



Central Chronicle

SC constitutes task force for Docs' safety

Task force will submit its interim report within 3 weeks and the final report within 2 months.

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Observing that the safety and well-being of doctors is a matter of national interest, the Supreme Court on Tuesday constituted a 10-member National Task Force (NTF) to formulate a protocol for ensuring their safety and security in the wake of the rape and murder of a trainee doctor in Kolkata.

A bench headed by Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud said a lack of institutional safety norms at medical establishments against both violence and sexual violence against medical professionals is a matter of serious concern. It said there are legislations to protect medical



FACTFILE

● The apex court was hearing a suo motu case related to the rape and murder of a trainee doctor amid nationwide protests over it.

professionals but they do not address the systemic issues. The apex court

asked the NTF to formulate an action plan under two sub-heads -Preventing violence, including gender-based violence against medical professionals; and providing an enforceable national protocol for dignified and safe working conditions for interns, residents, senior residents, doctors, nurses and all medical professionals. "The NTF

The NTF shall be at liberty to suggest on all aspects of the action-plan.

Supreme Court bench

shall be at liberty to make recommendations on all aspects of the action-plan highlighted above and any other aspects which the members seek to cover. They are at liberty to make additional suggestions, where appropriate.

"The NTF shall also suggest appropriate timelines by which the recommendations could be implemented based on the existing facilities in Hospitals," the bench said.

Task force members

The 10 members of the task force are -- Vice Admiral Arti Sarin, Director General, Medical Services (Navy), Dr D Nageshwar Reddy, Chairman and Managing Director, Asian Institute of Gastroenterology and AIG Hospitals, Hyderabad, Dr M Srinivas, Director of Delhi-AIIMS, Dr Pratima Murthy, Director, National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (NIMHANS), Bengaluru, Dr Goverdhan Dutt Puri, Executive Director, AIIMS Jodhpur, Dr Saumitra Rawat.

Terrorist hideout busted

RAJOURI: Security forces on Tuesday busted an underground terrorist hideout in the Rajouri district of Jammu and Kashmir, officials said.

The well-build hideout was unearthed during a cordon and search operation by a joint party of police, Army and CRPF at Sagrawat forest in the Darhal area of the border district, the officials said. They said a large quantity of daily use items including cooking gas, blankets and utensils were recovered from the hideout.

However, no one was arrested during the operation as the terrorists using the hideout managed to escape before the start of the search operation, the officials said.

They said security forces also busted a cave-type hideout in the Balotha area of Basantgarh in Udhampur district during an ongoing anti-terrorist operation.

| 1992 AJMER RAPES |

POCSO court sentences 6 more accused to life imprisonment

JAIPUR: A POCSO court has sentenced six more men to life imprisonment in the sensational Ajmer sex scandal, in which more than 100 girls were raped and blackmailed.

Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) court judge Ranjan Singh also slapped fines of Rs 5 lakh on each of the accused. Prosecution counsel Virendra Singh said that Nafees Chishti, Naseem alias Tarzan, Salim Chishti, Iqbal Bhati, Sohail Gani and Sayed Zameer Hussain were convicted of being involved in the crime. Bhati was brought to Ajmer from Delhi in an ambulance. The Ajmer sex scandal came to light in 1992. There were a total of 18 accused in the case. Singh said the

first charge sheet in the case was filed against 12.

Among them, Naseem alias Tarzan went absconding in 1994, and Jahur Chishti was found guilty under Section 377 (unnatural sex) and his case was transferred to another court.

The trial of Farooq Chishti ran separately after he was diagnosed with schizophrenia and he was given a life term in 2007. One of the accused committed suicide.

The other eight accused were sentenced to life imprisonment in 1998. He said the second charge sheet was filed against Nafees Chishti, Salim Chishti, Iqbal Bhati, Sohail Gani, Sayed Zameer Hussain, and Almas who is still at large.

UPSC drops lateral-entry recruitment drive

Press Trust Of India

Government would now review the lateral-entry recruitment drive with reference to the applicability of reservation provisions in it.

NEW DELHI: The UPSC on Tuesday cancelled its latest advertisement to fill key posts in government departments through lateral entry, amid a political row over the lack of a reservation provision for those positions.

The move came after Union Minister of State for Personnel Jitendra Singh wrote to Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) Chairperson Preeti Sudan to cancel the advertisement, so that marginalised communities get their rightful representation in government services. The commission had, on August 17, issued a notification for the recruitment of 45 posts -- 10 of joint secretaries and 35 of direc-



HIGHLIGHT

● The decision had ignited criticism from the opposition parties, which claimed that it undermined the reservation rights of the Other Backward Classes (OBC), Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs).

tors or deputy secretaries -- through lateral entry, which is referred to as the appointment of specialists (including those from the private sector) in government departments. It was one of the biggest tranches of lateral recruitment announced by the commission. Union Minister

Chirag Paswan, the head of BJP ally Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas), had also said the proposed recruitment was a "matter of concern" for him and that he would take up the matter with the Centre.

Official sources said the decision to cancel the advertisement was taken by the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) and the government would now review the lateral-entry recruitment drive with reference to the applicability of reservation provisions in it. At present, the sources said, there is no policy and provision for reservation for these specialised or single-cadre posts.

'Install biometric attendance for staff'

NEW DELHI: The Railway Board has issued a written direction to the general managers of 17 zones for the installation of biometric attendance machines or facial recognition systems for station staff to overcome the irregularities in claiming overtime.

Referring to one of the recommendations of the Vigilance Directorate of the Railway Board, the circular said, "Vigilance Directorate of Railway Board had made a reference to CVC in a case which involved duty swapping by Station Masters and irregularities in claiming overtime by station staff. CVC has suggested some improvements to be incorporated in the system." The Board's circular said, "Biometric attendance machines or facial recognitions system may be installed for all station staff, including Station Masters, Station Supervisors and Points men.

| RESERVOIR STORAGE BULLETIN |

'Reservoir storage levels surpass by 14 pc'

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The Central Water Commission (CWC) has reported a significant improvement in the live storage levels of India's reservoirs this year, with the current storage exceeding the ten-year average by 14 per cent.

According to the latest Reservoir Storage Bulletin, the live storage available in

NUMBER

108.79
● The current storage exceeds the ten-year average, which stood at 108.79 BCM, according to the CWC report released on August 16.

150 major reservoirs across the country is 124.016 bil-

lion cubic metres (BCM), which is 69 per cent of the total live storage capacity of these reservoirs. This marks a substantial increase from the corresponding period last year, when the storage was 111.85 BCM. Regionally, the storage levels vary across different parts of the country. In the northern region, which includes Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, and Rajas-

than, the storage is at 51 per cent of the total capacity, a decrease from last year's 88 per cent and below the normal storage level of 71 per cent. Similarly, the central region, which covers Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Madhya Pradesh, and Chhattisgarh, reported 72 per cent storage capacity, improving on last year's 69 per cent and the normal level of 62 per cent.

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Mahima Bajaj (MBA)
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Yash Sinha (CSE)
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Raipur



Cong will oppose any attempt to sell Nagarnar Steel Plant in Bastar.

Deepak Baij
PCC Chief

Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

BHARAT BANDH

Chhattisgarh Chamber declines support on Bharat Bandh called today

RAIPUR: A Bharat Bandh has been called for August 21 in protest against the Supreme Court's suggestion to implement a creamy layer within the SC/ST reservation system. The bandh has garnered support from various Dalit organizations and the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP). However, the Chhattisgarh Chamber of Commerce has decided not to back the nationwide shutdown.

Chamber State President Mr. Amar Parwani said that in the meeting, there was an in-depth discussion between the office bearers of all the communities. Since the topic was about "Bharat Bandh", the topic of "Bharat Bandh" was discussed with the national organizations affiliated to the Chamber, in which the national organizations expressed ignorance about Bharat Bandh and did not support it.

CUSTOM MILLING SCAM

Big action on Custom Milling Scam: CG Govt tightens noose on mafias



RAIPUR: In a significant crackdown on the multi-crore custom milling scam, the Vishnudev government of Chhattisgarh is preparing to take stringent action against rice mafias in the state. This comes in the wake of the government's earlier decision to abolish the license system for liquor by ending FL-10. The Enforcement Directorate (ED) is investigating the scam, which has already led to the arrest of key officials, including Marketing Federation MD and Special Secretary for Food, Manoj Soni, and Treasurer of the Rice Millers Association, Roshan Chandrakar.

25,000 dogs sterilized, 15,953 people affected

RAIPUR: The rising number of dog bite cases in Raipur has raised concerns about public safety, despite ongoing efforts by the municipal corporation to control the city's stray dog population. According to data, 25,000 dogs have been sterilized between 2018 and 2023, with an annual expenditure of around Rs 15 lakh on sterilization efforts. This year alone, the number of dog bite victims in the capital has reached an alarming 15,953.

Raipur's streets have become a battleground for pedestrians, particularly at night when stray dogs tend to be more active. Incidents of dogs chasing and biting people are reported daily. Mekahara, the city's largest hospital, sees approximately 15 dog bite patients every day, some in critical condition. Although three people died from dog bites in Chhattisgarh last year, none of the fatalities were from Raipur, which nonetheless continues to report the highest number of cases.

The Chhattisgarh Human Rights Commission released a report highlighting the sharp rise in dog bite incidents in the capital, prompting calls for stronger action.



MP Agrawal attended the Prana Pratishtha of Radha Ras Bihari temple.

'Grand temple soon in Krishna Janmabhoomi'

Agrawal also praised ISKCON's broader mission beyond temple construction.

Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: A grand temple dedicated to Lord Krishna is set to be built on Krishna Janmabhoomi in Mathura, according to Raipur MP Brijmohan Agrawal. Speaking at the Prana Pratishtha ceremony of the newly constructed Radha Ras Bihari ISKCON temple in Raipur, Agrawal highlighted the significance of this development for the people

of Chhattisgarh. As the chief guest at the event, Agrawal expressed his admiration for the efforts of Siddharth Swami, who was instrumental in the construction of the country's largest Radha Ras Bihari temple in Raipur. He noted that just as Central India's largest Ram temple was built in Raipur before the construction of the Shri Ram temple in Ayodhya, the construction of the

HIGHLIGHT

● ISKCON would extend its efforts in the fields of health and education

Radha Ras Bihari temple in Chhattisgarh precedes the anticipated temple at Krishna Janmabhoomi in Mathura.

He suggested that this signals the soon-to-come construction of a grand Krishna temple in

Mathura, which would be a significant blessing for devotees. Agrawal also praised ISKCON's broader mission beyond temple construction, emphasizing its commitment to serving humanity. He expressed hope that through the newly established temple, ISKCON would extend its efforts in the fields of health and education, particularly to benefit the tribal communities in Chhattisgarh.

National Conference of Agricultural Engineers

RAIPUR: The 36th National Conference and National Seminar of Agricultural Engineers is set to take place at Indira Gandhi Agricultural University (IGKV) from August 29 to 30. The theme for this year's event is "Contribution of Agricultural Engineers in Improving Rural Economy for Sustainable Development." This significant national program is being organized collaboratively by the Institution of Engineers (India) Chhattisgarh State Center, Raipur, and Swami Vivekanand Agricultural Engineering and Technology College and Research Center, under the Faculty of Agricultural Engineering at IGKV.

The two-day event will see agricultural engineers from across the country converge to discuss and present research on critical topics related to the advancement of agriculture.

CG WEATHER UPDATE

Heavy Rain to begin across Chhattisgarh from August 22

Central Chronicle News

Yellow alert of the Meteorological Department for the next 24 hours.

RAIPUR: After a brief dry spell, heavy rains are set to return to Chhattisgarh as the monsoon system strengthens. The Meteorological Department has forecast widespread rainfall across the state starting from August 22, with particular emphasis on heavy rains expected in the Surguja division. The alert has been issued as rainfall patterns shift, bringing relief to some areas while others brace for potential flooding.

As the rains took a brief pause, temperatures have surged across the state. Raipur recorded a high of 34.6°C on Tuesday, 4.5°C above normal, leading to increased humidity. Despite the rising



FACTFILE

● Seven percent more rain than normal in Chhattisgarh.

heat, Chhattisgarh remains on track with its rainfall patterns, recording seven percent more rain than average so far this monsoon season. Light rains continued

in certain parts of the state on Tuesday, with Kusmi in Balrampur district receiving the highest recorded rainfall of 7 cm. The Meteorological Department predicts that similar weather conditions will persist for the next three days, followed by another round of widespread rainfall. The current weather pattern is being influenced by a low-pressure area

located in and around southern Bangladesh, accompanied by cyclonic circulation up to a height of 5.8 km. This system is expected to shift northwest over the next 24 hours, contributing to the likelihood of moderate rainfall across various regions in the state. Northern Chhattisgarh districts, particularly those in Surguja, are likely to experience heavy rainfall.

Highlights the contributions of freedom fighters

Public Relations' Photo Exhibition draws enthusiastic crowds



RAIPUR: The 7-day photo exhibition organized by the Public Relations Department at the Town Hall in Kachhari Chowk has become a major attraction in Raipur as part of the 78th Independence Day celebrations.

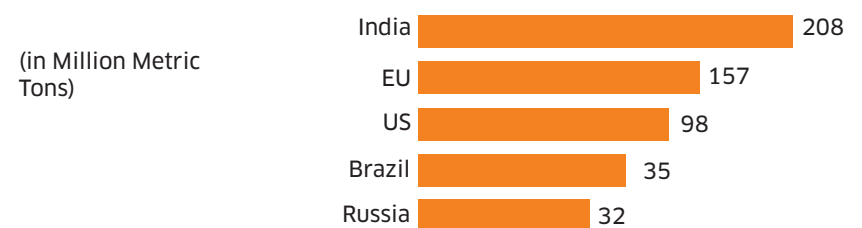
The exhibition, which highlights the contributions of Chhattisgarh's freedom fighters and showcases the state government's key initiatives, is drawing large crowds, especially school students and community members eager to learn about the state's history and achievements.

The exhibition is a unique blend of history and modern governance, displaying the biographies of Chhattisgarh's revolutionaries alongside detailed accounts of government schemes such as the Mahtari Vandan Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, and Women Empowerment initiatives.

For students, particularly those preparing for competitive exams, the exhibition offers a wealth of information on topics like Chhattisgarh's history, geography, and culture.

The Day's NUMBERS

TOP GLOBAL DAIRY PRODUCERS IN 2022



Source : FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization)

NOTABLE VISIT

Dr. Aditya Raj Singh, yoga expert, visits Adani Vidya Mandir and PEKB Mine

AMBIKAPUR: Dr. Aditya Raj Singh, renowned as the youngest environmentalist and yoga expert in Chhattisgarh, made a notable visit to Adani Vidya Mandir and the Parsa East Kete Basan (PEKB) mine on August 20, during the celebration of Akshay Urja Diwas. At just 10 years old, Aditya has already gained international recognition for his research on yoga and the environment, earning a doctorate and a place in the Golden Book of World Records. During his two-day visit to Surguja, Aditya addressed students from classes 9 to 12 at Adani Vidya Mandir in the Udaipur block. He shared insights from his research and achievements, offering valuable tips on environmental protection and the global measures being taken to safeguard our planet. His message resonated with the students, inspiring them to actively participate in environmental conservation. A highlight of Aditya's visit was his tour of the PEKB mine, where he observed the extensive afforestation efforts undertaken by Rajasthan State Electricity Generation Corporation Limited (RSEGPL).

SHOCKING TWIST

Shocking twist in alleged Rs 27.5 lakh robbery: Police uncover fraud by Tantrik



RAIPUR: In a surprising development, Raipur police have revealed that the reported robbery of Rs 27.5 lakh in the capital was, in fact, a case of fraud orchestrated by a tantrik. The police disclosed that tantrik Vijay Pandey deceived a businessman's wife, Swati Kesharwani, by threatening the lives of her husband and child. Claiming to save them through his occult practices, Pandey swindled gold, silver jewelry, and Rs 16.75 lakh in cash from her. He also instructed her to lie about a robbery if questioned by her husband. The case came to light on August 19 when Gudhiyari police received information about a supposed robbery in Adarsh Vihar Colony around 3 a.m.

AT SANJEEVANI CANCER HOSPITAL

65-year-old woman's life saved after Jaw Surgery

Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: In a remarkable medical achievement, doctors at Sanjeevani Cancer Hospital successfully performed a complex 10-hour surgery to save the life of a 65-year-old woman suffering from oral cancer. The elderly patient, who traveled from Jharkhand for treatment, had her jaw removed and replaced with a bone graft taken from her leg, a procedure that was crucial in preventing the further spread of the disease.



Dr. Yousuf Memon, Senior Surgical Oncologist and Director of Sanjeevani Cancer Hospital, explained that the patient had advanced oral cancer, necessitating a major reconstructive surgery.

The team decided to use a piece of the fibula bone from her leg to reconstruct her jaw. This involved creating a flap by cutting the fibula bone along with its nerves, removing the

● Patient had advanced oral cancer, necessitating a major reconstructive surgery.

Dr. Yousuf Memon
Senior Surgical Oncologist and Director of Sanjeevani Cancer Hospital.

cancer-affected portion of her lower jaw, and then grafting the leg bone onto the jaw. The intricate operation was led by Senior Onco Surgeon Dr. Arpan Chaturmohta, Plastic Surgeon Dr. Anirudha Gupta, and Anesthesia Specialist Dr. Hiten Mistry. Despite the challenges typically associated with cancer surgeries in elderly patients, the team successfully completed the procedure, and the patient is now in good health. She has reported feeling better and more comfortable after the surgery.



Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam campaign is aimed to reconnect the society with nature

Ashwani Dewangan, CEO, District Panchayat

BMP Director asked to resolve farmers' woes

Collector RP Chaudhary chaired a meeting of officials to review works.



Collector interacting with officials during time-limit meeting.

Central Chronicle News

BHILAI: On Tuesday, Collector Richa Prakash Chaudhary reviewed the status of applications received in the public grievances redressal camps organized in the urban bodies. She instructed the officials to resolve priority cases like electricity, drinking water, sanitation, drain cleaning, property tax, ration card, housing etc. Similarly, under the Swachh Sarvekshan, she asked to focus especially on city sanitation, door-to-door garbage collection,

FASTFACTS

- Execute action plan for Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyaan
- Officials instructed to visit schools and check monthly test registers

wall writing, indication boards, beautification, red spots, public urinals, cleanliness of commercial and market places, etc. Along with this, she instructed to impose fines on violators. Collector Chaudhary sought updated information about the road con-

Target to plant five lakh saplings

The Collector took information about the tree plantation done so far as per the target given to various departments. She said that the tree plantation work has to be completed by August 31. This year, a target of planting 05 lakh saplings has been set in the district.

struction under Bharat Mala Project (BMP) in the district from the Project Director of NHAI. She directed to positively resolve the problems related to agricultural land submergence and transportation of the villagers

due to the project. She directed door-to-door campaigns to identify the left out people and make their Ayushman Cards. Officials will be deployed for rationalization of polling stations / revision of voter list, etc.

BMC razes illegal structures

BHILAI: Acting on the complaints of illegal encroachment on one acre of government land in Sundar Vihar Colony, a team of Bhilai Municipal Corporation reached the spot and razed the illegal structures. The government land was freed from illegal occupants. Some illegal occupants staged protests to prevent the action. The BMC team asked them to show papers and when they were not able to produce any valid document, the BMC squad demolished the illegal shops with the help of earth movers.

Awareness rally taken out

BHILAI: A rally was taken out in the Baikunth Dham area to spread awareness about seasonal diseases, water-borne diseases and protection from mosquitoes. BMC teams visited door-to-door and urged the common people to drink boiled water, maintain cleanliness and hygiene, prevent water logging, etc. People were asked to wash hands with soap before eating, eat fresh food and avoid stale food. In case of vomiting or diarrhoea, people were asked to take medicine only after consulting a doctor.

Grand procession of 'Mahakaal Ki Paalki' taken out in Deokar



Central Chronicle News

BHILAI: A grand procession of "Mahakaal Ki Paalki" was taken out in Deokar (Saja) during the Shravan Month. The tableaux depicting Lord Baba Bholenath, Narsingh Bhagwan incarnation, Hanuman Ji's huge form Kesari Nandan, etc were the centre of attraction. The royal procession was taken out with great pomp and devotees raised slogans in praise of Bholenath. Baba Chandramouliswara Bhagwan's procession was taken out on Saturday in the month of Sawan from Radhakrishna temple. The tableaux depicting different incarnations of Baba Bholenath were included in the procession. Devotees showered flower petals at different places. The sky echoed with the slogans of Har Har Mahadev. About 15000 devotees participated in the procession. Mahaprasad Bhandara was organised at Radha Krishna Temple. Pt Premnarayan

Sharma and Kanha Sharma performed Puja at Radha Krishna temple. The organizer Vineeta Agarwal

HIGHLIGHT

● Tableaux of Lord Baba Bholenath, Narsingh Bhagwan incarnation, Hanuman Ji's huge form Kesari Nandan were the centre of attraction

performed the religious rituals including Rudrabhishek, Jalabhishek and Maha Aarti. The devotees carried Kanwars during the procession.

Saja MLA Ishwar Sahu and former parliamentary secretary Labhchand Bafna also visited the ancient temple of Devkar. Nagar Panchayat Deokar Vice President Ajay Agarwal, organizer Vinita Agarwal, Annu Sahu, Ravi Shankar Soni, Rakesh Pandey, Suresh Sinha, Budharu Sahu, Gohu Sahu, Sanju Sahu, Chhaku Sahu, and others were present.

NEWSLINE

FARMERS' CONVENTION

KVK celebrates Golden Jubilee Year



BHILAI: Krishi Vigyan Kendra Pahanda (A) Durg organized a program on the Golden Jubilee Year of Krishi Vigyan Kendra on Tuesday. Senior Scientist and Head Dr Vijay Jain said that 731 KVKs are working in the country to increase the income of farmers. The first KVK was established by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research in Puducherry on March 21, 1974. 27 KVKs are working in various districts of Chhattisgarh. KVK Pahanda (A) Durg was established in March 2017 in Durg district.

TOUR PROG

Governor in twin-city today

BHILAI: Governor of Chhattisgarh, Ramen Deka is going to visit Durg - Bhilai on August 21. Governor will depart from Raj Bhavan Raipur by road at 10.15 am and reach Durg Circuit House at 11.00 am. He will reach Titurdih Forest Office in Durg at 11.15 am and participate in the plantation program and thereafter move to PWD office auditorium to have general discussions with administrative officials from 11.45 am to 01.15 pm. Thereafter he would move to Circuit House. He will leave for Bhilai Steel Plant by road at 02.45 pm. After the plant visit, he will leave for Bhilai Niwas at 04.20 pm and reach Bhilai Niwas at 04.30 pm.

PLANTATION

Tree plantation program on August 22

BHILAI: District Panchayat CEO Ashwani Dewangan reviewed the status of tree plantation campaign "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam" in the rural areas. He gave necessary instructions to the Janpad Panchayat CEOs to reconnect the entire society with nature through this campaign. He urged every citizen to ensure his participation in this campaign by planting a sapling at a suitable place.

OBITUARY

Sapna Saraswat



BHILAI: Borsi resident Sapna Saraswat left for heavenly abode on August 19. She was the wife of Sanjeev Saraswat (Deputy Manager, Town Services Department, BSP). She breathed last at AIIMS Delhi. Funeral procession was taken out from her residence located at HIGI/392, Borsi Colony on Tuesday and last rites of the mortal remains were performed at Sheonath Muktidham.

Bharat Bandh today against decision on reservation



Central Chronicle News

SC/ST Joint Sangharsh Morcha to take out mega rally in support of Bharat Bandh.

BHILAI: SC/ST Joint Sangharsh Morcha will take out a mega rally in Bhilai in support of Bharat Bandh against the Central Government's decision to keep the creamy layer out of reservation. Morcha office bearers said that after 2018, the Central Government has again passed a decision against creamy layer in reservation. Against this conspiracy of the Central Government, Bharat Bandh

has been called on August 21. A huge rally will be organized in Bhilai Durg on August 21 to make the Bharat Bandh successful. The rally would begin from Satnam Bhawan Sector 6 and move across Supela Chowk, Nehru Nagar Chowk, Malviya Chowk and Patel Chowk to reach District Collectorate. The protestors will submit a memorandum addressed to the President and Prime Minister. Conveners of SC / ST Joint Sangharsh Morcha said that Dr Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar, while fighting against social inequality, gave constitutional reservation to the caste and not to the rich or poor.

Man loses Rs 1.78 lakhs in Job fraud

BHILAI: A woman duped a couple of Rs 1.78 lakhs in a job fraud case. The victim Ajay Kumar of Camp -2 complained that his wife Kiran Gupta's acquaintance Monika Soni alias Monika Gupta took Rs 1.78 lakhs from them on the promise of getting Ajay's daughter recruited in the Forest Department.

Ruffians stab youth in Khursipar

BHILAI: A gang of ruffians stabbed a youth in Khursipar in the wee hours of Tuesday. According to information, the victim Sonu was sleeping with other members of the family in the courtyard of their house. Around 04:00 hrs, some ruffians trespassed into the house and were escaping with Sonu's mobile phone. Sonu woke up and chased them.

BSP's Town Services Deptt observes World Mosquito Day

Central Chronicle News

Awareness rally made people made aware of mosquito-borne diseases

Ruffians stab youth in Khursipar

BHILAI: On World Mosquito Day, as part of the National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme, the Public Health Department, under the Town Services Department of SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant, in association with the District Municipal Office (DMO), Durg organised an awareness rally on Tuesday. Through the awareness rally organized in Sector 4, people were made aware of mosquito-borne diseases, their symptoms, prevention measures, and how to reduce the breeding of mosquitoes.



Rally to make people aware of mosquito borne diseases.

FASTFACTS

- Adopt precautions to eradicate vector borne diseases
- Coolers and other water containers are emptied and left to dry on every Sunday

World Mosquito Day, observed annually on 20 August, commemorates

British doctor Sir Ronald Ross's discovery in 1897 that female anophel mosquitoes transmit malaria among humans. This day is observed to educate people to adopt precautions helpful in eradicating Malaria, Dengue, Chikungunya, and other vector-borne diseases and save lives. Public Health Department is making continu-

ous endeavours whereby the houses in the township are being surveyed, and spraying and fogging are carried out in various residential and commercial areas. In view of the possibility of Mosquito Larvae breeding, stagnant water sources are also being inspected and mosquito larvae if found are cleaned and sprayed with medicines.

AWARENESS ON VARIOUS ISSUES

'Zindagi na Milegi..' held at St Thomas College

Central Chronicle News

BHILAI: The PG Department of Commerce in Collaboration with Chhattisgarh Chamber of Commerce and Industry Raipur organised an awareness program. The program focused on various issues like road safety awareness, healthy life style, start-ups, self reliance & self employment. Lalit Chandrakar, MLA Durg (Rural) was the Chief Guest on the occasion. He said that positive



attitude and behaviour is the key for getting success in life. Ajay Bhasin President Chhattisgarh Chamber of Commerce and Industry Raipur focused on the importance of time and urged the students to become good entrepreneurs for

contributing in the campaign of Viksit Bharat. Gargi Shankar Mishra President Chhattisgarh Chamber of Commerce and Industry Bhilai branch, said that along with academic knowledge practical application of it is more important,

in life. Prabhjeet Singh Chairman Public Relation Committee CA Bhilai gave important tips to the students for better career. Traffic SI Rajmani Singh urged the students to have control on the speed of vehicle while driving and go for safe driving. Dr MG Roymon Principal of the college congratulated the department of commerce for the conduct of the program. Dr Sapna Sharma Head PG Department of Commerce welcomed the gathering.

youth of today should provide jobs rather than be a job seeker. Aseem Sehgal an International wellness coach asked the students to lead a healthy life as it leads to success

Positive attitude and behaviour is the key for getting success in life.

Lalit Chandrakar
MLA Durg (Rural)

N-E-W-S



"Prime Minister Narendra Modi's upcoming visit to Ukraine is a good gesture and will be appreciated in international politics."
Shashi Tharoor
Senior Congress leader

ABVP's protest over Kolkata trainee doctor murder



Members of Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) take part in a protest march against the alleged sexual assault and murder of a postgraduate trainee doctor (in Kolkata), in Thane on Tuesday. PTI

Gov cannot 'pick & choose' and be 'selective', says CM on prosecution

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Tuesday said Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot should function like a representative of the President of India and not the central government.

BENGALURU: Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Tuesday said Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot should function like a representative of the President of India and not the central government. Siddaramaiah said the Governor should not 'pick and choose' and be selective in the matter of granting sanction for prosecution. "Governor is a constitutional post and we respect it. What we say is that he should work as a representative of the

President of India and not the Central government," Siddaramaiah told reporters here. Gehlot on August 16 granted sanction permitting investigation against Siddaramaiah under 17A of the Prevention of Corruption Act and prosecution under Section 218 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023, in connection with the Mysuru Urban Development Authority site allotment 'scam.' The Chief Minister recalled that the Karnataka Lokayukta had sought Governor's approval to prosecute

HIGHLIGHT

Siddaramaiah said the Governor should not 'pick and choose' and be selective in the matter of granting sanction for prosecution.

Union Minister for Steel and Heavy Industries H D Kumaraswamy on November 23, 2023 in connection with Sri Sai Venkateshwara Minerals case but till now no permission has been granted.

The state ombudsman on Monday again submitted a proposal to the Governor seeking his permis-

sion to file a charge-sheet against Kumaraswamy, who had allegedly granted mining lease to the private firm when he was the Chief Minister in 2007 in violation of law. Siddaramaiah also pointed out that the Governor did not give permission to the Lokayukta to prosecute former BJP Ministers Shashikala Jolle, Murugesh Nirani and G Janardhana Reddy. "On the other hand, T J Abraham lodged a (private) complaint against me with the Governor on July 26 at 11 am and 10 hours later I was served a show-cause notice. Isn't

it discrimination? That's the reason that the Governor was told not to use 'pick and choose' and should not do it selectively," Siddaramaiah said. In his writ petition challenging the Governor's order in the High Court on Monday, the Chief Minister submitted that it was issued without due application of mind, in violation of statutory mandates, and contrary to constitutional principles, including the advice of the Council of Ministers, which is binding under Article 163 of the Constitution of India.

sexual abuse: Parents made to wait for 11 hours : Wadettiwar

MUMBAI: Leader of Opposition in the Maharashtra assembly Vijay Wadettiwar on Tuesday alleged that the parents of a girl who was sexually abused at a school in Badlapur were made to wait for 11 hours to file their complaint. In a video message posted on X (formerly Twitter), the Congress leader said the incident -- where two kindergarten girls were allegedly abused inside the school -- was "bigger" than the rape and murder of a trainee doctor at a hospital in Kolkata which has produced national outrage. "Atrocities are committed on a three-and-half years old girl, and at the police station, they (parents) are made to wait for 11 hours when they seek to file a complaint." Wadettiwar said.

Lateral entry aimed to bring in pro-RSS people: Tejashwi

RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav on Tuesday alleged that "lateral entry" in bureaucracy was aimed at filling up posts with those inclined towards the RSS

PATNA: RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav on Tuesday alleged that "lateral entry" in bureaucracy was aimed at filling up posts with those inclined towards the RSS, the ideological parent organisation of the BJP. The former Bihar deputy chief minister was also unimpressed with the Union government's request to UPSC to "withdraw" the recent adver-



tisement for recruitments through lateral entry which had triggered a major controversy. "How did the UPSC bring in such an advertisement, in the first place? The Centre is enacting a drama after its agenda against reservations and the Constitution got exposed," Yadav told PTI video here. He alleged: "The plan was to fill up posts in bureaucracy with people supported by the RSS. I had registered my opposition as soon as the advertisement came out. We will continue to thwart the government's attempts to implement its hidden agenda". Yadav, who is the leader of the opposition in the Bihar Assembly, also accused NDA partners like Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and Union ministers Jitan Ram Manjhi and Chirag Paswan

of keeping silent over the issue. Raking up the developments in the aftermath of the 2002 Gujarat riots, the RJD leader said, "Chirag Paswan should think what would have been the response of his late father Ram Vilas Paswan who did not bat an eyelid before giving up his cabinet berth in protest against atrocities on minorities".

Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

ASSEMBLY

Mizoram receives Rs 8 cr central assistance for helping refugees

AIZAWL: The Mizoram government has received financial assistance amounting to Rs 8 crore from the Centre to provide relief to over 43,000 people from Myanmar, Manipur and Bangladesh, who have taken refuge in the state, the Assembly was informed on Tuesday. Home Minister K Sapdanga said that Rs 3 crore was received from the Centre during the previous Mizo National Front (MNF) rule, while the state got Rs 5 crore during the current Zoram People's Movement (ZPM) administration. He was replying to a question from opposition MNF member Ramthamawia. Sapdanga said that Rs 3 crore received during the previous government was used for providing amenities to refugee camps and other assistance to the people who came from Myanmar. **PTI**

RESERVATION

Need to end all anti-reservation processes: Mayawati on lateral entry



LUCKNOW: Bahujan Samaj Party chief Mayawati on Tuesday claimed that the Centre has withdrawn the advertisement for recruitment to bureaucracy through lateral entry after her party's opposition to the move, stressing that "all such anti-reservation processes" need to be stopped. The Centre on Tuesday asked the UPSC to withdraw the latest advertisement for lateral entry in bureaucracy, amid a row over reservation in the advertised posts. **PTI**

landslide Causes Mishap

Three members of a family among five killed in landslides occurred in Tripura

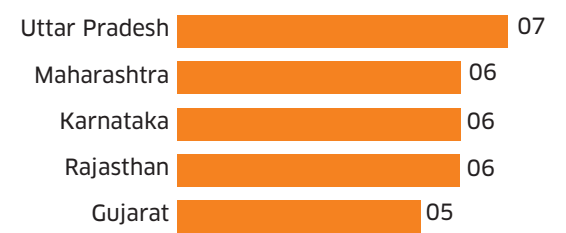


AGARTALA: At least five people, including three members of a family, were killed and one villager went missing after landslides triggered by incessant rain occurred at three places in Tripura, police said on Tuesday. The three members of a family died at Debipur in South Tripura district when their house collapsed due to a massive landslide on Monday night, Santirbazar Sub Divisional Magistrate Abhedananda Baidya told PTI over phone. The deceased were identified as Trisankar Chakma, his wife Rajini and his daughter Binita. Mauai Reang, aged 52, was killed in a landslide in

Gumati district's Karbook area on Monday, while another villager went missing, Additional District Magistrate (ADM) BB Das said. A 14-year-old boy died when mounds of earth fell on his house in Champlai area in Khowai district on August 19, a police officer said. Chief Minister Manik Saha on Tuesday instructed the district administrations to take appropriate action to prioritise public safety and mitigate the impact of the natural calamity. Many low-lying areas of the Santirbazar subdivision have been submerged due to heavy rain, Baidya said. **PTI**

The Day's NUMBERS

MAXIMUM AGRICULTURE UNIVERSITIES IN STATES OF INDIA



Source: Agencies


INVESTIGATION

Assam to transfer two serial bombs planting cases to NIA: DGP

GUWAHATI: Assam DGP Gyanendra Pratap Singh on Tuesday said two cases of the IO related to ULFA(I)'s planting of "IED-like" objects will be transferred to the NIA for investigation. Assam Police has already formed multiple SITs in 10 districts where "bomb-like substances" were found after the banned ULFA (I) claimed to have planted explosives in 24 locations to trigger serial blasts across the state on Independence Day. "We are moving along for transferring one of the cases of Guwahati and one Lakhimpur case to the NIA so that we can utilise the resources best and also work together with a federal agency to get to the bottom of this entire thing," Singh told reporters here. He expressed optimism that both the National Investigation Agency (NIA) and Assam Police together will be in a position to investigate and bring all the perpetrators to book very soon. **PTI**

ADDRESS

People should remain active no matter the age: Dhankhar



NEW DELHI: Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar on Tuesday said a person should remain active at all ages and asserted that the notion that there is an age limit for work has no basis. Addressing a group of Rajya Sabha interns here, Dhankhar referred to the Indian philosophy that work is worship. We must continue to work until our last breath. He said, "The notion that there is an age limit for work has no basis. A person should remain active at all ages". Officials of the Vice President Secretariat pointed out that recently megastar Amitabh Bachchan had expressed similar sentiments in a recent social media post. **PTI**

VBA CHIEF PRAKASH AMBEDKAR SAYS

'Centre had to cancel lateral entry advt.'

NAGPUR: Vanchit Bahujan Aghadi (VBA) chief Prakash Ambedkar on

Tuesday said the BJP used to work arbitrarily when it was in full majority at the Centre earlier, but it was left with no option and had to cancel the latest lateral entry recruitment after it was challenged. A row erupted after the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) on Saturday issued a notification for recruiting 45 joint secretaries, direc-

"The entry points of government jobs are UPSC and MPSC. Even ministers, the President or the Prime Minister do not have the right to make a direct recruitment."

Prakash Ambedkar
Chief, Vanchit Bahujan Aghadi



tors and deputy secretaries through lateral entry -- referred to as the appointment of specialists (including those from

the private sector) in government departments. The decision ignited criticism from the opposition parties, which claimed it undermined the reservation rights of OBCs, SCs and STs. Following this, the Centre asked the UPSC to cancel the advertisement "so that marginalised communities get their rightful representation in government services".

Action under necessary Act and RCC will be taken against those misusing the allotment of govt shops.
Anurag Pandey
Collector Bijapur



Chhattisgarh

Clouds floating above the mountain ranges



The forest region of Maikal mountain range in Pandaria block is lush green with clouds floating and a view near Hanuman Khol Ghati, where tourist flock in large number.

'Drug trade on rise under Govt protection'

Vinod Chandrakar charged that the drug mafia is unbridled in the state

Central Chronicle News

MAHASAMUND: Former Parliamentary Secretary and former MLA of Mahasamund Vinod Chandrakar said that the drug trade is going on in full swing in the state including Mahasamund. While in opposition for the last 5 years, the BJP members had created a lot of ruckus over the illegal sale of liquor and the demand for complete prohibition in the state.

From small to big BJP leaders who never got tired of saying that when the so-called good governance

government of the double engine comes to power in the state, action will be taken to ban the illegal sale of liquor and to impose complete prohibition. Now when there is a double engine government in the state, and their representatives are sitting from Lok Sabha to Vidhan Sabha, then they should clarify under whose protection the illegal sale of liquor, ganja, narcotics is happening in the entire state. In the previous Congress regime, these people had even staged a Dharna for total prohibition of liquor, now they have their own

HIGHLIGHT

● The same liquor which the BJP members opposed while in opposition, now seems like nectar to them.

● Chandrakar said that the drug mafia is unbridled in the state, it is clear from this that the drug dealers have the protection of the BJP government.

government in the country and the state, so why are the BJP people shying away from taking action for total prohibition of liquor in

Chhattisgarh.

Chandrakar charged that the drug mafia is unbridled in the state, it is clear from this that the drug dealers have the protection of the BJP government.

Today, the drug business is being carried out in full swing under the nose of the police and the administration is sitting as a mute spectator. From village to city, today the youth of the state are in the grip of liquor, ganja, and intoxicating tablets. The young generation is moving towards crime due to drug addiction.

Panchayat recognizes sanitation workers

PITHORA: On Rakshabandhan, the Nagar Panchayat Chairman invited all the sanitation workers of the Nagar Panchayat to his personal residence and congratulated them on Rakshabandhan. Also, he tied Rakhi to all the sanitation workers and increased their respect by giving them the title of Swachhta Didi. On the holy occasion of Rakshabandhan, all the sanitation workers sisters were very happy with the respect and sisterly love given by the Nagar Panchayat Chairman.

Grand Pran Pratishtha ceremony held

KHAIRAGARH: Pran Pratishtha of Lord Shiva was organized in Ward No. 03 of Gram Panchayat Atiksa. District Panchayat Vice President Vikrant Singh was present as the chief guest in the program, while District BJP President Ghamman Sahu presided over it and District BJYM President Ayesh Singh was present as the special guest. During the program, the villagers along with the guests participated in the Pran Pratishtha.

Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

CRIME

Man strangles own brother to death over constant abusing

KATGI-KASDOL: In Devpur under Baya Chowki, the accused got upset with the deceased for building a new house for himself and abusing after drinking alcohol everyday and killed his brother in a fit of rage. And the killer was so clever that to make the murder look like a suicide, the body of the deceased was hanged on a noose. And to avoid suspicion, the accused himself cut the rope of the noose and took the deceased to Pithora Hospital for treatment where on the basis of circumstantial evidence, interrogation of witnesses and PM report, the entire conspiracy has been disclosed and the process of formally arresting the accused Ajay and presenting him before the honorable court and sending him to jail is being done.

PLANTATION

NSS volunteers create a greener campus at MVGPGC, Bhakhara



ANWARI: In Maharishi Vedyas Government Post Graduate College (MVGPGC) Bhakhara, under the direction of Principal Dr. Sanjay Sharma and guidance of NSS Program Officer Janendra Banjare, the volunteers of National Service Scheme unit conducted cleanliness and tree plantation campaign and made the students aware. The plants planted under Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam Abhiyan were nourished, the surrounding weeds were cleaned. The volunteers cleaned the garden and gave fertilizer to the plants.

Preparations for Maha Sammelen

Satnami Samaj Maha Sammelen scheduled for August 24 in Dhamtari



ANWARI: State level Satnami Maha Sammelen will be organized on 24th August in Dhamtari. In the said event, thousands of social workers of the state will gather at Guru Bal Das Bhawan in Jodhpur, Dhamtari under the leadership of Guru Bal Das Saheb of Satnami community. For this, the process of inviting Guru descendants, social MLAs, ministers, district heads of different districts, social thinkers of the society, sharp speakers is in its final stage. District President Kapil

Deshlahare told that to make the organized Maha Sammelen successful, all the Guru descendants including Guru Baldas Saheb, Guru Khuswant Saheb, Guru Rudra Kumar have been invited. Also, he has personally reached out and invited the public representatives of the society like Ahiwara MLA Doman Lal Korsevad, Bilaiagarh MLA Kavita Pran Lahare, former minister Dr. Shiv Dahria, District Panchayat President Dhamtari Kanti Sonwani to bring them on one platform.

Collector celebrates Rakhi with elderly

KOREA: On the festival of Rakshabandhan on Monday, Collector of Korea, Mrs. Tripathi paid a visit to an old age home in the district and inspected the premises while inquiring about the health of the elders living there. She got direct information from the elders about any kind of trouble or problem during their stay. She also received information about food, breakfast along with cleanliness in the ashram. Collector Mrs. Tripathi instructed the officers to provide food and breakfast as per the menu and to check health on time.

While talking to the elderly Mr. Manoj Sinha, Mrs. Chandan Tripathi instructed the officer of the Social Welfare Department to arrange books and paintings for the elderly and to teach them in the old age home the art of sign language and talking with gestures.

Youth should prioritize technical education: Ajay

Central Chronicle News

Ajay Chandrakar said as the chief guest that he is ready for every work for Mendarka and will fulfill all the demands.

KURUD: Inauguration and Bhoomi Pujan of various development works in Gram Panchayat Mendarka was done in the presence of regional MLA Ajay Chandrakar. The program was presided over by Nemin Sinha Sarpanch and special guests Kuleshwar Chandrakar Mandal President, Krishnakant Sahu MLA representative, Thaneshwar Sahu Sector Co-in-charge, Prabhat Bais Mandal General Secretary, Vaibhav Chandrakar, Ganesh Sinha, Ramkumar Markande, Sanat Sahu, Osaram Sahu were present.



Foundation stone was laid for various development works in Gram Panchayat Mendarka.

FACTFILE

● To ensure that the people do not wander here and there for education, he has got many middle schools approved in the assembly.

On the occasion of Bhoomi Pujan and inauguration of various development works in Gram Panchayat Mendarka, Ajay

Chandrakar said as the chief guest that he is ready for every work for Mendarka and will fulfill all the demands. To ensure that the people do not wander here and there for education, he has got many middle schools approved in the assembly in which new subjects like BA LLB, B.Ed will be taught in Parswani Middle School and Kurud College in Kurud. He further said that the land

holding is the same as it was earlier but the population has increased due to which the farming of big farmers got divided among the families and today they have become small farmers.

Looking at all these situations, the youth should now focus on technical education, for this he said that the assembly should focus on subjects like milk refrigeration, animal husbandry, fish farming and all the resources to become financially strong. The women tied a rakhi sutra to the MLA and congratulated him on the festival of Rakshabandhan. The villagers from nearby areas were also present in the program in which eminent people including Gandhi Sahu, Kamdev Banjare, Mishri Sinha, Sanjay Sahu, Hemaram and others were present.

WORLD ADIVASI MOOL NIVASI PARBA TIHAR PROG |

'Contribution of tribal protecting nature incomparable'

KASDOL: The World Adivasi Mool Nivasi Parba Tihar program was organized by Sarva Adivasi Samaj in Kasdol town on Sunday, in which Kasdol MLA Sandeep Sahu participated as a guest.

During this, he offered prayers and congratulated the Sarva Adivasi Samaj and said that the contribution of the tribal society in the protection of nature and culture as well as the country is incomparable.



It is because of the protection of our water, forest and land and the unwavering love of the tribal society towards the environment that the protection of our natural heritage is being ensured

Tribals have been doing incomparable work of preserving our cultural and natural heritage since ancient times.

Sandeep Sahu
MLA Kasdol

today. We all salute the tireless hard work and contribution of the tribal society for making the coming generations aware of our religious traditions, centers of faith, mythological civilizations and the glorious heritage of India along with nature. He further said that today the tribal society in Chhattisgarh has a valuable contribution in preserving our cultural and traditional culture.

The Day's NUMBERS

Maharashtra tops the list with largest road network

TOP FIVE STATES BY ROAD NETWORK (LENGTH (IN KM))

Maharashtra	267,452
Uttar Pradesh	263,455
Rajasthan	226,853
Madhya Pradesh	222,360
Karnataka	207,068

Source: Agency

I-DAY

Pensioners celebrate Independence Day with literary programme

KHAIRAGARH: Pensioners Association hoisted the flag on Independence Day in Dauchaura. During this, members of the association, holding the tricolor in their hands, garlanded the statue of martyr Nikesh Yadav and paid homage. Thereafter, various literary programs were organized in the Pensioner Sabha Bhawan where the chief guest Dayaram Nirmalkar presented an inspiring story of Mahatma Gandhi's sacrifice, martyrdom and patriotism towards the country. Before this, Dr. Jeevan Yadav recited a poem on the story of independence and martyrdom of martyrs. Dr. Prashant Jha emphasized on making pensioners active.

District President of the Association Basant Yadav congratulated everyone on Independence Day. Sudama Kothale discussed the condition and development of India before and after independence. Mansharam Simkar and Makhan Lal Bhimte aroused the spirit of patriotism among the people by singing patriotic songs. Madhukar Chokhandre talked about giving every possible contribution to the association. Motilal Yadav presented Bujhla.

RAKHI CELEBRATIONS

Rakhi bonds strengthened amidst festive celebrations



KHARORA: Rakhi festival was celebrated with great pomp on Monday. As soon as Bhadra ended after 1:30 in the afternoon, sisters tied rakhi on the wrists of brothers. After tying rakhi, brothers also gave various gifts to their sisters. Sisters were seen waiting for their brothers after getting ready. As soon as the brothers arrived, they were welcomed with enthusiasm.

Sisters decorated the plate with tilak, flowers, grass, rakhi and sweets along with diya and made the brothers sit on a seat. After this, the process of worship was completed by applying tilak to the brothers. Also, sisters tied rakhi on the wrists of their brothers and wished them a long life.

Sisters and brothers fed each other sweets. During this, brothers also promised to protect their sisters.



Bal Thackeray criticised Rajiv but central agencies did not harass Shiv Sena.
Uddhav Thackeray
Shiv Sena (UBT) chief

Japan's Defence Minister inspects Guard of Honour



Japan's Defence Minister Minoru Kihara inspects the Tri-Services Guard of Honour, at South Block in New Delhi, Tuesday.

Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

RAJYA SABHA BYPOLL IN MP

Nomination withdrawal date shifted to Aug 27 due to Janmashtami holiday

BHOPAL: The last date for the withdrawal of nominations for the byelection to the lone vacant Rajya Sabha seat in Madhya Pradesh is shifted to August 27 instead of August 26 due to the Janmashtami holiday, a top poll official stated on Tuesday. The vacancy was created after Rajya Sabha member and Union minister Jyotiraditya Scindia won the Lok Sabha election from the Guna constituency. "The process of withdrawal of nomination papers for Rajya Sabha by-election will now be held on August 27 instead of August 26 due to the Janmashtami holiday," Madhya Pradesh Chief Electoral Officer Anupam Rajan stated in a release. The Election Commission of India has issued a notification regarding the Rajya Sabha by-election on August 7. The process of filing nominations began on August 14 and will continue till August 21. **PTI**

HC TELLS JAIL AUTHORITIES

'Decide Chandrashekar's request for more meetings with lawyer'



NEW DELHI: The Delhi High Court on Tuesday asked the jail authorities here to treat as representation a plea by alleged conman Suresh Chandrashekar seeking five virtual meetings with his counsel every week. Chandrashekar, who is lodged in Mandoli jail, has said he is only permitted two virtual meetings of 45 minutes each per week with his lawyers which are not enough for "managing the complex and extensive legal matters he faces". **PTI**

Reliance on self reported data among inconsistencies

The ninth edition of the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) was announced earlier this month.

Press Trust Of India
NEW DELHI: Lack of mechanisms to directly assess teaching quality, huge fluctuations in rankings, inadequate transparency in methodology and reliance on self-reported data, are among the inconsistencies in the education ministry's ranking framework for higher education institutions, according to a research paper. Authored by former IIT-Delhi director and current vice chancellor of Birla Institute of Technology and Science (BITS) V Ramgopal Rao, the paper has been published in the 'Current Science' journal.

It has been co-authored by Abhishek Singh, also from BITS, Pilani. "While the NIRF rankings aim to enhance transparency and accountability, the present study has identified several inconsistencies, thus raising concerns about their reliability," said the paper titled 'Unpacking inconsistencies in the NIRF rankings'. "These include huge fluctuations in the rankings, overemphasis on bibliometrics neglecting non-traditional research outputs, subjective nature of perception rankings that introduces biases, challenges in the regional diversity metric, overlooking teach-

HIGHLIGHT
● The academicians noted that NIRF rankings lack specific mechanisms to directly assess teaching quality, overlooking crucial aspects such as classroom observations, student evaluations and alumni feedback.

an incomplete depiction of the educational prowess of an institution. "Moreover, the NIRF rankings overlook the practical dimension of teaching, a crucial aspect in various disciplines," the paper said. The study has also flagged the variability in the positions of institutions from year to year. "While some fluctuations may be attributed to genuine changes in performance, others might result from factors beyond the control of an institution, such as temporary variations in data reporting or interpretation errors. "Unlike some international ranking systems, such as the

QS World University Rankings, which utilise a damping mechanism to spread large, interannual swings in data, the NIRF rankings lack a similar mechanism," it said. The absence of a comparable mechanism in the NIRF framework raises questions about the ability of the system to correct for anomalies and errors, potentially impacting the stability and reliability of the rankings, the study said. The paper noted that reliance on self-reported data raises pertinent questions regarding the consistency and accuracy of the information presented.

Doctor's rape-murder

Police lathi-charge ABVP activists during protest rally



KOLKATA: The police on Tuesday resorted to a "mild lathi-charge" and arrested over 20 ABVP activists after a scuffle between them during a march to the West Bengal health department headquarters to protest against the alleged rape and murder of an RG Kar Hospital medic. The protestors demanded the resignation of Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee who also doubles up as the state's health and home minister. The police had put up barricades at several roads leading to Swasthya Bha-

van, which the ABVP activists tried to breach, a senior officer said. "We have only one demand - the resignation of the chief minister. What happened at the (RG Kar) hospital is unthinkable," a woman ABVP activist said. The police resorted to lathi-charge to disperse the protestors and arrested over 20 ABVP activists including its national secretary Rahul Rana. "Among those arrested, there were four women," a senior police officer of Bidhannagar Police Commissionerate said. **PTI**

Six-year-old boy killed by leopard in Pauri

KOTDWAR: A six-year-old boy was mauled to death by a leopard in a village in Uttarakhand's Pauri district, officials said on Tuesday. Aditya was playing in the courtyard of his maternal grandparents' home in Kota village of Rikhnikhil block at 7.30 pm on Monday when the leopard pounced on him, caught him in his jaws and ran into the forest, Garhwal DFO Swapnil Anirudh said. His mother and grandmother, sitting nearby, screamed for help. The locals gathered and started searching for the child. His half-eaten body was recovered hours later at around 1.30 am from the forest nearly one kilometre away from the spot where the child was assaulted by the leopard, Anirudh said.

12 outstation trains diverted; Railways arranges buses

| BADLAPUR PROTEST |

Press Trust Of India
As many as 30 suburban trains were partially cancelled, and the Railways approached the state and civic transport bodies to ply extra buses.



People block railway tracks to protest against the alleged sexual abuse of two girls at a school. | Photo: PTI

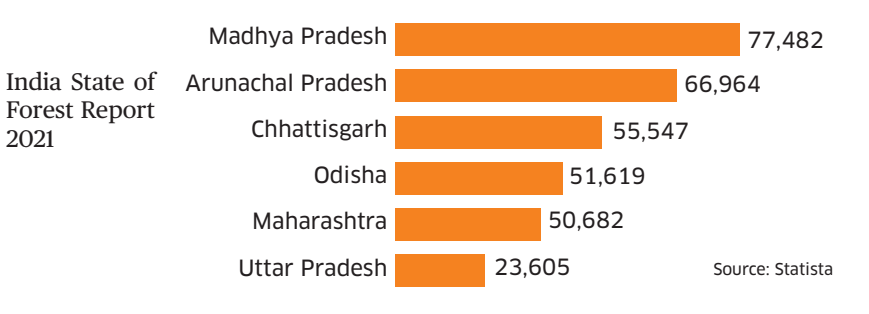
MUMBAI: The rail roko protest at Badlapur station in Maharashtra's Thane district on Tuesday over the alleged sexual abuse of two girl students of a kindergarten led to the diversion of 12 long-distance trains via alternate routes, while authorities arranged buses for stranded commuters. As many as 30 suburban trains were partially cancelled, and the Railways approached

FACTFILE
● The Railways has approached the state and municipal transport bodies to run 100 extra buses for commuters.

the state and civic transport bodies to ply extra buses. As protesters, including several women, came onto railway tracks and blocked traffic, local train services between Ambernath and Karjat stations were suspended

from 10.10 am. The protest turned violent as agitators vandalised the school, where the alleged incident occurred last week, and also indulged in stone-pelting at the Badlapur railway station, police said.

The Day's NUMBERS



DISAPPEARANCE OF EVIDENCE

Three of four prisoners who escaped from Arunachal jail arrested

ITANAGAR: Three of the four prisoners who escaped from Namsai jail in Arunachal Pradesh were arrested on Tuesday, officials said. The prisoners, identified as Mineswar Dihingia (37), Gopal Munda (23), Arjun Kandha (27) and Robin Surin (45), had managed to break out around 12.30 am on Sunday from their cell, they said. The prisoners assaulted the on-duty sentry, IRBn constable Pintu Insha, with a dismantled ventilator grill and escaped. Namsai SDPO J Molo said Insha is at present undergoing treatment at a hospital in Assam's Dibrugarh. He said that Dihingia, Kandha and Surin were arrested after a meticulous search operation. While Dihingia was arrested from Gohaingon village, the security forces re-arrested Kandha from Piyong circle of the district and Surin from Nongtaw village. **PTI**

ABUSE OF SCHOOL GIRLS

'Woman IPS officer to probe Badlapur incident'

NEW DELHI: Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Tuesday said an inquiry led by a woman IPS officer has been ordered into an incident of alleged abuse of two school girls in Badlapur in Thane district. Talking to reporters here, Fadnavis said the state government has appointed Arti Singh, an inspector general-rank Indian Police Service (IPS) officer, to conduct the inquiry. **PTI**

CM VIJAYAN SAYS

'Govt considering recommendations of Committee'

Press Trust Of India
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan on Tuesday said the state government was seriously considering the various recommendations, including setting up of a tribunal and framing a comprehensive Cinema Law, given by the Justice Hema Committee.

Vijayan also said that the action recommended by the committee against the various crimes against women in the film industry was already being looked into by the agencies responsible for ensuring law and order in the state. The CM made the announcement while speaking at a press conference here.

The action recommended by the committee against the various crimes against women in the film industry was already being looked into.
Pinarayi Vijayan
Kerala CM



His remarks come in the wake of severe criticism of the Left government by opposition parties for its silence and inaction over the past four years, despite receiving the report. The Congress-led UDF alleged that the Pinarayi Vijayan government was siding with the 'hunters' rather than the hapless victims.

Central Chronicle Classifieds

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QUOTE FROM THE QUOTABLE

"No real change in history has ever been achieved by discussions."

[Subhash Chandra Bose]

Comment

Swift justice needed to protect women from violence

OUR VIEW |

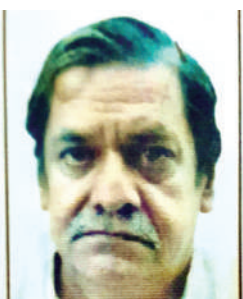
India's delicate balance between Moscow and Kyiv

The upcoming visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Ukraine is a significant diplomatic event, occurring in the shadow of a tragic loss—the death of a Kerala man in a Ukrainian attack on a Russian military camp. This incident, along with the approximately ten Indian casualties reported so far in the nearly 30-month-long conflict, underscores the urgency of PM Modi's mission. His likely message to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy will echo the sentiment he expressed to Russian President Vladimir Putin: the ongoing conflict must be resolved through dialogue and diplomacy. India's strategic autonomy has been evident throughout the war, marked by its delicate balancing act between its historical ties with Russia and its ongoing engagement with Ukraine. India has not hidden its pro-Russia inclinations, a stance driven by longstanding geopolitical and defense ties. However, this relationship has not precluded India from maintaining communication with Kyiv, positioning itself as a messenger rather than a mediator in this complex conflict. Zelenskyy's pointed criticism of PM Modi's recent visit to Russia, particularly the much-publicized hug with Putin, reflected Ukraine's disappointment and frustration with India's stance. In response, PM Modi sought to strike a balance by expressing sorrow over the loss of innocent lives in a missile strike on a children's hospital in Kyiv—a gesture that undoubtedly displeased Moscow. As PM Modi prepares for his meeting with Zelenskyy, Russia will be watching closely. Yet, the issue of Indian nationals enlisted in the Russian military remains unresolved. Despite assurances from Putin during Modi's last visit, 69 out of 91 Indian nationals recruited by the Russian army are still awaiting discharge. This unresolved matter should be a top priority during the PM's discussions, but India must approach it with caution, ensuring that its actions do not strain its crucial relationship with Russia. In this diplomatic tightrope walk, India's challenge is clear: it must advocate for its citizens' safety while navigating the complexities of global alliances and maintaining its strategic interests.

GUEST VIEW |

Siddaramaiah's fate hangs in the balance amid scandal

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah faces a major political crisis after the state governor granted permission to prosecute him in the Mysore Urban Development Authority (MUDA) land scam. Accused of manipulating documents to benefit his wife with prime plots in Mysuru, Siddaramaiah has refused to step down, alleging political motives behind the governor's decision. The scandal has put the Congress party on the defensive, both at the state and national levels, and has emboldened the BJP-JD(S) opposition to increase their protests. With the Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar also embroiled in corruption cases, the Congress government's moral standing is severely compromised. The scandal could impact the party's efforts for a nationwide revival, particularly after its significant win in Karnataka. The governor's decision, while legally supported, raises questions about selective prosecution, as similar actions against BJP leaders remain pending. The outcome of this case is a crucial test for the Congress and its leadership, particularly Rahul Gandhi, as they navigate these troubled political waters.



Yash Pal Ralhan

Despite the existence of progressive laws like the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace Act (2013), their weak implementation undermines justice for victims. A study by the National Commission for Women reveals that many workplaces lack the internal complaints committees crucial for enforcing the Sexual Harassment Act. This gap highlights the systemic issues in monitoring, accountability, and institutional support, leading to the failure to protect women adequately.

Corruption within institutions further impedes justice, allowing influential perpetrators to escape legal consequences through bribery or political connections. This is compounded by the lack of adequate training and sensitization on gender issues among law enforcement officials and judicial personnel, resulting in victim-blaming and mishandling of cases related to violence against women.

Patriarchal norms, which prioritize male dominance and control, significantly contribute to the persistence

of violence against women. These norms often justify or minimize abusive behavior, leaving women economically dependent on male family members and forcing them to endure violence.

Leaving an abusive situation may result in financial instability, further trapping women in harmful environments.

Victims of sexual violence, in particular, face severe social stigma and exclusion, which discourages them from reporting crimes or seeking justice.

Media representations often sensationalize cases, sometimes downplaying the severity of the issue or reinforcing negative stereotypes about victims.

The cultural stigma attached to reporting sexual violence leads to underreporting, creating a significant gap between the estimated incidences of sexual violence and reported cases. This underreporting hinders the enforcement of laws designed to protect women, leaving many victims without recourse.

Institutional resource con-

straints, including inadequate funding and staffing, limit the ability of law enforcement agencies to enforce laws effectively and respond to cases of violence against women. Many police stations, especially in rural areas, lack dedicated women officers or special cells to handle such cases, leading to improper handling and investigation.

Additionally, political influence and corruption result in selective enforcement of laws, where cases involving powerful individuals are either suppressed or poorly investigated.

Legal awareness among women, particularly in rural areas, is also low, limiting their ability to seek justice and resulting in the underutilization of protective laws. Many women are unaware of their rights under laws like the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act (2005), leading to low rates of reporting and seeking legal recourse.

To address these challenges, enhancing the capacity of law enforcement agencies through training, sensitization, and resource allocation is crucial.

Regular gender sensitivity training programs for police officers, organized by the Bureau of Police Research and Development, can improve case handling.

Economic empowerment initiatives, such as providing vocational training and employment opportunities, can reduce women's dependence on abusive relationships and enable them to claim their rights.

Government and civil society organizations must work together to increase legal literacy among women, especially in rural areas, so they are aware of their rights and available legal avenues.

Community engagement programs that challenge patriarchal norms and promote gender equality are essential to bringing about cultural change that discourages violence against women.

By strengthening law enforcement, empowering women economically, and promoting cultural shifts, India can create a safe environment for women, ensuring their rights and dignity are fully protected.



Priyanka Saurabh

Research Scholar in Political Science, Poetess, Independent Journalist and Columnist

Humanity dawned amid death and destruction

In the midst of Wayanad's devastating landslides, acts of profound humanity emerged, highlighting the unbreakable bond of love that transcends all boundaries and divisions. *By Sujit De*



The disastrous devastation caused by landslides in Wayanad.

Darkness gets a relief when the sun softly touches it at dawn. Our pessimism and doubt in the goodness of human beings similarly get a relief when we read reports of people rushing into danger zones, risking their lives to save others without any thought for their own safety. This is exactly what happened in Wayanad, where individuals selflessly stepped up to save their fellow humans, showing that love and humanity transcend all boundaries.

They did not select victims by their clothes, caste, or religion. It was a celebration of the bond of love and the truth that all of us have originated from one mother, Mitochondrial Eve. Therefore, we are all brothers and sisters, irrespective of our religion, race, caste, or class.

Now, let us move to the stage of this real drama. Multiple downpour-triggered landslides caused death and devastation, almost completely wiping out Mundakkai and Chooramala villages in the picturesque Wayanad district of Kerala on July 30.

Gushing waters, tumbling boulders, and demonic landslides swept away sturdy buildings, a school, many houses, the living quarters of plantation workers, roads, and the electricity infrastructure, besides uprooting

trees. The natural disaster caused widespread devastation, leaving behind a trail of destruction that the residents of these villages will never forget. Sharath, a 22-year-old young man, saw that the roof of his home had been blown away after landslides hit Chooramala. Immediately, he took his parents to a safer place. But he did not stop there. He went out looking for other stranded people. He rescued 18 before he went missing, proving his heroism in the most trying of circumstances.

Prajeesh, a young man in his thirties, ventured up the hill with his jeep the moment the first landslides

hit Mundakkai, 3 km uphill from Chooramala in the small hours of the night. He ignored his friends' warnings about making a trip up and down a treacherous hill amid landslides.

He made the second trip after rescuing many lives in his first mission. After his successful second trip, rescuing several lives, he was last seen in his jeep, setting off for his third attempt. Prajeesh managed to return twice from the dark and furious Mundakkai in his jeep full of people. On being entreated not to make another trip, he said, "Lots of people are stranded atop the hill. Don't stop me. I'll go anyway." Those were his last

words, spoken with unwavering determination and bravery. His loss is a poignant reminder of the risks taken by those who choose to put others before themselves.

On August 1, amid the despair, four forest officials from Kalpetta and Mundakkai had trekked uphill for about 7 km looking for survivors and rescued a family of six. Their efforts highlighted the relentless spirit of those who refused to give up, even in the face of overwhelming odds.

Now comes on the stage a young mother. Bhavana, a mother of a four-month-old and a four-year-old, heard that many babies had lost

their mothers in the Wayanad landslides. She immediately left for Wayanad on August 1 along with her husband and Youth Congress worker Sajin Parekkara to give the children who lost their mothers her breast milk. She said, "I am a mother of two children. I can imagine the situation when children are left without mothers. That's what drove me to this decision." Her decision inspired another woman to offer similar help, a gesture that speaks volumes about the power of empathy and maternal love. Such acts of kindness underscore the unbreakable bonds of humanity that exist, even in the darkest times.

Those two young men, four forest officials, and two young mothers have reiterated the scientific discovery that says all living human beings are relatives and have originated from one woman.

You and I, irrespective of our religion, race, class, caste, country, color, or gender, carry the same genome of that mother. This is a scientific truth, not man-made divisions. Even our differences in blood groups have nothing to do with our class, caste, or religion. It is time to embrace and celebrate this truth in the same way these six extraordinary human beings celebrated it in Wayanad.

YOUR LETTERS

BJP's political hypocrisy exposed

By demanding the resignation of Mamata Banerjee, BJP has surely cracked the joke of the millennium. Why aren't the "conscientious" BJP leaders demanding resignation of the Chief ministers of "Double-engine" governed Bihar and Uttarakhand despite rape and murder of the 14-year old minor Dalit girl and the 33-year-old nurse in Muzaffarpur and Bilaspur respectively. It proves that vulgar exploitation of an unfathomable tragedy in West Bengal remains the only goal of BJP so as to take political "revenge" of sorts.

Kajal Chatterjee, Kolkata

Boosting India's research excellence

India must strengthen the link between educational institutions and research to catch up with global scientific advancements. A multidisciplinary approach, blending old and new ideas, enriches research. While brain drain has decreased, the lack of original inventions remains concerning. The Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF), established in 2024, aims to foster research, but transparency in its operations is crucial. A thriving research environment demands curiosity, innovation, and a strong network of partnerships within higher education institutions.

Dr Ganapathi Bhat, Akola

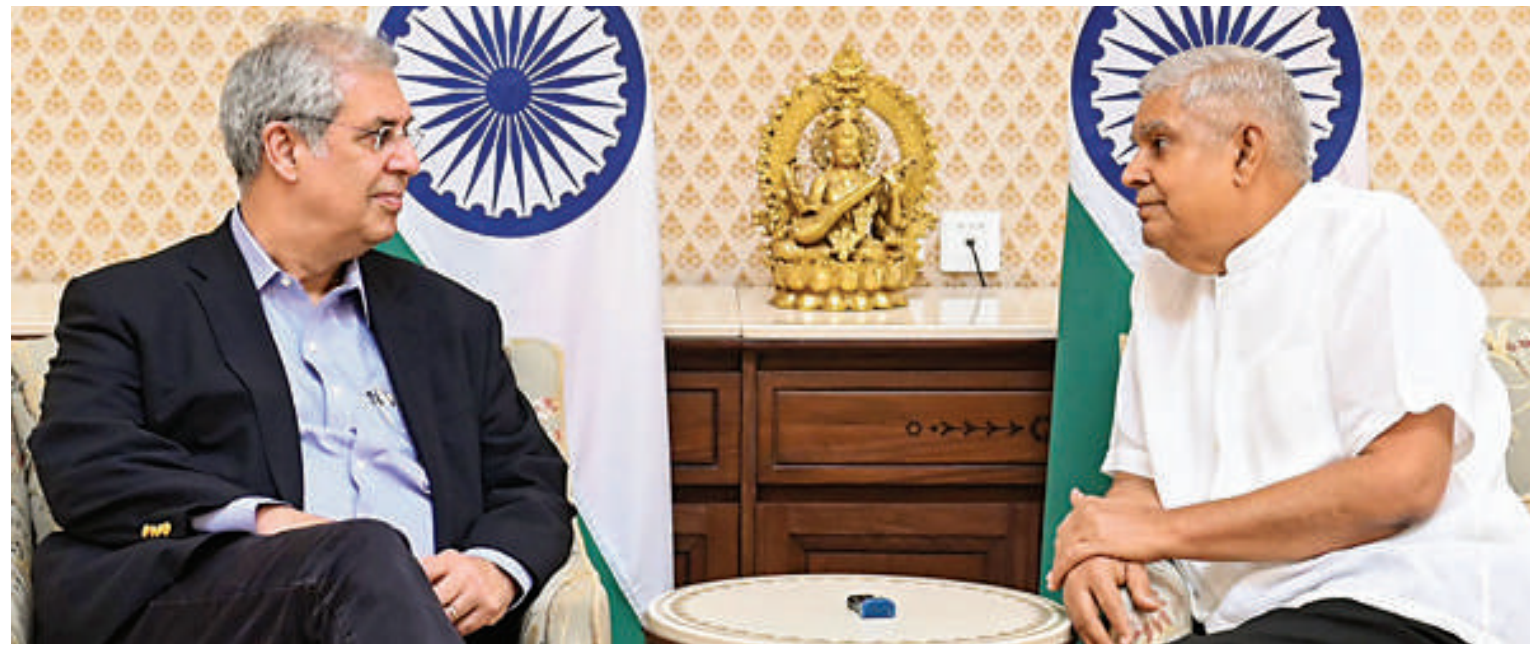
Send your articles (600-650 words) and letters (70-80 words) for this page on: editorcentralchronicle@gmail.com
The letters can be edited or rewritten for clarity.



India a priority market; seeing digital demand across new sectors

Prativa Mohapatra
Adobe India VP and MD.

Jagdeep Dhankhar, Noel Tata meet in New Delhi



Noel Tata, Chairman, CII Africa Committee, Chairman, Tata International, Trent Limited called on VP Jagdeep Dhankhar at Vice-President's Enclave, in New Delhi.

BizBriefs

BEST OF THE REST

INTERIM DIVIDEND

Hindustan Zinc to pay Rs 8,028 cr as 2nd interim dividend at Rs 19/share

NEW DELHI: Vedanta group firm Hindustan Zinc Ltd on Tuesday said its board has approved the second interim dividend of Rs 19 per share for the current financial year amounting to Rs 8,028.11 crore. The board gave the go-ahead in a meeting held on Tuesday. "The board has considered and approved the second interim dividend of Rs 19 per equity share i.e. 950 per cent on face value of Rs 2 per equity share for financial year 2024-25 amounting to Rs 8,028.11 crore," Hindustan Zinc Ltd (HZL) said in a filing to BSE. PTI had earlier reported that HZL is planning a special dividend payout of Rs 8,000 crore to its shareholders in FY25. For FY24, HZL paid a total dividend of Rs 5,493 crore, with the government receiving Rs 1,622 crore for its 29.5 per cent stake in the company. In FY23, the company set a record by paying out a dividend of around Rs 32,000 crore, with the government receiving a substantial Rs 9,500 crore.

INDICATORS

Share MARKETS

Market	Close	%chg
Sensex	80,802.86	+0.47
Nifty	24,698.85	+0.51
Nifty, MidCap	58,247.85	+0.84
Nifty SmallCap	18,839.95	+0.47
Nifty Bank	50,803.15	+0.86

Closing rates as on August 21, 2024 at 5:30p.m. (IST)

Forex RATES

Foreign currency Vs Rupee		
US Dollar	83.73 (-)	
Euro	93.03 (+)	
Chinese Yuan	11.73 (-)	
UAE Dirham	22.80 (-)	
Pakistan Rupee	0.30 (+)	
Sri Lanka Rupee	0.27 (-)	

On August 21, 2024

World INDICES

Stock	Value	% chg
Dow Jones (US)	40,867.94	-0.07%
FTSE 100 Index	8,277.38	-0.95%
Nikkei 225 (JPN)	438,062.92	+1.80%
CSI 300 (CHN)300:	3,332.70	-0.72%

Index at 05:30 p.m. (IST, August 21, 2024)

How the markets behave today?

Sensex, Nifty rebounds 370 points; bank, finance stocks spurt



MUMBAI: Stock market benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty soared on Tuesday, propelled by robust buying in banking, financial and auto stocks amid a largely firm trend in global equities. The 30-share BSE Sensex rebounded 378.18 points or 0.47 per cent to settle at 80,802.86. During the day, the benchmark soared 518.28 points or 0.64 per cent to 80,942.96.

Rising for the fourth consecutive day, the NSE Nifty surged 126.20 points or 0.51 per cent to 24,698.85. Among the 30 Sensex firms, Bajaj Finserv, IndusInd Bank, Tech Mahindra, Bajaj Finance, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Axis Bank, NTPC, and Sun Pharma were the major gainers.

On the other hand, Bharti Airtel, ITC, Adani Ports, JSW Steel and Tata Motors were among the laggards. In Asian markets, Seoul and Tokyo settled higher, while Shanghai and Hong Kong ended lower. European markets were trading with gains. The US markets ended in positive territory on Monday. "Much of the strength and rally at Dalal Street is in the backdrop of steady SIP flows by retail investors."

Major Losers: Bharti Airtel, ITC, Adani Ports, JSW Steel and Tata Motors.

Murmu stresses upon more focus on critical minerals

Murmu said the Critical Minerals Mission can provide essential raw material for green transition. She said, India is committed to net-zero emission.

Speaking during National Geoscience Awards function, Murmu said the Critical Minerals Mission can provide essential raw material for green transition. For sustainable development, she said, India is committed to net-zero emission.

Murmu also said that for making India a developed nation by 2047, there is a need for self reliance on mineral prod-

NUMBER

14
● 14 critical mineral blocks have been put on sale.

● Govt plans to provide financial incentives for development of critical minerals.

duction and mineral exploration. Union Coal and Mines Minister G Kis-

han Reddy said the government is focusing on making India self reliant in critical and strategic minerals. He further said that 14 critical mineral blocks have been put on sale. The government, he said, is giving priority to offshore blocks exploitation. The Centre, Reddy said, is committed to sustainable development. "We will work with commitment in order to make India a global

leader in the mining sector," he stressed. The government plans to provide financial incentives for development of critical minerals, including lithium. There will also be an emphasis on securing loans from multilateral financial institutions for the development of the sector. The government will focus on global R&D collaboration across the critical minerals value chain.

‘Building materials business to log significant growth’

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING |

Press Trust Of India

Cement and decorative paints poised to be a key segment on the back of housing and infrastructure boom in India.

MUMBAI: New Delhi: Aditya Birla Group Chairman Kumar Mangalam Birla on Tuesday said the conglomerate's building materials business is expected to see significant growth over the next several years with cement and decorative paints poised to be a key segment on the back of housing and infrastructure boom in India. Moreover, the outlook of the Indian economy remains "positive" supported by strengthening of macro-economic fundamentals, a robust financial and corporate sector, and a resilient external sector.



Aditya Birla Group Chairman Kumar Mangalam Birla.

FACTFILE

● UltraTech is rapidly scaling its capacity through acquisitions and brownfield expansions

The government's continued thrust on capex while pursuing fiscal consolidation, and consumer and business optimism augur well for investment and consumption demand, he

and value creation.

"Remarkably, 40 per cent of this amount—nearly Rs 20,000 crore was spent in FY 2023-24 alone, marking the largest-ever capital expenditure in our history," he added. According to Birla, its cement and decorative paints are poised to be a key segment of this expansion, with "robust demand" projected across the nation.

"With our cement business, UltraTech, our decorative paints business, Birla Opus, and our B2B e-commerce platform for building materials, Birla Pivot, we are well-equipped to lead the charge in meeting the rising needs of India's construction," said Birla. Cement maker UltraTech is rapidly scaling its capacity through acquisitions and brownfield expansions.

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PATANJALI'S RESEARCH PUBLISHED IN HELIYON |

Black Carrots more nutritious than Red, Orange varieties

Press Trust Of India

HARIDWAR: In a significant breakthrough, Patanjali's research has revealed that black carrots are more nutritious than their red and orange counterparts. The study, which has been published in the prestigious American journal Heliyon by Cell Press, highlights that black carrots contain a higher amount

of anthocyanin, a powerful antioxidant known for its numerous health benefits. Carrots are a staple in many households, enjoyed in various forms such as halwa, juice, or as part of savory dishes, especially during winter. With several varieties available in the market, including black, orange, and red carrots, consumers often wonder which type offers



the most health benefits. This new research provides clarity, establishing black carrots as the supe-

rior choice due to their rich anthocyanin content. On the occasion of the publication, Acharya Balkrishna, a prominent figure in the field of traditional Indian medicine, remarked that the research is a testament to the profound knowledge embedded in ancient Indian texts.

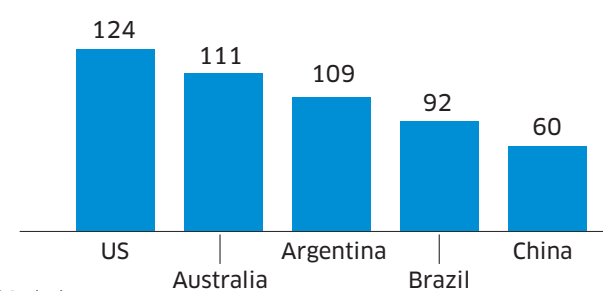
He emphasized that the findings not only high-

light the nutritional and health benefits of black carrots but also underscore the importance of further research into the therapeutic properties of plants described in traditional Indian medicine. This study is expected to influence dietary habits, encouraging more people to incorporate black carrots into their diet for enhanced health benefits.

The Day's NUMBERS

(kg per Capita)

GLOBAL MEAT CONSUMPTION BY COUNTRY IN 2022



Q1 RESULTS

Airtel Payments Bank crosses Rs 600 crore of quarterly revenue

MUMBAI: Airtel Payments Bank, India's leading digital bank, today announced its consolidated results for the first quarter ended on 30 June 2024. In a significant milestone, for the first time, the Bank's quarterly revenue grew to Rs610 crore, up by 52% YoY. The Bank's net profits stood at Rs 7.2 crore, up by 4% YoY.

During the quarter, the Bank's Monthly Transacting Users (MTU) exceeded 88 million giving a boost to customer deposits, which grew by 53% YoY to Rs 2,943 crore. The Bank's annualised gross merchandise value (GMV) stands at over Rs 3,400 bn. The growth in revenue and MTUs has been driven primarily by an uptake in the Bank's digital savings bank account along with other digital offerings. The Bank's eco-friendly NCMC enabled cards are witnessing a strong demand and usage. Anubrata Biswas, MD and CEO of Airtel Payments Bank, said, "We are pleased to report a significant milestone this quarter, with our revenues surpassing Rs 600 crore for the first time."

MOUS SIGNED

EF Polymer represents India at Global Youth Summit 2024 in Vietnam

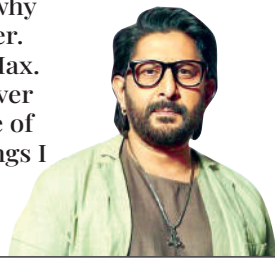
MUMBAI: EF Polymer proudly represented India at the Global Youth Summit 2024, held in Cantho City, Vietnam. The event brought together innovators, entrepreneurs, and change-makers from around the world to discuss and showcase solutions for pressing global challenges. EF Polymer was honored with an Appreciation Award for its significant contributions to agriculture development and environmental conservation. This recognition underscores EF Polymer's commitment to creating sustainable and innovative solutions that address critical issues in farming and water management.

"We are incredibly proud to receive this recognition at the Global Youth Summit. It is a testament to our team's dedication to driving positive change in agriculture and environmental conservation."



"Prabhas, I am really sad, why was he... he was like a joker. Why? I want to see a Mad Max. I want to see Mel Gibson over there. What have you made of it? Why do they do such things I never understand."

Arshad Warsi
Actor



& Glitters

OTT Watch



Berlin
investigates 1990s Delhi surveillance

"Berlin," a spy thriller starring Aparshakti Khurana and Ishwak Singh, will premiere exclusively on ZEE5. Set in 1990s Delhi and directed by Atul Sabharwal, the film also features Rahul Bose and Kabir Bedi.



The end is near: You finale wraps

Penn Badgley has wrapped filming the fifth and final season of "You," using a TikTok trend to celebrate. The series, based on Caroline Kepnes' books, follows his obsessive character, Joe Goldberg.



Low impact trailer for Follow Kar Lo Yaar

Prime Video's Follow Kar Lo Yaar falters with only 26,000 trailer views despite 23.7 million subscribers. Uorfi Javed's frustration was evident at a Mumbai event, demanding press watch the trailer first.



Wake up Dead Man: Filming complete

Rian Johnson has wrapped filming Wake Up Dead Man: A Knives Out Mystery, the highly anticipated third chapter in his hit franchise.

With Daniel Craig returning and a stellar cast, the film hits Netflix in 2025.



That 90s show season 3 premieres

Season 3 of That '90s Show brings Leia Forman (Callie Haverda) back to Point Place in 1996. Red and Kitty (Kurtwood Smith, Debra Jo Rupp) find their home in chaos as Leia deals with new challenges. Streaming on Netflix.

CLOSE UP

Relentless dedication: Amitabh Bachchan on the drive behind his work ethic

Bollywood megastar, Amitabh Bachchan has spoken about the dedication to his work after fans pressed him with questions as to why he keeps working even at such an advanced age.

Central Chronicle News

Many people have often asked Amitabh Bachchan about why he keeps working more and more even at this age. Addressing to this, the veteran actor has come forward and finally spoken about it.

At 81, Amitabh Bachchan's relentless dedication to his career continues to captivate and inspire. Despite his extensive and celebrated filmography, Bachchan remains actively involved in the industry, prompting both colleagues and fans to question his motivations. In a recent blog post, Bachchan addressed these inquiries with honesty, revealing that his commitment to work is driven by viewing each new role as another job opportunity rather than a response to external expectations. Currently hosting the 16th season of "Kaun Banega Crorepati," Bachchan acknowledged that while others may speculate about his reasons for continuing to work, his motivations are deeply personal and somewhat enigmatic. He described them as being "enclosed, shuttered, and locked," emphasizing his right to keep his reasons private.



Amitabh Bachchan has hosted Kaun Banega Crorepati for years now.



Performing at an optimal level

His recent success in "Kalki 2898 AD" and his upcoming role in the Rajinikanth-starrer "Vettaiyan" further demonstrate his unwavering dedication to his craft. For Bachchan, work is more than just a

job; it's a profound and ongoing journey, driven by a deep passion for cinema and a desire to remain actively engaged in his art. His enduring commitment is a testament to the joy and satisfaction found in pursuing one's true calling.

| HOLLYWOOD |

Beyond the Glitter: Lady Gaga's heartbreaking confession

Central Chronicle News

Lady Gaga, the avant-garde pop icon, once candidly discussed the dark side of fame in a revealing interview with CBS Sunday Morning's Lee Cowan. While promoting her album Chromatica, Gaga opened up about how the pressures of being a star took a significant toll on her mental health. She described her struggles with fame, noting that it made everyday activities like grocery shopping or dining with family nearly impossible without unwanted attention. "You can't go to the grocery store now... it's always about you," she



said, highlighting the relentless scrutiny she faced. Gaga, who has been open about her battles with depression and PTSD, admitted that her biggest enemy was her-

self. The lyric "pop a 911" from her song refers to the medication she used to manage panic attacks. She recounted feeling like an object rather than a person, particularly when

Lady Gaga on dealing with suicidal thoughts: "I used to self-harm"

HIGHLIGHT

In a revealing throwback interview, Lady Gaga shared how fame took a toll on her mental health, admitting she once hated being a star. Reflecting on her struggles, she now finds solace in her music and piano.

confronted by fans or paparazzi. "It's like I'm an object, I'm not a person," she explained, reflecting on how such incidents left her feeling frightened and physically pained.

CineBriefs

BEST OF THE REST

Bollywood

Vicky Kaushal unleashes Chhaava this December

Actor Vicky Kaushal has announced that his period drama Chhaava will release in theatres on December 6, 2024. The film, directed by Laxman Utekar and produced by Dinesh Vijan of Maddock Films, features Kaushal as Maratha emperor Chhatrapati Sambhaji Maharaj. The star-studded cast includes Rashmika Mandanna as Maharani Yesubai and Akshaye Khanna as Mughal emperor Aurangzeb. The teaser, revealed alongside Stree 2 screenings, shows Kaushal in fierce battle scenes. The film's music is composed by A.R. Rahman and the screenplay is written by Rishi Virmani. The production team shared the teaser on social media, promising an epic tale of bravery.

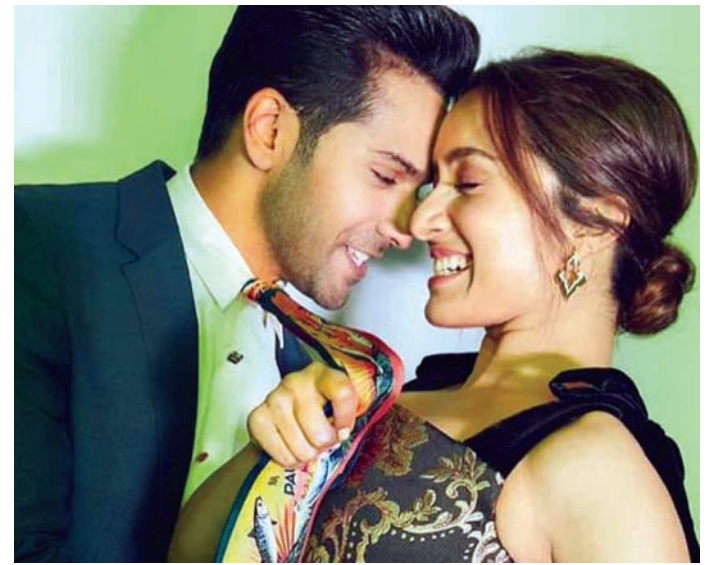
Web Series

First glimpse of Ananya Panday in Call Me Bae

After launching Ananya Panday in films with Student of the Year 2, Karan Johar is now introducing her to OTT with the web series Call Me Bae. The recent satirical trailer features Ananya in a rocket as Karan plans her OTT debut. In the humorous clip, Karan explains his elaborate launch plan, quipping, "We live once, die once, but we can be launched several times." When Karan describes Ananya's role, envisioning her as a wealthy girl facing hardship, she playfully suggests a less glamorous character. The trailer reveals glimpses of Ananya navigating Mumbai life. Created by Ishita Moitra and directed by Colin D'Cunha, the show also stars Vir Das and Gurfateh Pirzada.

The Bollywood hot pair

From childhood crush to co-stars: Shraddha and Varun



Shraddha Kapoor is making waves with her latest hit, Stree 2, directed by Amar Kaushik, which has become a box office success. The film features a cameo by Varun Dhawan. Kapoor recently shared a humorous childhood memory involving Dhawan. She recalled having a crush on him during a shoot, where she playfully proposed to him by saying, "You love

I." Dhawan's response, "I don't like girls," left her embarrassed as he ran away. Kapoor and Dhawan, who have previously worked together in ABCD 2 and Street Dancer 3D, are now part of Maddock Films' horror-comedy universe. Dhawan is preparing for releases like Citadel and Baby John, while Kapoor is yet to announce her next projects.

Fashion

Karisma Kapoor's green gown creates a style sensation

Karisma Kapoor, known for her timeless elegance, is captivating as a judge on India's Best Dancer. She recently wowed in a stunning green Rachel Gilbert dress featuring a dramatic sweetheart neckline and a sleek column silhouette. The off-shoulder design and gentle ruching on the sleeves add a touch of romance, while the internal cinched waistline highlights her figure.



Trending on Insta



@kareenakapoorkhan

Kareena shares Buckingham Murders poster

Kareena Kapoor Khan's The Buckingham Murders teaser drops on August 20, 2024. She unveiled a new poster on social media, fuelling excitement for the upcoming suspense thriller that promises gripping drama.

@priyankachopra

Baby bonding: Priyanka and Preity's playdate fun

Priyanka Chopra shared a heartwarming Instagram story of her daughter, Malti Marie Chopra Jonas, playing with friends in Los Angeles, including Preity Zinta's kids, Jai and Gia Zinta Goodenough.



"I think I have the clarity now that I only want to be part of films that really really excite me, and also the audience. The audience also has a certain expectation of the kind of films that I do and should be doing and the kind of characters I am playing."

Shraddha Kapoor
Actress



Bella



Menopause isn't just about hot flashes and mood swings.

MIND OVER MENOPAUSE

Strategies for hormonal balance and mental wellness

In recent years, there has been a growing body of research on how menopause affects women's mental health.



The good news is that you don't have to navigate this alone. Embracing a healthy lifestyle, including regular exercise, a balanced diet, and effective stress management, can significantly alleviate symptoms. Additionally, consulting a healthcare provider can offer tailored solutions such as hormone replacement therapy (HRT) or counselling. By addressing both the physical and mental health impacts of menopause, you can turn this challenging period into an opportunity for growth and self-discovery. Understanding and managing these changes helps you approach menopause with greater confidence and resilience.

HIGHLIGHT

● The changes to your hormones during perimenopause and menopause can impact your mental health. You may experience feelings of overwhelm, stress, anxiety or even depression.

ognitive function, so its drop can leave you more prone to irritability, sadness, and difficulty concentrating. Sleep disturbances caused by menopausal symptoms can further exacerbate these feelings, leading to fatigue and increased emotional strain. Imagine trying to handle daily tasks with a foggy mind and a roller-coaster mood.

Menopause is a major life transition for women, typically occurring between ages 45 and 55, and involves significant hormonal changes. While the physical symptoms—like hot flashes and night sweats—are widely recognized, the impact on mental health is equally important but often overlooked. As oestrogen and progesterone levels decline, they can trigger a range of emotional responses. Think of it as your body's internal climate shifting from sunny to stormy. Mood swings, anxiety, and even depression can arise, making you feel like you're on an emotional rollercoaster. Oestrogen is crucial for regulating mood and cog-

Shed those pounds naturally with mango leaves



Chewing mango leaves might sound unconventional, but this natural remedy is gaining attention for its potential weight loss benefits. Rich in antioxidants and nutrients, mango leaves contain compounds that may help regulate blood sugar levels and improve metabolism. This could aid in reducing cravings and promoting fat loss. While chewing mango leaves isn't a miracle solution, incorporating them into a balanced diet, combined with regular exercise, might support weight management. Always consult with a healthcare professional before starting any new weight loss regimen to ensure it aligns with your health goals and needs.

Myth or Truth: Sendha Namak: Your fasting flavour booster or foe?

There's a common myth that sendha namak (rock salt) isn't allowed during fasting because it's still a type of salt, but this isn't true. In fact, sendha namak is often used during fasting, particularly in Hindu traditions. Unlike regular table salt, which is heavily processed, sendha namak is more natural and contains essential

minerals that help maintain electrolyte balance. This makes it a suitable alternative during fasting periods. Its purity and minimal processing align with fasting principles, allowing it to be a beneficial choice. As always, it's wise to consult dietary guidelines or a healthcare provider to ensure it fits within your fasting practices.

| FASHION |

Elevate your style: Saree and kaftan styling ideas

Central Chronicle News

Sarees and kaftans are more than just traditional garments; they are fashion chameleons that effortlessly blend elegance with versatility. Imagine transforming your look with these timeless pieces that adapt seamlessly to any occasion. Let's start with the saree, a classic choice that never goes out of style. The traditional Nivi drape, where the saree cascades gracefully around the waist with pleats arranged at the front and the pallu elegantly draped over the shoulder, is a go-to for a sophisticated appearance. For a modern twist, consider the lehenga-style saree, where the



Here's how you can become an expert at draping and styling.

saree mimics a lehenga skirt, providing a fresh take on this classic garment. Pre-stitched sarees are also making waves, offering a chic, hassle-free option that doesn't sacrifice style. Now, let's talk about kaftans—your go-to for a relaxed yet stunning look. For a casual outing, a kaftan in a vibrant print or lightweight fabric paired with sandals is perfect for effortless chic. When you need to step up the glamour, look for kaftans adorned with intricate embroidery or embellishments. Pairing these with statement jewellery and heeled sandals can elevate your ensemble from

day to night. A belt can also transform the kaftan, cinching the waist and adding structure to the flowing fabric, making it versatile enough for any event. Both sarees and kaftans offer endless styling possibilities. Play with different drapes, fabrics, and accessories to create looks that are uniquely yours, blending tradition with a modern flair for every occasion.

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HIGHLIGHT
Discover the best ways to style adaptable sarees and kaftans, from traditional draping to modern tweaks and boho-chic flare.

DivuDazzle

BEST OF THE REST

Celebs

Slaying in Kanjeevaram: Janhvi Kapoor's latest look

Janhvi Kapoor sparked with traditional charm on Sridevi's 61st birthday during her annual Tirupati visit. Dressed in a mustard yellow Kanjeevaram saree with a golden-green border, she embodied elegance. Her saree was paired with a contrasting green blouse adorned with golden details, creating a striking look. The actress completed her ensemble with exquisite temple jewellery—a necklace, earrings, and a waist chain—that added a regal touch. With minimal makeup featuring subtle eyeshadow, nude lips, and a gentle highlighter, Janhvi's beauty shone through effortlessly. Her hair was styled in a classic bun, enhancing her graceful appearance.

Achiever

Deepti Sharma: The heroine of London Spirit's triumph

In a thrilling finish at Lord's, Deepti Sharma led London Spirit to their first-ever women's Hundred title with a dramatic four-wicket win over Welsh Fire. Chasing 116, Spirit needed four runs from the final three balls. Sharma delivered a game-changing six over long-on, despite a valiant effort by Welsh Fire's Shabnim Ismail, whose catch attempt failed. Ismail had earlier shone with 3-24, nearly swinging the match for Fire with key dismissals. Spirit's bowlers, including Sarah Glenn and Charlie Dean, set up the win by restricting Fire to 115-8. The game's tension peaked until Sharma's decisive shot sealed the victory, celebrating Spirit's historic triumph.

The Inspirors

Neena Gupta: The queen of boldness wins big



As the 70th National Film Awards were announced on August 16, Neena Gupta's remarkable journey serves as a powerful inspiration. Known for her candid approach, Gupta once took to social media to openly seek work, a move that highlighted her resilience and passion for acting. Her bold request not only demonstrated

her determination but also challenged conventional norms in the industry. Today, as she is celebrated for her incredible performances, Gupta's story stands as a testament to perseverance and self-belief. Her success reminds us that courage and authenticity can pave the way to remarkable achievements.

Wellness

Don't get bitten! Stay safe from West Nile virus

As West Nile virus cases rise, staying vigilant is crucial for protecting your health. This virus, spread primarily by mosquitoes, can cause a range of symptoms from mild fever and body aches to severe conditions like encephalitis. Early symptoms include fever, headaches, and rash, while severe cases can lead to more serious neurological issues. To guard against infection, use insect repellent with DEET, wear long sleeves and pants, and avoid outdoor activities during peak mosquito hours, usually dawn and dusk. Ensure your home is mosquito-proof with screens on windows and doors and eliminate standing water around your property, as it serves as a breeding ground for mosquitoes.



Divas on Insta

@mkoirala

Manisha Koirala

Actress Manisha Koirala, recently celebrating her birthday, revealed her passion for travel. On Instagram, she shared a Reel of her departure from Mumbai's Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport, reflecting her love for exploring diverse cultures.



@khushi05k

Khushi Kapoor

Actress Khushi Kapoor, who debuted with 'The Archies', is enjoying her weekend with her pets. On Instagram, she shared pictures of her dogs exploring her home, simply captioned, "My home."



World



Bangladesh's interim govt to set up foundation for victims of violence in student-led protests.

Professor Muhammad Yunus
Chief Adviser to Bangladesh's interim government

Military exercise between the U.S. and South Korea



South Korea's police special operations unit perform to arrest a mock terrorist during an anti-terror drill as a part of the Ulchi Freedom Shield military exercise between the U.S. and South Korea.

Israel recovers bodies of six hostages from Gaza

The military said its forces recovered the bodies in an overnight operation in southern Gaza.

Press Trust Of India

JERUSALEM: The Israeli military said Tuesday that it recovered the bodies of six hostages taken in Hamas' October 7 attack that started the war in Gaza, as US and Arab mediators tried to advance an agreement to halt the fighting and release scores of other militant-held captives.

The military said its forces recovered the bodies in an overnight operation in southern Gaza, without saying when or how the six died. A forum for hostage families said they were kidnapped alive. Hamas says some

captives have been killed and wounded in Israeli airstrikes. An Israeli airstrike on Tuesday killed at least 10 people at a school-turned-shelter in Gaza City, in what the military said was a precise strike on a Hamas command center. Another strike killed a mother and her five children in central Gaza.

The recovery of the remains is a blow to Hamas, which hopes to exchange hostages for Palestinian prisoners, an Israeli withdrawal and a lasting cease-fire. But it was also likely to increase pressure on Israel's government to reach a deal to free dozens of hostages

HIGHLIGHT

● An Israeli airstrike on Tuesday killed at least 10 people at a school-turned-shelter in Gaza City.

● Hamas says some captives have been killed and wounded in Israeli airstrikes.

who are still believed to be alive.

The military said it had identified the remains of Chaim Perry, 80; Yoram Metzger, 80; Avraham Munder, 79; Alexander Dancyg, 76; Nadav Poplewell, 51; and Yagev

Buchshtav, 35. Metzger, Munder, Poplewell and Buchshtav had family members who were also abducted but freed during a November cease-fire.

Munder's death was confirmed on Tuesday by Kibbutz Nir Oz, the farming community where he was among around 80 residents who were taken captive. It said he died "after enduring months of physical and mental torture." Israeli authorities had previously determined that the other five were deceased.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu praised the recovery effort and said "our hearts ache for

the terrible loss." "The State of Israel will continue to make every effort to return all of our hostages — both alive and dead," he said in a statement.

Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Gallant also praised the operation, which he said had been carried out inside Hamas' vast tunnel network. There were no immediate reports of any casualties among Israelis or Palestinians in the recovery operation.

Hamas is still believed to be holding around 110 hostages captured in the October 7 attack. Israeli authorities estimate around a third of them are dead.

Indonesia and Australia finalise new defence treaty

MELBOURNE: Indonesia and Australia on Tuesday finalised a new bilateral defence treaty that will enhance the neighbouring nations' ability to operate their militaries in each other's territory. The agreement was reached as Indonesian president-elect Prabowo Subianto, who also serves as defense minister, met with Australian officials at the country's Parliament earlier Tuesday. The bilateral relationship is becoming increasingly important to Australians in face of growing tensions with China. New Australian prime ministers typically make Jakarta one of their first overseas destinations. The pact will be signed within days, when Australian Defence Minister Richard Marles visits Jakarta.

UK ROCKET EXPLOSION

Rocket engine explodes during test launch at spaceport

Press Trust Of India

A rocket engine exploded during a test launch at a new spaceport in the Shetland Islands off northern Scotland, the rocket manufacturer said Tuesday.

LONDON: German manufacturer Rocket Factory Augsburg, or RFA, said no one was injured in the incident at SaxaVord Spaceport on the remote island of Unst on Monday evening.

Video of Monday's test launch showed the engine exploding on the launchpad, with the entire structure engulfing in flames and thick smoke.

The spaceport recently received its licenses from the Civil Aviation Authority and is designed for small rockets delivering payloads



The explosion happened during a nine-engine test.

FAST FACTS

● The spaceport recently received its licenses from the Civil Aviation Authority and is designed for small rockets delivering payloads into low earth orbit.

into low earth orbit. It is billed as western Europe's only fully-licensed vertical

rocket launch port. RFA was running tests there ahead of holding the UK's first vertical rocket launch into orbit this autumn.

"The launch pad has been saved and is secured, the situation is under control and any immediate danger has been mitigated," the company said in a statement. It is working with the spaceport and authorities to investigate what led to

the explosion, RFA added. Britain has ambitions to become Europe's leading destination for commercial spaceflight activities. In 2022 a separate site in Cornwall, southwest England, became the first licensed UK spaceport, though rockets there are launched horizontally — they are carried by an aircraft to high altitudes before a rocket engine takes over.

Panama deports 29 Colombians

PANAMA: Panama deported 29 Colombians on Tuesday on a flight that the government said was the first paid for by the United States under an agreement the two countries signed in July. The Colombians had entered Panama illegally through the Darien jungle.

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Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

SPAIN OLDEST PERSON

Spanish woman believed to be the oldest person in the world has died at age 117

MADRID: Maria Branyas, an American-born Spaniard considered the world's oldest person at 117 years old, has died, her family said on Tuesday. In a post on Branyas' X account, her family wrote in Catalan: "Maria Branyas has left us. She has gone the way she wanted: in her sleep, at peace, and without pain." The Gerontology Research Group, which validates details of people thought to be 110 or older, listed Branyas as the oldest known person in the world after the death of French nun Lucile Randon last year. The next oldest person listed by the Gerontology Research Group is now Japan's Tomiko Itooka, who is 116 years old. Branyas was born in San Francisco on March 4, 1907. After living for some years in New Orleans, where her father founded a magazine, her family returned to Spain when she was young. Branyas said that she had memories of crossing the Atlantic Ocean during World War I. Her X account is called "Super Catalan Grandma" and bears the description: "I am old, very old, but not an idiot."

SKOREA TROPICAL STORM

South Korea braces for strong winds and rain as tropical storm Jongdari



SEOUL: Tropical storm Jongdari moved toward South Korea's coast on Tuesday, prompting officials to shut roads and parks as the country braced for strong winds and rain. As of 6:30 pm, Jongdari was 100 kilometres (62 miles) west of the southern island of Jeju and headed north at 33 kph (20 mph) while packing 65 kph (40 mph) winds. It was forecast to weaken around midnight, hours before making landfall near the western city of Seosan. The storm isn't expected to bring destructive winds as it passes through the densely populated Seoul metropolitan area on Wednesday.

TAIWAN MILITARY DRILLS

Taiwan conducts live-fire missile drills as China ramps up military threats



JIUPENG (TAIWAN): Taiwan's military launched surface-to-air missiles in live-fire drills conducted Tuesday in response to growing military pressure from China. The exercises took place at the Jiupeng Military Base in a remote area in southern Taiwan. Among the missiles launched were Taiwan's domestically made Sky Bow III anti-ballistic missiles along with the US-made Patriot PAC II and surface-to-air Standard missiles. China claims the democratically ruled island of Taiwan as its own territory, to be brought under its

control by force if necessary and ramped up its military threat in recent years. Beijing in particular dislikes Taiwan's new President Lai Ching-te, who took office earlier this year and whom Beijing has called a separatist.

Taipei has boasted its deterrence capabilities in response. Missiles, both domestically built and US-made, are key to its defence strategy. Defence Ministry spokesperson Sun Li-fang said all the missiles launched Tuesday hit their targets. "This shows our training is very strict and solid," he said.

BANGLA BANK ACCOUNTS

Ex-Bangladesh PM Khaleda Zia's bank accounts to be unfrozen after 17 years

DHAKA: Tax authorities in Bangladesh have decided to unfreeze the bank accounts of Bangladesh Nationalist Party Chairperson Khaleda Zia, 17 years after they were blocked. The National Board of Revenue (NBR) on Monday instructed banks to unfreeze the accounts of BNP Chairperson Zia, the Daily Star newspaper reported. In August 2007, the NBR's Central Intelligence Cell directed banks to freeze the accounts of the BNP Chairperson, who has been elected Bangladesh's prime minister twice since 1990. The decision was based on a recommendation of a panel formed during the then Army-backed caretaker government, said a senior official of the NBR. Since then, her accounts have remained blocked. The BNP has on several occasions demanded that they be unfrozen. Later, she was allowed to withdraw a certain amount of money every month from Rupali Bank's Shaheed Moinal Road branch of Dhaka Cantonment for running regular expenses.

US BIDEN HARRIS

Biden passes the baton to Harris, says she will be a 'historic president'

CHICAGO: Kamala Harris will be a "historic president", US President Joe Biden has said, as he passed baton of Democratic Party to her and made a strong pitch to American voters to vote for her to preserve democracy. He received an emotional standing ovation when he came on stage at Democratic National Convention in Chicago. Harris, is scheduled to formally accept Democratic Party's presidential nomination on Thursday.

UK KING CHARLES COIN

King Charles III coins with British bees go into circulation

Press Trust Of India

LONDON: The first one pound coins featuring King Charles III with a design incorporating British bees have gone into circulation in the UK from Tuesday, with a total of 2.975 million coins making their way into tills via Post Offices and banks around the country.

According to the Royal Mint, the tribute to Brit-



ish bees is one of eight new designs that will appear on the country's coins — in one pence to two pound denominations. They feature ani-

"King Charles III's one-pound coin is now in circulation".
Rebecca Morgan
Director of Commemorative Coin at the Royal Mint

mals such as the Hazel Dormouse, Puffin and

the Atlantic Salmon as all species which are in active conservation programmes, reflecting the 75-year-old monarch's environmental concerns.

"The Royal Mint has made the circulating coinage of each of Britain's monarchs since Alfred the Great and it is an honour to reveal that King Charles III's one-pound coin is now in circulation," said Rebecca

Morgan, Director of Commemorative Coin at the Royal Mint.

"We know there'll be a buzz of excitement amongst collectors and the public to get this special piece of history in their change. We hope the designs across all denominations spark important conversations about the conservation of these important species," she said.

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