close	%chg
Sensex	80,039	-0.14
Nifty	24,406	-0.03
Nifty, MidCap	56,741	-0.23
Nifty SmallCap	18,673	-0.27
Nifty Bank	50,888	-0.83

Closing rates as on July 25, 2024 at 5:30p.m. (IST)

Forex RATES

Foreign currency Vs Rupee

US Dollar	83.79 (+)	↗
Euro	90.88 (-)	↘
Chinese Yuan	11.59 (+)	↗
UAE Dirham	22.81 (+)	↗
Pakistan Rupee	0.30 (+)	↗
Sri Lanka Rupee	0.27 (+)	↗

On July 25, 2024

World INDICES

Stock	Value	% chg
Dow Jones (US)	40,039	+0.47%
FTSE 100 Index	8,144	-0.11%
Nikkei 225 (JPN)	225: 37,869	-3.28%
CSI 300 (CHN)	300: 3,399	-0.55%

Index at 05:30 p.m. (IST, July 25, 2024)

How the markets behave today?

Markets extend losses for 5th session; metal, bank stocks major drag



MUMBAI: Equity market benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty stayed on the back foot for the fifth straight session on Thursday as investors off-loaded metal, banking and finance stocks amid a lacklustre trend in global markets. Heavy foreign fund outflows after a hike in securities transaction tax and short-term capital gains tax also impacted markets' sentiment negatively. After a sharp fall in intra-day trade, the 30-share BSE Sensex managed to recover some of the lost ground to settle 109.08 points or 0.14 per cent

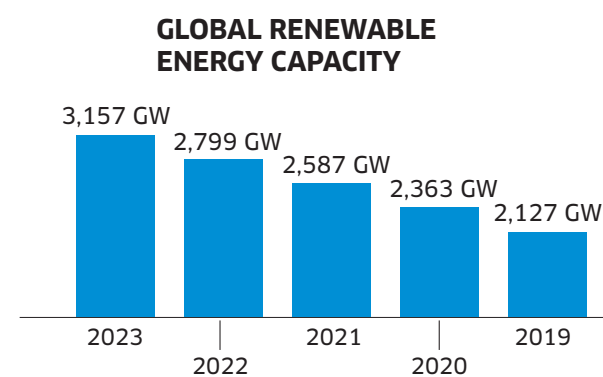
lower at 80,039.80, as a sharp rally in Tata Motors and Larsen & Toubro restricted markets fall. During the day, it tanked 671 points or 0.83 per cent to 79,477.83. The NSE Nifty dipped 7.40 points or 0.03 per cent to 24,406.10. Intra-day, it tumbled 202.7 points or 0.83 per cent to 24,210.80.

MAJOR GAINERS: Tata Motors, L&T, Sun Pharma, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Bajaj Finance and Power Grid.

MAJOR LOSERS: Axis Bank, Nestle, Titan, ICICI Bank, Tata Steel, IndusInd Bank, ITC, JSW Steel and SBI.

The Day's NUMBERS

Total capacity year-wise



Source:IRENA

HYDROPHOBIC CONCRETE

Nuvoco Vistas introduces Concreto Uno with damp lock formula

MUMBAI: Nuvoco Vistas Corp. Ltd., India's fifth-largest cement group, launched Concreto Uno - Hydrophobic Concrete, a breakthrough in the building materials industry. With its advanced hydrophobic properties combined with the innovative Damp-lock Formula, this unique concrete redefines construction standards. Concreto Uno - Hydrophobic Concrete features a unique blend of admixtures and a specialized mix design that prevents the formation of capillaries within the concrete, resulting in significantly lower permeability compared to standard-grade concrete. This waterproof concrete enhances the overall strength and durability of structures, significantly extending their lifespan. In addition, Concreto Uno's Damp-lock formula reduces costs in construction projects by minimizing the need for costly waterproofing membranes and coatings. Furthermore, it prevents dampness, which preserves the aesthetic quality of buildings. This product is ideal for structural consultants, architects, contractors, engineers, and project management companies (PMCs).

BULLION MARKET

Gold tumbles Rs 1,000 to 70,650 per 10 grams on sluggish demand



NEW DELHI: Gold prices continued to fall for the third day and tumbled Rs 1,000 to Rs 70,650 per 10 grams in the local market here on Thursday amid heavy selling by jewellers, triggered by a fall in rates in overseas markets. According to the All India Sarafa Association, the yellow metal prices had closed at Rs 71,650 per 10 grams in the previous session on Wednesday. Continuing its slide for the third day in the national capital, gold of 99.9 per cent and 99.5 per cent purity declined Rs 1,000 each to Rs 70,650 per 10 grams and Rs 70,300 per 10 grams, respectively.

"It was a working birthday this year. I've had so many of those over the years and have realised it's one of my favourite ways to celebrate my birthday. To be doing what I love, on a film set."

Priyanka Chopra
Actress



& Glitters

OIT Watch



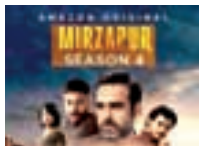
Amber Girls School: The Next Chapter

"Amber Girls School" Season 2, directed by Rajlaxmi Ratan Seth, returns with Ojas, played by Celesti Bairagey. The trailer promises a deeper exploration of Ojas' school life, ambitions, and personal growth, premiering July 26, produced by Reliance Entertainment Studios.



Fight Night: A Hart-Cheadle Showdown

Peacock unveils trailer for 'Fight Night: The Million Dollar Heist,' featuring Kevin Hart and Don Cheadle in a thrilling crime drama set in 1970s Atlanta, streaming from September 5th.



Mirzapur: The Final Chapter

Mirzapur 3 co-director Anand Iyer addresses fan disappointment over Divyenndu Sharma's absence as Munna Bhaiya, confirms season 4, and discusses the show's enduring popularity and future plans.



A mysterious newcomer to Gilead

Josh Charles joins "The Handmaid's Tale" final season as a regular, reuniting with Elizabeth Moss from "The Veil". The Emmy-winning series, based on Margaret Atwood's novel, explores a dystopian society.



The One Piece wait continues

One Piece Live-Action Season 2 faces delays, possibly not releasing until 2025. It introduces Smoker and covers the brief Logue-town arc before delving into the expansive Arabasta Saga with new characters and developments.

CLOSE UP

From humble beginnings to Bollywood royalty: Salman Khan

Before becoming a megastar in Bollywood, Salman started his journey with a humble debut in the 1988 film *Biwi Ho To Aisi* and hoped that no one watches this film.

Central Chronicle News

In an interview, Salman Khan had once revealed how he prayed and hoped that nobody watches his debut film *Biwi Ho To Aisi* alongside Rekha, Farooq Sheikh and Bindoo.

Salman Khan, the Bollywood superstar we revere today, embarked on his cinematic journey with a modest debut in the 1988 film *Biwi Ho To Aisi*, where he famously hoped no one would witness his performance. His breakthrough arrived a year later in *Maine Pyar Kiya*, propelling him to stardom. Reflecting on his career beginnings during a 2006 interview, Salman revealed his initial aspiration to become a director like his father. However, facing rejection due to his youthful appearance, he pivoted to acting. Overcoming doubts about his physique and image, Salman forged a path marked by unconventional roles, ultimately establishing himself as a versatile and enduring presence in Indian cinema. His evolution from a hesitant newcomer to an iconic figure underscores his resilience and lasting impact on Bollywood.



Salman Khan's first film as a leading hero was *Maine Pyar Kiya* but that wasn't his debut film.



Salman Khan: From awkward actor to superstar

After signing the film, I was impressed by the script. But watching my performance, I prayed no one would see it. Reflecting on that, I said, "I must be the first person to pray nobody watches their first film because I was so embarrassed." Directed by J.K. Bihari, *Biwi Ho To Aisi*

starred Rekha, Bindu, and Farooq Sheikh. Since then, I've been in iconic films like *Hum Aapke Hain Koun...*, *Hum Saath Saath Hain*, *Bajrangli Bhaijaan*, *Kick*, *Tere Naam*, *Hum Dil De Chuke Sanam*, and more. Next, I star in *AR Murugadoss' Sikandar* with Pooja Hegde, produced by Sajid Nadiadwala, releasing Eid 2025.

| COLORS PRESENTATION |

Khatron Ke Khiladi: Romania reckoning Brave hearts battle beyond borders

Central Chronicle News

Fortune favours the bold, but in Romania, fortune favours the fearless! Get ready to redefine your notion of a 'tourist trap' as COLORS presents the 14th edition of India's favourite stunt-based show 'Khatron Ke Khiladi', rewriting the script of vacationing by taking its troop of phobia fighters to Romania for the first time. With the theme 'Darr ki Nayi Kahaniyaan in Romania...', this fearsome getaway is sure to shake even the most daring preparations of its contestants. Amid all the novelty of this edition,



Khatron Ke Khiladi season 14 promises newer and tougher challenges.

HIGHLIGHT

● The new season of KKK will be hosted by Rohit Shetty yet again and this time he has decided to take things higher as he leads the contestants to Romania.

one aspect of the show remains constant with the Blockbuster filmmaker and award-winning TV host, Rohit Shetty making a comeback and mentoring the daredevils with his legendary experience. Produced by Endemol Shine India, Hyundai presents

CineBriefs

BEST OF THE REST

Bollywood

Kiran Rao disappointed with Laapataa Ladies

Kiran Rao reflects on the box office reception of her film "Laapataa Ladies," acknowledging its underperformance despite audience acclaim post digital release. She expressed feeling responsible for its failure, comparing it unfavourably to her debut film "Dhobi Ghat," which had modest box office success. Rao admitted disappointment that neither film achieved significant financial milestones, stating they didn't earn "hundreds of crores" or even tens of crores. Reflecting on her creative journey, she highlighted frustrations with delays between projects and the ongoing quest for creative fulfilment. Rao empathized with other creatives facing similar challenges, emphasizing the personal toll of perceived failure in artistic pursuits.

Web Series

The Bluetick Effect: Exploring modern society

"Bluetick" directed by Shubham Singh, delves into Pallavi's journey, a young influencer navigating the highs and lows of social media fame. Parul Gulati shines as Pallavi, showcasing resilience amidst the pitfalls of online popularity. The series intricately weaves past and present, portraying Pallavi's rise with authenticity. Despite minor pacing issues, the ensemble cast including Siddharth Nigam and Shreya Gupto enriches the narrative. "Bluetick" critiques influencer culture with finesse, highlighting the dichotomy between perception and reality. Available on Epic On, it's a compelling watch questioning the true cost of fame in our digital era.

The Bollywood hot pair

The Vicky-Katrina film: A matter of when, not if



Vicky Kaushal and Katrina Kaif, known for their solid bond, are yet to share screen space. Vicky shared, "We're waiting for the right story. It shouldn't be a film just because we're together; it must fit the story." His latest film "Bad Newz" recently premiered, earning praise from Katrina, who lauded the "effortless

chemistry" and fun of the Punjabi bromance on social media. Vicky's ease and joy on screen were highlighted, alongside appreciation for co-stars Ammy Virk and Triptii Dimri. As fans eagerly anticipate their on-screen pairing, Vicky emphasized their patience in choosing the perfect project.

Fashion

Sara Ali Khan embraces Barbiecore trend

Sara Ali Khan stunned in a vibrant pink mini dress adorned with an oversized bow, channeling modern-day Barbie vibes. Her outfit, from Mac Duggal, featured a strapless neckline and a flattering fit-and-flare silhouette with pleats that accentuated her figure. The dramatic bow at the neckline added a nostalgic yet stylish touch, perfectly complemented by minimalistic makeup and crystal stud earrings shaped like bows.



Trending on Insta

@parineetchopra

Parineeti Chopra's mysterious meeting

Actress Parineeti Chopra, vacationing abroad, shared her 'biggest flex' on Tuesday: walking to meetings. Her Instagram Stories video showed her strolling, captioned, "Biggest flex: Walking to meetings."



@mrunalthakur

Mrunal Thakur's watermelon whimsy

Actress Mrunal Thakur shared a hilarious Instagram reel of her eating watermelon, claiming to be 'sugar high'. In the video, she's in a black zipper with wet hair, joking around with a friend feeding her.





FineDine

AQUARIUM DINING SERENITY

Tao Asian Kitchen opens in Raipur: A haven for vegetarian Asian Cuisine

Attractive menu and calm, natural atmosphere attract food lovers



Serene dining amidst nature-inspired decor at Tao Asian Kitchen.

Raipur. Following its successful branches in Mumbai, Nagpur, and Jaipur, the renowned Tao Asian Kitchen has launched in Raipur. This new location offers a serene, nature-inspired atmosphere where food lovers can indulge in delectable vegetarian Asian cuisine and refreshing mocktails. Combining tradition with innovation, Tao Asian Kitchen provides an extraordinary dining experience. Situated in the VIP Farm Area of Shankar Nagar, Raipur, this establishment promises a unique and inclusive culinary journey.

Chef K. P. Podel highlights the restaurant's commitment to serving pure vegetarian and Asian cuisine, with options for Jain and vegan diets.

The vegan menu includes legumes, grains, seeds, fruits, vegetables, and plant-based products like nuts and dried fruits.

A seven-course culinary delight

The carefully crafted menu at Tao Asian Kitchen offers a seven-course meal that captures the rich and varied flavors of Asia. The meal begins with a selection of soups, such as Japanese Nori, Black Truffle, Sweet Corn, Goji Berry, and the signature Tao Chimney Pot—a piping hot soup served in a vibrant chimney pot, filled with handpicked vegetables, mushrooms, tofu, and glass noodles.

Dim Sum and Ramen galore

Dim sum enthusiasts can choose from 10 delicious options, including Shiitake Mushrooms and Tofu, Smoked Cheese and Spinach, and Smoked Vegan Meat with Water Chestnut and Broccoli. Ramen lovers



will be delighted by four mouth-watering varieties: Loaded Vegetable Ramen, Spicy Coconut Ramen, Shiitake Mushroom Ramen, and Burnt Garlic Ramen, each offering a perfect balance of spices, texture, and aroma.

Sushi and Appetizers to savor

Sushi aficionados can enjoy 11 varieties, including Classic Edamame Maki Roll, Creamy Avocado Maki, and Truffle Edamame Uramaki.



The beautifully prepared sushi is as delightful to look at as it is to eat.

An attractive range of appetizers

The appetizer menu features Tofu in Thai Peanut Sauce, Chili Garlic Edamame, Korean Steamed Lotus Stem, and Korean Shimeji Mushroom



with Tofu.

Bao and main course delights

Tao Asian Kitchen offers five varieties of Bao, such as Mix Mushroom, Pan-Fried Trio Pepper Cheese, Charcoal Cottage Cheese, Edamame Truffle, and Water Chestnut with Tofu Bao. For the main course, guests can savor dishes like Exotic Vegetables in Black Bean Sauce, Exotic Vegetables in Thai Curry, Steamed Tofu in Gin-



ger Sauce, and Schezwan Mapo Tofu, showcasing the chefs' culinary expertise.

Heartwarming Rice and Noodles

The rice dishes, including Tao Signature Wrapped Rice, Blue Jasmine Rice, Szechuan Rice, Mushroom Truffle Rice, and Gochujan Fried Rice, are sure to

HIGHLIGHT

- Mocktail menu has a great range of non-alcoholic beverages

please. Noodle options feature Hofan Noodles, Classic Pad Thai Noodles, and Stir-Fried Udon Noodles. Tempting desserts like Tao Darsan, Panko Banana, Fried Ice Cream, and Warm Melting Chocolate Cake provide a sweet ending to the meal.

Refreshing Mocktails

The mocktail menu is a highlight, offering non-alcoholic beverages like Berry Blast, Tao Sweet Heart, Fruity Delight, Tao Punch, and Gingered Watermelon Punch.

A Natural Oasis

Despite being in the city, Tao Asian Kitchen creates a feeling of being amidst nature. The decor includes bamboo from Assam, and the trees in the seating area remain untouched. The lush greenery and roof tiles enhance the restaurant's beauty, providing a tranquil dining environment.

Tasty, healthy, vegetarian Asian food: Mrs. Gupta

Mrs. Vinita Gupta, Director of Tao Asian Kitchen, expresses pride in bringing pure vegetarian Asian cuisine to Raipur. The dishes have been highly appreciated in Nagpur, and following numerous requests, they decided to open a branch in Raipur, offering tasty, healthy, and vegetarian Asian food. Experience the fusion of tradition and innovation at Tao Asian Kitchen, where each meal promises to be memorable.

FoodPick

MUST TRY WHEN TRAVEL

Snowberry

Sweetening Raipur's international craving

Discover a world of international desserts at Snowberry, the newest sensation in Telibandha, Raipur. Treat yourself to Korean Binsu, Brazilian Acai bowls, and London's trending pomegranate Nutella creation. Their milk and yogurt-based ice creams are crafted without preservatives, ensuring pure indulgence. Snowberry also boasts a delectable selection of cheesecakes and waffles, perfect for satisfying any sweet tooth. Whether you're craving a refreshing bowl of exotic flavours or a decadent dessert, Snowberry promises a delightful culinary journey in the heart of Raipur.



Farmley Date Bites

Sweet indulgence, guilt-free bite

Farmley Date Bites offer a guilt-free snack option rich in fibre and antioxidants, perfect for satisfying sweet cravings without added sugar. Packed with healthy fats and protein, they support brain health and provide sustained energy throughout the day. Ideal for those with diabetes, they are a nutritious choice anytime hunger strikes. Packaged in a convenient, reusable tin jar, Farmley ensures only the highest quality dates—naturally sourced, plump, and free from additives. Enjoy these wholesome treats as a delicious and nutritious addition to your daily routine.



Foodio's Frugal Feast

Weekend wonders under Rs 99

On weekends, treat yourself to budget-friendly delights at Foodio. Every Sunday from 12 to 3 pm, savour a variety of dishes including cold coffee, French fries, sandwiches, garlic bread, pizza, burgers, and noodles, all priced under Rs 99. Foodio also offers enticing food combos that are not only affordable but also delicious. Whether you're craving a quick bite or a satisfying meal, Foodio promises a delightful culinary experience without straining your wallet. Join us at Foodio and enjoy flavourful dishes that blend affordability with great taste every weekend.



Shirley Temple Mocktail

Ingredients

1/2 cup ginger ale, 1/2 cup lemon-lime soda, 1 tablespoon grenadine, Ice cubes, Maraschino cherries (for garnish), Orange slices (for garnish), Fresh mint leaves (for garnish), Splash of orange juice (optional)

How to make it

In a glass, combine ginger ale, lemon-lime soda, grenadine, and a splash of orange juice if desired. Stir gently until well mixed. Fill the glass with ice cubes. Garnish with maraschino cherries, orange slices, and fresh mint leaves. Serve immediately and enjoy your delightful Shirley Temple mocktail!



Jalapeño Margarita Cocktail

Ingredients

2 oz tequila, 1 oz fresh lime juice, 1 oz orange liqueur (such as Cointreau), 1/2 oz simple syrup, 1-2 jalapeño slices (adjust to taste), Ice cubes, Lime wedge (for garnish), Jalapeño slice (for garnish), Salt (for rimming the glass)

How to make it

Rim the glass with lime juice and dip it into salt. In a shaker, combine tequila, fresh lime juice, orange liqueur, simple syrup, and jalapeño slices. Fill the shaker with ice cubes and shake well. Strain the mixture into the prepared glass over ice cubes. Garnish with a lime wedge and a jalapeño slice. Serve immediately and enjoy your spicy Jalapeño Margarita cocktail!



PB Banana Oat Smoothie

Ingredients

1 ripe banana, 1 cup milk (dairy or plant-based), 2 tablespoons peanut butter, 1/4 cup rolled oats, 1 tablespoon honey (optional), 1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract, Ice cubes, Banana slices (for garnish), Chia seeds (for garnish)

How to make it

In a blender, combine banana, milk, peanut butter, rolled oats, honey (if using), and vanilla extract. Blend until smooth. Add ice cubes and blend again until frothy. Pour the smoothie into a glass. Garnish with banana slices and a sprinkle of chia seeds. Serve immediately and enjoy your nutritious PB Banana Oat Smoothie!



| GOAN CULINARY EXCELLENCE |

Unveiling the Elixir: A deep dive into Bird's Nest

Central Chronicle News

Bird's Nest Soup, a delicacy known for its hefty price tag, stands out as one of the world's most expensive foods. Originating from Southeast Asia, particularly popular in countries like China, Taiwan, Hong Kong, and Singapore, this soup derives its name from its key ingredient – the Edible Bird's Nest, often dubbed the "Caviar of the East." What makes Bird's Nest Soup so exclusive is the meticulous process of nest collection. Swiftlets, small birds found in Southeast Asia, construct these nests using strands of their own gummy saliva, which harden upon exposure to air. Harvesting these nests, often from high cave walls where swiftlets nest, is a labour-inten-

sive task. The nests, prized for their purported health benefits and delicate texture, come in various grades and colours, with the red nests from specific swiftlet species commanding exorbitant prices, sometimes reaching up to \$10,000 per

HIGHLIGHT

- Though the name might gross you out, this dish is among the world's most expensive dishes, famous in Southeast Asia.

kilogram. Despite its luxurious reputation, Bird's Nest Soup is noted for its subtle flavour and gelatinous texture, akin to softened jelly. In culinary practice, it is traditionally prepared with rock sugar to create a sweet dessert soup or mixed



It is an ancient recipe which originated from regions like China, Taiwan, Hong Kong and Singapore.

with warm milk. The cooking method is crucial, as improper handling can diminish its delicate properties and nutritional value.

While Bird's Nest Soup is revered in traditional Chinese medicine for its alleged health advantages, such as immune system strengthening and skin rejuvenation, scientific evidence supporting these claims remains inconclusive. In essence, Bird's Nest Soup exemplifies how gastronomy can blend luxury, tradition, and purported health benefits into a single, remarkable dish that continues to fascinate and captivate worldwide.



Sports



I watch clips of my goals to boost confidence ahead of Olympic debut

Sukhjeet Singh
Hockey forward

PV Sindhu confident for Paris Olympics hat-trick



Indian badminton Player PV Sindhu. | Photo: PTI

Indian badminton star PV Sindhu is determined to secure a third consecutive Olympic medal at the Paris Games, showcasing her rigorous training and confidence.

Press Trust Of India

PARIS: From spending time in a hypoxic chamber to sparring with a variety of partners to adapt to different styles, Indian badminton ace PV Sindhu has left no stones unturned to be battle-ready for the Paris Games, where she will be chasing an unprecedented third consecutive Olympic medal.

Sindhu's form has been patchy of late but she says the hat-trick of medals is very much

possible because the last eight months spent with mentor Prakash Padukone has instilled confidence in her. No Indian player has won three Olympic medals on the trot, and a podium finish will make Sindhu arguably India's greatest athlete.

"I am aiming for a medal, definitely, yes. Whether it's one or two or three, it doesn't matter. I've won two medals and I don't want to take pressure by thinking that, oh, what is the third one,"

HIGHLIGHT

● **Trained with diverse partners and in a hypoxic chamber to enhance performance.**

she said after a training session at Porte de la Chapelle Arena here.

"Every time I play Olympics, it's a new Olympics for me. So every time I go out there, I want to get a medal and hopefully, I will do that hat trick soon."

Sindhu had won sil-

ver and bronze in the last two Olympics at Rio de Janeiro and Tokyo respectively. Before coming to Paris, Sindhu trained at Sportcampus Saar in Saarbrücken, Germany, where the altitude, the weather, and the conditions are similar to the French capital.

There she created a hypoxic chamber (low oxygen) in her room and slept for a couple of days. "I couldn't go to the high altitude training center. I didn't have much time and obviously, there I

couldn't have been playing. So I just thought, it would be good for me instead of going somewhere, getting it here and doing some changes and sleeping that way," she explained. Sindhu said she has improved her strokes and is more consistent during the long rallies. "Being much more confident in strokes," she replied when asked what difference she finds after training with Padukone. "There's a lot of improvement. You will see that on court."

Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

CRICKET

Asia Cup Semifinal: India start firm favourites against Bangladesh

DAMBULLA: Shafali Verma will be aiming to come out all guns blazing while Smriti Mandhana will be more than motivated to get a big one as India start overwhelming favourites against Bangladesh in the semi-final of the women's Asia Cup here on Friday. Shafali, with 158 runs, has been the second highest run-scorer in the tournament so far and against Nigar Sultana's team, which has a host of slow bowlers, she will have to give India a good start. The 'Women In Blue' pummeled the opposition in all three games -- winning by seven wickets against Pakistan, 78 runs against UAE and by an 82-run margin against Nepal. However, skipper Harmanpreet Kaur knows that in Asia Cup, it is only the semi-final and final matter the most and they would not miss the fact that Bangladesh on select days can be a dangerous side. **PTI**

TENNIS

Top-ranked Jannik Sinner withdraws from the Paris Olympics tennis competition



PARIS: Top-ranked Jannik Sinner pulled out of the Paris Olympics on Wednesday because of tonsillitis. The 22-year-old from Italy posted on social media that he was advised by a doctor that he should sit out the Summer Games. Sinner won the Australian Open in January for his first Grand Slam title and moved to No. 1 in the ATP rankings last month after reaching the French Open semi-finals. The draw for Olympic tennis is on Thursday. Matches begin on Saturday. **PTI**

Nita Ambani's IOC Triumph

Nita Ambani unanimously re-elected as IOC member, enhances India's global sporting influence



PARIS: Indian sports administrator Nita Amabani was on Wednesday re-elected unanimously as member of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), ahead of the Paris Olympics. Ambani won unanimously with 100 per cent of vote at the 142nd IOC session here.

"I am deeply honoured to be re-elected as a member of the International Olympic Committee. I would like to thank President (Thomas) Bach and all my colleagues in the IOC for their faith and trust in me," Ambani said. "This re-election is not just a personal milestone but also a recognition of India's growing influence in the global sporting arena. I share this moment of

joy and pride with every Indian and look forward to continuing our efforts to strengthen the Olympic Movement in India and around the world," she added. Ambani was first appointed to join the prestigious body in 2016 at the Rio Olympic Games. Since then, as India's first woman to join the IOC, Ambani has already made great strides for the association, whilst also championing India's sporting ambitions and Olympic vision. This includes recently hosting the first IOC session in Mumbai in 40 years in October 2023. As founder and chairperson of the Reliance Foundation, Ambani seeks to empower millions of Indians with resources and opportunities. **PTI**

Chennai to host RWD Open tournament for clubs

CHENNAI: Chennai is set to host a unique tennis tournament, the RWD Open - a city-based league-cum-knockout tennis championship backed by the Tamil Nadu Tennis Association. Scheduled to run between August and September, each tie will consist of five double matches -- one 30+ pair, one 35+ pair, two 45+ pairs and one 55+ pair. The winner of each meeting will be decided by the total number of games won, which is the number of games won in a set. With 16 clubs participating, the teams will be clubbed into four groups of four sides each, with the winner of each group progressing to the semi-finals, followed by the final.

Indian ace paddlers ready for Paris Games openers

Press Trust Of India

Indian paddlers Manika Batra and Sharath Kamal gear up for challenging Paris Games openers.

PARIS: Ace Indian paddler and Commonwealth Games gold medallist Manika Batra will take on Great Britain's Anna Hurney in the women's singles opening round, while veteran men's player Achanta Sharath Kamal will clash with Deni Kozul of Slovenia on July 27, according to the draws announced on Wednesday.

Manika, who is seeded 18th at the Games here, had become the first women's table tennis player from India to make it to



the round of 32 in singles at the Tokyo Olympics in 2021. In other opening round matches, Harmeet Desai will take on Abo Yaman of Jordan in men's singles, while 25-year-old Sreeja Akula, seeded 16th, will open her campaign against Swedish player Christina Kallberg. Commonwealth Games champion Sharath

Kamal is spearheading a six-member Indian table tennis contingent with the 41-year-old all set to make his fifth appearance at the Olympics. Manika, on the other hand, will play at her third successive Games.

Gnanasekaran Sathiyar, a member of India's gold medal-winning men's teams at both the 2018 and 2022 Common-

FACTFILE

● **Manika Batra faces Great Britain's Anna Hurney in the first round.**

● **Sharath Kamal will clash with Slovenia's Deni Kozul in his opener.**

wealth Games in Gold Coast and Birmingham respectively, could not make it to the main squad and has been selected as a reserve player. Manika had recently touched a career-best ranking of world No. 24 following her superb run in the Saudi Smash. In the women's team event, 11th-seeded India will open their campaign against fourth seeds Romania.

OLYMPIC BADMINTON |

Don't do strange things in preparation: Gopichand

Press Trust Of India

Treat it like another match; avoid doing any strange or new things in preparation.

Pullela Gopichand
National coach



be represented by seven players across four out of five categories in the badminton competition at the Games here. Led by two-time Olympic medallist Sindhu (women's singles), the squad has HS Prannoy and Lakshya Sen (men's singles), Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty (men's doubles), and Ashwini Ponnappa and Tanisha Crasto (women's doubles).

"I think the generic message to all the athletes would be to treat it like another match and it's important that you don't do any strange things for preparation; keep it simple and treat it like another game, get the preparation right and the matches will take care of themselves," Gopichand told PTI ahead of Friday's opening ceremony.

The Day's NUMBERS

BEST BOWLING FIGURES IN AN INNINGS IN TEST CRICKET

Jim Laker	10/53
Anil Kumble	10/74
Ajaz Patel	10/119
George Lohmann	9/28
Devon Malcolm	9/57

Source: ICC

CRICKET

Gambhir's first headache: Pant or Samson for the T20I series

COLOMBO: New India head coach Gautam Gambhir will have the onerous task of choosing between Rishabh Pant and Sanju Samson during the three-match T20I series against Sri Lanka starting from Saturday. While most of the key stars of the T20 World Cup winning side sans the retiring duo of Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli are in the Island nation, the choice between two flamboyant wicketkeeper batters Pant and Samson won't be an easy one. Worse, even with two slots vacant, one can't fit in both the hard-hitting batters. Pant with 171 runs was the third highest run-getter for India in the T20 World Cup in the Americas but Samson, though was part of the team, didn't get into any game. A bilateral series against Sri Lanka, of late, has become a low-stakes affair with the two countries often engaged in inconsequential series, some of which India plays to help other international cricket boards stay afloat. **PTI**

CRICKET

Chameera ruled out, Asitha Fernando joins squad for India series



COLOMBO: Sri Lanka fast bowler Dushmantha Chameera has been ruled out of the white-ball home series against India after failing to recover from bronchitis and respiratory infection, the country's cricket board said on Wednesday. Pacer Asitha Fernando has been named as Chameera's replacement. "Dushmantha Chameera is still recovering from a bronchitis and respiratory infection he contracted, and hence will not be part of the T20I series," Sri Lanka Cricket tweeted. "Asitha Fernando joins the squad in place of Chameera." **PTI**



Indians eye double-digit medal haul

As the Paris Olympics commence, the 117-strong Indian contingent is poised for a historic performance. With seasoned athletes and promising debutants, India aspires to surpass its previous achievements, aiming for a double-digit medal haul.

Press Trust Of India

India's athletes, well-prepared despite wrestling controversies, aim to convert support and strategy into medals.

PARIS: Some athletes will carry a huge burden of expectations, others will look to spring a surprise, and a few more will aim for the perfect closure to their glittering careers as the 117-strong Indian contingent seeks a better-than-before performance in the Olympic Games, starting here on Friday. India returned from Tokyo with seven medals, and it is only natural that a double-digit performance is now desired in Paris.

Except for wrestlers, who have navigated a

highly controversial build-up, athletes in all disciplines have had no complaints about their preparations. Whether it was training abroad or getting the best facilities to sharpen their skills, meticulous planning was in place. But will this hard work, strategic planning, and extensive support translate into medals?

Hockey: The men's hockey team has been inconsistent. It lost all five games in Australia recently after a mixed run in the Pro League. This was a far cry from their performance in the Asian Games in Hangzhou, where the team emerged as champions. Penalty corner conversion and maintaining the tempo throughout a match remain significant concerns. To complicate matters, the Indian team



Boxer Nikhat Zareen poses on the Olympic rings ahead of the upcoming Paris 2024 Olympics in Paris. | Photo: PTI

ant surprise for India.

Wrestling: Wrestling has been a consistent medal contributor for India in the last four editions of the Olympics. Expectations for the Paris Games were high, with hopes of winning four to five medals. However, the protest against the Wrestling Federation of India brought the sport to a standstill. There was no national camp and no competition for a long time. The qualified wrestlers have trained independently at centers of their choice, both in India and abroad. The fitness status of many wrestlers remains unknown, but going into the Games, Anshu Malik, Antim Panghal, and Aman Sehrawat are considered India's best bets. Reetika Hooda, the U-23 world champion, could also

be a dark horse, bringing unexpected results. The absence of a unified training camp might have affected the wrestlers' cohesion, but their individual efforts and previous international experience could still lead to podium finishes.

As the Paris Olympics begin, the question remains: will the hard work, strategies, and unbridled support translate into medals for India? With a mix of seasoned athletes and promising debutants, the Indian contingent is poised for a potentially historic performance. The stakes are high, and the anticipation is palpable as India's athletes take on the world's best, aiming to surpass their previous achievements and bring glory to the nation.

THE BIG PICTURE

It will be a Herculean task to match the Tokyo figures of seven medals, given that except for reigning Olympic champion Neeraj Chopra, not many are top contenders in their respective disciplines. More than half of the 117-member contingent is from three sports -- athletics (29), shooting (21) and hockey (19). Of these 69 athletes, 40 are debutants. In other sports too, there are debutants like tennis player N Sriram Balaji and wrestler Reetika Hooda. They are not exactly inexperienced, but largely, India's campaign will be driven by the athletes, who will be competing on a stage this grand for the first time. Then there are the seasoned ones who would be expected to raise their game suitably. Two-time medallist shuttler PV Sindhu, tennis player Rohan Bopanna, legendary table tennis player Sharath Kamal and hockey goalkeeper PR Sreejesh are certainly playing their last Olympics.

has been grouped with heavyweights Australia, Belgium, Argentina, New Zealand, and Ireland. There is no room for error if the team hopes to secure a top-four finish from this pool. Consistency and strategic execution will be key for the Indian hockey team to replicate or improve upon their past successes.

Shooting: The build-up for the 21-member shooting contingent, the largest ever for India, has been notably quiet compared to previous Olympics in London and Tokyo, where stars such as Manu Bhaker

BEST CHANCE

India's hopes for podium finishes largely hinge on Neeraj, despite concerns around his adductor niggle, and the in-form badminton duo of Chirag Shetty and Satwiksairaj Rankireddy. The coveted 90m mark has eluded Neeraj from Tokyo to Paris, but the ace javelin thrower seems to be doing just enough, and most importantly, consistently, to land global titles. On big competition days, Neeraj has fared better than his other fancied rivals, and if he is fit, the javelin thrower from Panipat will have a chance to become only the third athlete in India's sports history to win back-to-back Olympic medals. Only Sindhu (2016 Rio and 2012 Tokyo) and wrestler Sushil Kumar (2008 Beijing, 2012 London) have managed to win two consecutive medals. Additionally, his recent performances in international events have bolstered hopes for another stellar showing.

and Saurabh Chaudhary had raised medal hopes with their exceptional performances in the run-up to the Games. Even shooters like Divyansh Panwar and Elavenil Valarivan, once hailed as future superstars, have flattered to deceive. Despite the lack of spotlight, shooters such as Sift Kaur Samra (50m three positions), Sandeep Singh (10m air rifle), and Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar (men's 50m rifle) have the potential to end the 12-year wait for a medal in shooting. Their quiet but focused preparations might just spring a pleas-

OTHER GAMES

The archers and TT players have qualified for the Games on the basis of their rankings. While it is a huge achievement for TT players, the same can't be said about the archers. They have promised a lot in the past too but have not been able to deliver. The recent episode of their coach being denied the Games accreditation means the campaign has started on a negative note. Weightlifter Mirabai Chanu, the Tokyo Games silver-medallist, has struggled with injury and form of late and is perhaps not in the best frame of mind. There are question marks if she will be able to repeat her success. Experienced boxer Nikhat Zareen and Nishant Dev will be watched keenly as their latest results have been encouraging. So far, India have won 35 medals at the Olympics with shooter Abhinav Bindra (2008) and Neeraj Chopra (2021) being the only two individual gold medal winners.

ARCHERY SUCCESS BEGINS

Dhiraj and Ankita lead India to Archery quarterfinals

Press Trust Of India

Dhiraj Bomma-devara and Ankita Bhakat secure quarterfinal spots for India in Olympic archery events.



Archer Ankita Bhakat during women's individual ranking round.

PARIS: Led by the in-form Dhiraj Bommadevara and Ankita Bhakat, India's campaign at the Paris Olympics began on a high note. The country's archers secured direct entries into the quarterfinals of both the men's and women's team events after finishing third and fourth, respectively, in the ranking round on Thursday.

Debutants Dhiraj and Ankita's spectacular performances in the qualifications helped India finish in the top four, giving them favorable draws to

clinch an elusive Olympic medal in archery. The top four in the team standings advance directly to the quarterfinals, while those ranked fifth to twelfth compete in the Round of 16.

The Indian men's team, seeded third, will avoid the formidable Korean team in the next round. Dhiraj, the world cup bronze-medalist who defeated Tokyo Olympics silver winner Mauro Nespoli in Antalya, fin-

ished fourth in the individual round. This performance sets a strong precedent for India's prospects.

Ankita, who emerged as the best-placed Indian archer, ranked 11th in the women's individual qualifications, ahead of seasoned campaigners like Deepika Kumari. In the mixed team event, Ankita and Dhiraj are seeded fifth and aim for further success in the competition.

Sindhu an underdog, opponents wary

NEW DELHI: Former India shuttler Parupalli Kashyap on Thursday dubbed two-time medallist PV Sindhu an "underdog" at the Paris Olympics but said her name still carries a lot of weight and opponents would be wary of her big-match credentials.

Eyeing an unprecedented third straight Olympic medal, Sindhu has not been at her best since returning from a knee injury in February.

"It's her third Olympics, she won two medals in the last two Olympics and several world championship medals. So I think she feels she has an edge already even though her ranking doesn't say it or her recent form doesn't say it," Kashyap, an Olympics expert at JioCinema & Sports18, told reporters during an interaction.

OLYMPIC TENNIS SHOWDOWN

Djokovic and Nadal could meet in 2nd round at Games

Press Trust Of India

Djokovic and Nadal could clash early at the Paris Olympic tennis tournament.

PARIS: Top-seeded Novak Djokovic could meet his longtime rival Rafael Nadal in the second round of the Paris Olympic tennis tournament.

Djokovic was drawn Thursday against Australian Matthew Ebden and Nadal faces Hungary's Marton Fucsovics, with the winners of those matches meeting in Round 2. The 38-year-old Nadal won a record 14 of his 22 major trophies at the French Open. He won gold in singles at Beijing in 2008, and in doubles with Marc López at Rio de Janeiro in 2016.



HIGHLIGHT

● Top-seeded Djokovic faces Ebden, while Nadal plays Fucsovics. A potential 2nd round showdown between Djokovic and Nadal looms large.



takes on Lebanese player Hady Habib.

Top-ranked Iga Swiatek of Poland faces Irina-Camelia Begu of Romania in the opening round of the women's draw with second-seeded American Coco Gauff taking on Australian Ajla Tomljanovic.

Gauff is the reigning US Open champion and is making her Olympic debut. She is a flag bearer for the US team at Friday's opening ceremony along with basketball star LeBron James. She will be the first tennis athlete to carry the US flag. Djokovic and Swiatek have not won Olympic gold. Djokovic owns 24 Grand Slam trophies, more than anyone else in tennis apart from Margaret Court, but his only Olympic medal was a bronze in Beijing in 2008.

CHALLENGING TENNIS DRAW

Tough draw for Nagal; Bopanna-Balaji face French duo

Press Trust Of India

PARIS: India's top singles player Sumit Nagal will begin his Paris Olympics campaign against French Moutet Corentin, who he had beaten in April and could run into formidable Australian world number six Alex de Minaur in the second round if he wins the opener.

Nagal, ranked 80th in the world, shares a 2-2 head-to-head record with Moutet, who is

placed 12 places above him in the ATP singles chart. If Nagal can clear the first round, he might face Wimbledon quarterfinalist Di Minaur in the second round.

Di Minaur withdrew from the last-eight Wimbledon clash against Novak Djokovic due to a hip injury. In the men's doubles, Rohan Bopanna and N Sriram Balaji have been drawn to meet the French team of Fabien Reboul and



Edouard Roger-Vasselin. Bopanna has shared the court with Roger-Vasselin in the past on the ATP Tour.

This is Bopanna's last chance to win an Olympic medal. He had finished fourth with Sania Mirza in the mixed doubles event at 2016 Rio Games. The Indian duo will need to bring their best game to overcome the experienced French pair and advance in the tournament.

Narang: Indian athletes' confidence soars

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PARIS: Olympic medallist shooter Gagan Narang said Indian athletes' mindset has changed over the years and their confidence has touched unprecedented levels, encouraging them to set their sights on a gold medal. The London Games bronze medallist, who is serving as India's Chef-de-Mission at the Paris Olympics, felt the Indian athletes are now not intimidated by their counterparts from

other countries. "There is a huge change in the motivation and the level of thinking our athletes have today. We used to feel scared, under-confident because other countries were better. But slowly that's changed, the mindset (has) changed," Narang told reporters here. "People started watching sports, playing it, then we had great performances. The confidence is at a new high. Today's athletes don't go just to participate, they go to perform."

World



"We have suggested that Israel and Hamas should seal USA's proposal to release remaining hostages in Gaza over three phases to end the war."

Joe Biden
President, USA

Capital city of Paris prepares for Summer Olympics 2024



The Eiffel Tower stands in the distance as players practice beach volleyball in the Summer Olympics 2024 on Thursday. | Photo: PTI

Netanyahu will meet Biden, Harris at a crucial time

Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu is set to make a long-awaited White House visit to meet with President Joe Biden and likely Democratic nominee Vice President Kamala Harris.

Press Trust Of India

WASHINGTON: Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is set to make a long-awaited White House visit to meet with President Joe Biden and likely Democratic nominee Vice President Kamala Harris at an important moment for all three politicians. Netanyahu's White House visit, his first since before President Donald Trump left office in 2020, comes at a time of grow-

ing pressure on all three to find an endgame to the nine-month war that's left more than 39,000 dead in Gaza. What's more, dozens of Israeli hostages and the remains of others who have died are still languishing in Hamas captivity. Biden is pressing to get Israel and Hamas to seal his proposal to release remaining hostages in Gaza over three phases - something that would be a legacy-affirming achievement for the 81-year-old Democrat, who

HIGHLIGHT

- Netanyahu's USA visit, his first since before President Trump left office in 2020, comes at a time of growing pressure due to the nine-months of war.

- Biden is pressing to get Israel and Hamas to seal his proposal to release remaining hostages in Gaza over three phases.

abandoned his reelection bid and endorsed Harris. It could also be a boon for Harris in her bid to succeed him. White House officials say that the negotiations are in the closing stages but there are issues that need to be resolved. Following their midday talks, Biden and Netanyahu will meet the families of American hostages. Harris, who will meet separately with Netanyahu later, is trying to demonstrate that she has the met-

tle to serve as commander in chief. She's also being scrutinized by those on the political left who say Biden hasn't done enough to force Netanyahu to end the war and by Republicans looking to brand her as insufficient in her support for Israel. A senior administration official, who briefed reporters on the condition of anonymity under ground rules set by the White House, said there is "no daylight between the president and vice president" on Israel.

UK police officer suspended

LONDON: A British police officer was suspended from all duties Thursday after a video was posted on social media that appeared to show an officer kicking and stamping on the head of a man lying on the floor of a terminal at Manchester Airport. Greater Manchester Police said the incident occurred while police were trying to break up a fight at the airport's Terminal Two on Wednesday. Three officers were assaulted, with one suffering a broken nose and another requiring hospital treatment, the force said. "We understand the deep concerns that have been widely raised with us, and will continue to meet and discuss these feelings with Greater Manchester residents and elected representatives, whilst this independent investigation takes place," Greater Manchester Police said in a statement.

Flights cancelled in Germany as activists target airports

Press Trust Of India

Germany's busiest airport canceled more than 100 flights Thursday as environmental activists launched a coordinated effort to disrupt air travel across Europe.



Protest affects many flights in Germany. | Photo: PTI

FRANKFURT: Germany's busiest airport canceled more than 100 flights Thursday as environmental activists launched a coordinated effort to disrupt air travel across Europe at the height of the summer holiday season to highlight the threat posed by climate change. Frankfurt Airport said flights were halted for safety reasons after climate activists breached security fences, triggering

FAST FACTS

- Flights were halted for safety reasons after climate activists breached security fences, triggering a response from police and airport security officers

a response from police, firefighters and airport security officers. All runways were back in operation by 7:50 am local time, it said. About 140 flights

have been cancelled so far, but further disruptions are expected throughout the day, the airport said. Environmental groups said they planned to target airports around Europe this summer to remind people about the link between fossil fuels, such as those used by airlines, and climate change. The groups are calling for governments around the world to end the extrac-

tion and burning of fossil fuels by 2030. "We sharply condemn these unauthorized demonstrations, and we reserve the right to take legal action against the participants," Frankfurt Airport said. "Their activities pose severe danger to flight operations - possibly putting human life at risk." Climate data showed that Monday was the hottest day ever recorded as human-caused climate change continues to drive unprecedented heat and growing weather extremes. Global investments in planet-warming oil and gas are expected to increase by 7 per cent this year, according to the International Energy Agency, despite global promises to slash fossil fuel use.

IN PRESIDENTIAL RACE

Kamala Harris has deep faith in Gandhi

Press Trust Of India

WASHINGTON: Black clergy who know Vice President Kamala Harris, now the frontrunner for the Democratic presidential nomination, marvel at the fusion of traditions and teachings that have molded her religious faith and social justice values. A Baptist married to a Jewish man, she's inspired



by the work of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., and influenced by the religious traditions of her mother's native India as well as the

"I have been inspired by the religious traditions of my mother's native India as well as Mahatma Gandhi."
Kamala Harris
Vice President, USA

Black Church. "She's had the best of two worlds," says her longtime pastor, the Rev. Amos Brown, who leads Third Baptist Church in San Francisco. In interviews, religious leaders and theologians told The Associated Press that Harris' candidacy has special symbolic significance following President Joe Biden's departure from election campaign. Not

only because she would be the nation's first female president, but she's a Black American with South Asian roots and her two cultures are intrinsically linked. The clergy and scholars noted that the concept of nonviolent resistance, a critical strategy in the US Civil Rights Movement, gained influence under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi.

Pak should end violence against Ahmadi: Experts

LAHORE: A panel of UN-backed independent experts expressed grave concern on Thursday about increased discrimination and violence against the minority Ahmadi community in Pakistan and urged authorities to ensure their protection.



Briefs

CRISIS
Prisoners fight against working in heat on former slave plantation

WASHINGTON: Beneath the blazing summer sun on a former slave plantation, Lamont Gross and fellow prisoners stooped in long rows, picking vegetables by hand under the watchful eyes of armed guards on horseback. He said breaks were short and infrequent, with nothing to protect workers from the heat. "I saw guys collapse," Gross said of his days on the so-called farm line at Louisiana's state penitentiary, where men work for pennies an hour or nothing at all and face punishment if they refuse. "There were dudes that got heat stroke. There were dudes with underlying conditions, older or had some sort of disability, but they had to go out there, too." As daily temperatures hit record highs across much of the South, a federal judge took an unusual step, challenging the treatment of mostly Black incarcerated workers in the fields. **PTI**

VIOLENCE
China Sea tensions top issues as Southeast Asian diplomats meet in Laos

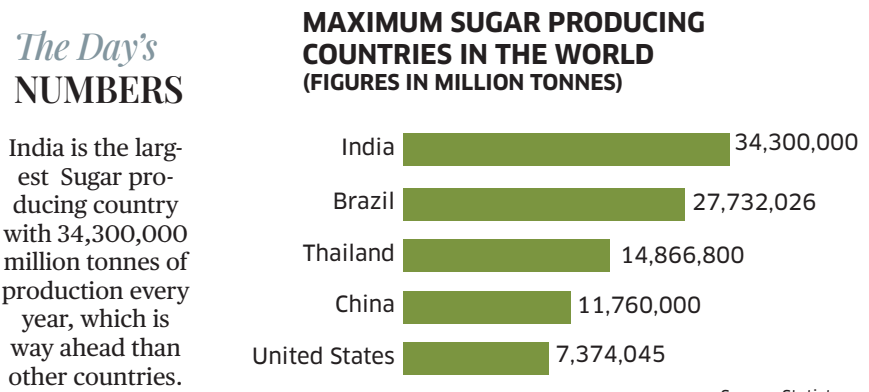
VIENTIANE: Southeast Asian foreign ministers and top diplomats from key partners including the US and China are gathering in the Laotian capital on Thursday for the start of three days of talks expected to focus on the increasingly violent civil war in Myanmar, tensions in the South China Sea and other regional issues. **PTI**

Meta's Board says deepfake policies need Update, response to explicit image fell short



LONDON: Meta's policies on non-consensual deepfake images need updating, including wording that's "not sufficiently clear," the company's oversight panel said Thursday in a decision on cases involving AI-generated explicit depictions of two famous women. The quasi-independent Oversight Board said in one of the cases, the social media giant failed to take down the deepfake intimate image of a famous Indian woman, whom it didn't identify, until the company's review board got involved. Deepfake nude images of women and celebrities including Taylor

Swift have proliferated on social media because the technology used to make them has become more accessible and easier to use. Online platforms have been facing pressure to do more to tackle the problem. The board, which Meta set up in 2020 to serve as a referee for content on its platforms including Facebook and Instagram, has spent months reviewing the two cases involving AI-generated images depicting famous women, one Indian and one American. The board did not identify either woman, describing each only as a "female public figure." **PTI**



NORAD tracked Chinese & Russian long-range bombers off Alaska

BEIJING: Two Chinese and two Russian long-range bombers were tracked flying over international waters near Alaska and US and Canadian fighter jets were sent up in response, their joint aerospace command said. The Chinese and Russian military activ-

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फोन: 9827143060/8871003060
Ajay Astor