

Central Chronicle

‘CAMPA fund to be used for restoring green cover only’

SC bench observed it has been brought to its notice that several states have not utilised the CAMPA fund to the full capacity.

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Wednesday said the very concept of the Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA) fund was for restoring green cover which was lost on account of deforestation and not for other purposes.

A bench headed by Justice B R Gavai observed it has been brought to its notice that several states have not utilised the CAMPA fund, which was created for compensatory afforestation and allied activities, to the full capacity.

“The very concept of CAMPA fund is for utilisation and restoration of green cover which was lost on account of deforestation for carrying out various development activities,” said the bench, also comprising

Justices P K Mishra and K V Viswanathan.

“The CAMPA fund is not supposed to be utilised for other purposes,” the bench observed.

The apex court on August 7 informed that in most of the states and Union Territories, the utilisation of CAMPA fund has been less than 50 per cent for the period ranging from 2018 to 2024.

The top court had then directed the chief secretaries/administrators of all the states and

HIGHLIGHT

● The bench said the committee shall collate all the information received and submit its report before the court.

UTs to file affidavits on several points, including the amount spent on afforestation and allied activities and the reasons



why the balance CAMPA fund was not utilised.

During the hearing on Wednesday, senior advocate K Parameshwar, who is assisting the top court as an amicus curiae in the matter, told the bench that pursuant to the August 7 order, several states have filed their affidavits.

The bench noted the amicus has stated that

The CAMPA fund is not supposed to be utilised for other purposes.

Supreme Court bench

perusal of the affidavits would reveal that in most of the states, the CAMPA funds were not utilised

to the full capacity. The apex court was also informed that there is a chief executive officer of CAMPA in every state.

The bench said it would be appropriate that the Central Empowered Committee (CEC) circulate a questionnaire to these officers asking them to submit information, including on the utilisation of CAMPA fund.

While posting the matter for hearing in December, the bench said the committee shall collate all the information received and submit its report before the court.

While hearing the matter on August 7, the apex court had said, “We find no justification in the state governments/ Union Territories not using the said fund for the purpose of afforestation and allied activities”.

‘JPC probe needed in Adani and SEBI chairperson nexus’

Press Trust Of India

Baghel demanded the SC should take suo motu cognisance of the “Adani and SEBI chairman Madhavi Buch nexus”



NAGPUR: Former Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel on Wednesday demanded a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) probe into the “nexus” between Adani and the SEBI chairperson. Addressing a press conference in Nagpur, Baghel said the opposition would exert pressure on the government for a JPC investigation into the collusion between the SEBI chairman, the Modi government, and Adani.

“This nexus is affecting the entire economy and one person is amassing all benefits of the economy which warrants a JPC probe,” he said. Baghel demanded the Supreme Court, which has seized of the Kolkata rape-murder incident and other sensitive issues, should take suo motu cognisance of the “Adani and SEBI chairman Madhavi Buch nexus”,

claiming the emergence of “fresh facts and serious allegations” not mentioned in the Hindenburg report. “For the first time, a non-IAS officer was made the SEBI chairman whose links with a company linked to Adani have come to the fore.

“Should such a person be allowed to helm SEBI? A case is already going on in the SEBI chairman issue and new facts have emerged,” he claimed.

Baghel accused the Modi government of misusing Central agencies to indirectly help Adani acquire many businesses.

US short-seller Hindenburg Research recently alleged it suspects SEBI’s unwillingness to act against Adani group may be because Madhavi Puri Buch had stakes in offshore funds linked to the conglomerate - an allega-

NEWSLINE

Korba

Lightning strike kills 20 cattle in Korba

Twenty cattle were killed after being struck by lightning in Chhattisgarh’s Korba district, an official said on Wednesday.

The incident took place at Kerakachhar village on Tuesday.

Two cowherds had taken the animals to the nearby forest for grazing when they were caught in a thunderstorm, said the official.

The men escaped unhurt as they were standing at some distance from the spot.

Atchutapuram (AP)

Four killed in pharma company fire accident

Four workers of a pharmaceutical company here died after a fire broke out at the unit on Wednesday.

Anakapalli District Collector Vijaya Krishnan said the accident occurred around 2 pm at Escientia pharma plant.

“We lost four employees. The incident happened not because of a reactor blast,” Krishnan said. Officials suspect it to be an electricity-related fire. Around 30 injured people were shifted to different hospitals in Anakapalli and Atchutapuram, she said.

Gurugram

Man dies inside car of ‘heat attack’ on highway

A 68-year-old man died in his car in a traffic jam on the Delhi-Jaipur highway, police said on Wednesday. Rajwender Singh, a native of Bhiwadi in Rajasthan, was alone in the car and probably died of a heart attack, they said. The incident took place Tuesday morning when Singh was on his way to Ambala for a meeting but got stuck in a jam due to construction of a flyover near Bilaspur. “It was drizzling in the morning near Bilaspur and Rajendra Singh must have suffered a heart attack in the jam.



Art & Culture

The unsung heroes of textile weaving: The Meghwal community

In the sun-drenched deserts of Rajasthan, the Meghwal community creates textiles that are far more than mere fabric they are vibrant embodiments of a rich cultural heritage.

Police lathi-charge protesters for blocking road, rail traffic

Press Trust Of India

Patna police registered three FIRs and arrested nine persons for allegedly taking law into their hands during the protests, a statement by Patna district administration said.

PATNA: The Bihar Police on Wednesday lathi-charged and used water cannons to disperse protesters who put up rail and road blockades in support of the Bharat Bandh over community-based reservation. Protesters disrupted train services at Darbhanga and Buxar railway stations and blocked traffic in Patna, Hajipur, Darbhanga, Jehanabad, Purnea, Katihar, Muzaffarpur and Begusarai districts following which police baton-



Activists carry a portrait of Dr B R Ambedkar during Bharat Bandh against

FACTFILE

● Transport services largely remained unaffected. Schools, hospitals and other essential services were kept out of the bandh ambit.

charged to quell them. In Patna, police chased

away crowds who blocked traffic at Dak Bungalow Chowk and inadvertently hit the Sadar-Patna sub-divisional officer (SDO), who was leading the force. “Security personnel lathi-charged to disperse protesters who blocked traffic at Dak Bungalow Chowk and broke police barricades.

Good response for Bharat bandh in tribal-dominated areas in CG

RAIPUR: The day-long ‘Bharat Bandh’, called by certain Dalit and Adivasi groups against the Supreme Court’s verdict on sub-classification of Scheduled Castes, evoked a mixed response in Chhattisgarh, barring tribal-dominated regions. Several shops and commercial establishments remained closed in parts of Bastar and Surguja divisions, largely inhabited by tribals, and Mohla-Manpur-Amargarh Chowki and Dhamtari districts.

Won’t quit politics, open to floating new outfit: Champai Soren

Press Trust Of India

Soren said he was firm on his plans after “facing humiliation at the hands of leaders of JMM”, a party to which the veteran leader claimed that he devoted his entire life.

RANCHI: Former Jharkhand chief minister Champai Soren on Wednesday said he would not quit politics, asserting that an option to float a new political outfit was always open to him.

“It is a new chapter of my life. I won’t quit politics as I have received lots of love and support from my followers. I had mentioned three options - quitting politics, organisation or friend. I will not quit politics. The chapter (of quitting politics) has closed, I may form a new outfit,” the senior



HIGHLIGHT

● The 67-year-old tribal leader has earned the nickname ‘Jharkhand’s Tiger’ for his contribution to the fight to create a separate state in the 1990s.

Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) leader said shortly after he reached his ancestral village Jhilin-gora in Seraikela-Khar-sawan district.

“No one from JMM contacted me. This is the land of Jharkhand...I have struggled since my student life. I partici-

pated in the agitation for a separate Jharkhand state under the leadership of party supremo Shibu Soren,” Champai Soren said. The JMM leader said he might join hands with any outfit if he gets a like-minded organisation or a friend during his next journey.

“I will strengthen the party, a new party and if I meet a good friend on the way, then I will move ahead with the friend...”, he said.

Referring to his post on X on August 18, the former chief minister said, “I posted what I felt was proper. The entire country is aware of what I thought.”

Amid speculations that he might join the BJP, the veteran politician had said he experienced “bitter humiliation” as chief minister, which compelled him to seek an alternative path.

Tribal woman gangraped in Chhattisgarh’s Raigarh

Press Trust Of India

RAIGARH: A 27-year-old tribal woman was raped allegedly by six men in Raigarh district of Chhattisgarh, police said on Wednesday. The incident took place on Monday in a village under Pusaur police station area when the victim was on her way to visit a local fair after celebrating Rak-

shabandhan festival, a police official here said. The woman lodged a complaint in this connection on Tuesday, following which police registered an FIR and swung into action, he said. As per the complaint, some persons allegedly intercepted her and forcibly took her to the bank of a nearby pond and raped her there, he said.

Over 65 lakh students failed class 10, 12 exams

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Over 65 lakh students did not pass class 10 and 12 board exams across the country last year with the failure rate being higher in state boards than the central board, according to Ministry of Education (MoE) officials. An analysis of class 10 and 12 results of 59 school boards, includ-

ing 56 state boards and three national boards, revealed that more girls appeared in class 12 exam from government-managed schools but it is opposite in private schools and government-aided schools. “Around 33.5 lakh students of class 10 are not reaching next grade. While 5.5 lakh candidates did not appear, 28 lakh

failed. This is one of the cause for low retention rate and Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) at higher secondary level,” a senior MoE official said.

Similarly, around 32.4 lakh class 12 students did not complete the grade. While 5.2 lakh did not appear, 27.2 lakh failed.

In class 10, the student failure rate in central board stood at 6 per cent

NUMBER

65 lakh

● Over 65 lakh students did not pass class 10 and 12 board exams across the country with the failure rate being higher in state boards.

while that of state boards

was much higher at 16 per cent. In class 12, the failure rate at central board is 12 per cent while that of state boards is 18 per cent. The ministry officials noted that the open school performance was poor in both the classes.

The highest number of student failure in class 10 was in Madhya Pradesh board followed by Bihar and UP.

Raipur



Complete the ongoing construction and treatment work of Bhoramdev Temple soon.
Vijay Sharma
Dy. CM- Chhattisgarh



CM Vishnu Deo Sai launched e-office system, Swagatam portal and CM's Office online portal on Wednesday.

Major step toward Good Governance taken by CM

Launch of e-office system to make govt work transparent and organized.

Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: In a significant move to promote e-governance and enhance transparency in government operations, Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai launched three key initiatives today: the e-office system, Swagatam portal, and the Chief Minister's Office (CMO) online portal. These initiatives are expected to increase efficiency, reduce corruption, and improve accessibility for the citizens of Chhattisgarh.

The Chief Minister inaugurated the e-office system by digitally approving a file that instructs the Chief Secretary to imple-

ment the system across all departments. This new system is designed to make government work more transparent and organized by digitizing office documents, reducing processing time, and minimizing errors. The e-office system, initially implemented in the General Administration Department, will eventually be rolled out to all departments. This will eliminate the risk of document manipulation and loss, as well as ensure the security of digital records.

During the launch at Mahanadi Bhawan, Chief Minister Sai emphasized the state government's commitment to good

HIGHLIGHT

It will eliminate the risk of document manipulation and loss, as well as ensure the security of digital records.

governance and zero tolerance for corruption. "Today marks a historic day for Chhattisgarh," said the Chief Minister. "By launching these three online systems, we are taking a major step towards transparency and efficiency in government work. The e-office system, in particular, will prevent unnecessary delays in file processing and allow

for better monitoring of departmental work." The Swagatam portal, also launched today, aims to simplify the process for visitors seeking to meet with the Chief Minister, ministers, or officials at the ministry.

This portal will help streamline entry into the ministry, enhance security by maintaining detailed visitor records, and improve overall accessibility for the public. Additionally, the CMO online portal was unveiled to provide citizens with easy access to information about government schemes, programs, and public welfare initiatives.

Photo Exhibition drawing large crowds

RAIPUR: The photo exhibition organized by the Public Relations Department, highlighting the achievements of the state government and the lives of the brave revolutionaries from Chhattisgarh who played a significant role in the Indian freedom struggle, was widely appreciated by students, youth, and the general public. The exhibition, which began on August 15 in the Town Hall at Kachhari Chowk, concluded on August 21, drawing large crowds throughout its seven-day run. The exhibition offered an insightful look into the state's progress and honored the revolutionaries who contributed to India's independence. Through visually appealing displays, it showcased the history and key figures from Chhattisgarh's participation in the freedom movement, including events such as the Jungle Satyagraha and the Quit India Movement. The event also highlighted the various schemes of the state government, such as Mahtari Vandan Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, and Krishak Unnati Yojana. A documentary film on the state's achievements was also shown, and visitors were provided with free books on the government's public welfare schemes.

Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

NAXAL STRATEGY

Amit Shah to hold crucial meetings in Chhattisgarh on Naxal Strategy

RAIPUR: Union Home Minister Amit Shah is set to arrive in Chhattisgarh on a two-day visit aimed at strengthening the fight against Naxalism. Shah, who is spearheading the central government's efforts to eliminate the Naxal menace from the state, will land in Raipur on the evening of August 23, 2024. During his stay, Shah will preside over a series of high-level meetings involving the Chief Secretaries and Directors General of Police (DGPs) of seven Naxal-affected states. Senior officers from paramilitary forces will also attend these crucial discussions. The meetings, scheduled for August 24 and 25, will focus on reviewing ongoing anti-Naxal operations and evaluating development work in the affected regions. This visit is a key step in the BJP's larger strategy to end Naxalism in Chhattisgarh, a promise made during the 2023 Assembly and 2024 Lok Sabha election campaigns.

UNANIMOUSLY ELECTED

Amar Parwani elected National Senior Vice President of CAIT

RAIPUR: Amar Parwani has been unanimously elected as the National Senior Vice President of the Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT), marking his fourth consecutive term in the organization's National Executive. The election took place during the All India Election Meeting held in Nagpur, where representatives from various states across the country gathered to discuss business issues and elect new office bearers. In this election, CAIT officials, including the Election Officer CA Nikhlesh Thakkar, oversaw the process, which involved verifying nomination certificates before announcing the new leadership team. Alongside Parwani, Brijmohan Agarwal was elected as National Chairman, B.C. Bhartiya as National President, Praveen Khandelwal as National General Secretary, and Jitendra Gandhi as National Vice President.



Swavalambhi Bharat Abhiyan organized

Harakh Malu advocates for self-reliance among children through self-employment



RAIPUR: An entrepreneurship promotion conference under the Swavalambhi Bharat Abhiyan was organized by Swadeshi Jagran Manch, emphasizing the importance of self-reliance and entrepreneurship among the youth. The main event took place at Madhavrao Sapre Higher Secondary School, where special guest and School Committee President Harakh Malu shared valuable insights on skill development and the significance of self-employment.

Addressing the students, Mr. Malu stressed the need for the younger generation to become job providers rather than job seekers.

"We must prepare our children to be

self-reliant by encouraging them to pursue self-employment in the future," he said. "They should be the ones creating jobs, not standing in line for them."

Suman Mutha, the Provincial Women Co-Coordinator, also spoke at the event, highlighting the Swavalambhi Bharat Abhiyan's objectives.

She pointed out that in the 15th century, India accounted for 32 percent of the world's production, and today, in 2024, the country boasts 1.36 lakh startups, making it the world's 5th largest economy.

"You too should become entrepreneurs and embrace self-employment," she urged the students.

Brijmohan to engage with youth at Naya Bharat Utsav

RAIPUR: To mark the completion of 10 years of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's tenure, Raipur MP Brijmohan Agrawal will engage directly with the youth during the Naya Bharat Utsav on Thursday. The event, set to take place at NIT Raipur, aims to connect young people with the various schemes and achievements of both the Central and State Governments. In conjunction with the Utsav, an exhibition showcasing the accomplishments of the Government of India and the State Government will be held, providing attendees with a comprehensive view of the progress made over the past decade. Darsingh Devangan, the Convenor of Naya Bharat Utsav, shared that this event is an innovative effort to involve the youth with the Central Government's initiatives.

PRSU implements new PhD admission rules

Central Chronicle News

70:30 formula will be applicable for admission in PhD

RAIPUR: Pandit Ravishankar Shukla University (PRSU) has introduced significant changes to its PhD admission process. Starting this year, students seeking admission to PhD programs will need to pass both a written exam and an interview. Previously, admission was based solely on the written exam. Under the new system, 70% weightage will be given to the written exam and 30% to the interview. A merit list will be prepared based on the combined scores.

These changes align with the University Grants Commission (UGC) Regulation-2022. PRSU sent a pro-



Ravishankar University.

FACTFILE

Admissions for PhD will be done as per UGC guidelines

posal to the government for the implementation of these new rules, which has now been approved. The university is preparing for

the PhD entrance exam, and the application process is expected to begin this month. The entrance exam will carry a total of 100 marks.

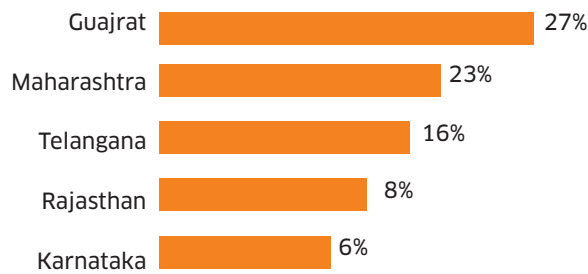
In a shift from previous practices, the National Eligibility Test (NET) will now grant eligibility for PhD admissions. Previously, NET results were catego-

rized for Junior Research Fellowship (JRF) and Assistant Professor eligibility, but this time, they will also determine PhD enrollment eligibility. Candidates whose NET scores qualify them for PhD admission will be exempt from the entrance exam, following the new UGC provisions.

The Day's NUMBERS

Gujarat contributes 27% to total cotton production in country.

TOP FIVE STATES WITH HIGHEST COTTON PRODUCING IN INDIA



Source : Adda247

MONITOR PERFORMANCE

Govt to monitor students performance through Vidya Samiksha Kendra

RAIPUR: In a major step towards improving the quality of school education in Chhattisgarh, the government has established the Vidya Samiksha Kendra in the state's capital, Raipur. This initiative aims to directly monitor the performance of children studying in schools across the state, using real-time data and advanced technology. The center is set to oversee various beneficiary-oriented schemes under the School Education Department and will facilitate better implementation and monitoring of these programs.

With the help of IIT Bhilai, the government has developed software, a mobile app, and a dedicated call center for this initiative. The Vidya Samiksha Kendra, located in Pension Bara, Raipur, will serve as the central hub for online monitoring and data analysis. The facility provides real-time updates on school performance, infrastructure availability, and the progress of individual students, helping the government to enhance its educational services effectively. The center will also streamline access to information and services for students, parents, and teachers.

ELECTION PREPARATIONS

INTUC meeting focuses on election preparations; Umesh Ragde



RAIPUR: The Chhattisgarh State Office of the Indian National Trade Union Congress (INTUC) held an important meeting on Tuesday evening to discuss strategies for the upcoming urban body and panchayat elections. The meeting emphasized the need to empower young, dynamic, and dedicated leaders within the organization, assigning them a pivotal role in the election process. Umesh Ragde, who chaired the meeting, drew a parallel between the struggle for independence from the British and the present-day fight against what he termed as the "black British," referring to forces that he believes are mismanaging the nation's resources.

LIGHTING THE PATH

Empowering girls through NMDC's Balika Shiksha Yojana

Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: In the verdant yet rugged terrains of Bastar, Chhattisgarh, a quiet revolution is unfolding—led not by the sounds of conflict but by the laughter and determination of young tribal women forging new futures. The NMDC Balika Shiksha Yojana, launched in 2011-12, has become a beacon of hope, empowering girls from marginalized communities to transform their lives from subsistence to significance.



Recognizing the acute need for healthcare professionals in Bastar, NMDC's Balika Shiksha Yojana partnered with Apollo Hospitals to equip tribal girls with essential

nursing skills through B.Sc. (Nursing) and GNM courses at the Apollo Institute of Nursing in Hyderabad. This initiative is turning young women into the much-needed female

We believe that investing in women's education is an investment in the future of entire communities.

Amitava Mukherjee
CMD (additional charge),
NMDC.

nurses of the region. The program, which began

with just 25 students, now supports 40 students annually, reflecting its growing impact and commitment to change. One such success story is Kumari Sita Rana, a graduate now employed as a nurse at the State Government Hospital in Geedam. She reflects on her journey: "To me, NMDC's Balika Shiksha Yojana wasn't just a pathway to a career or a means to become a health professional; it was a complete transformation of my life.

Raipur News

State govt announces Rs 900 cr for urban infra development

Funds to be used for infrastructure development and new construction works in municipal bodies

Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: In a significant move, the Chhattisgarh government has announced the release of Rs 900 crore for strengthening urban infrastructure in municipal bodies across the state. Deputy Chief Minister Arun Sao made the announcement during a press conference, stating that the funds will be utilized for infrastructure development and new construction works.

The government has already released Rs 450 crore for all municipal bodies, and an additional Rs 450 crore will be approved soon under the 15th Finance Commission for infrastructure development. This takes the total amount to Rs 900 crore, aimed at enhancing urban infrastructure and public facilities.

The announcement comes after the successful completion of the Jan Samasya Nivaran Shivir (Public Grievance Redressal Camp), held from July 27 to August 10. During the camp, around 1.30 lakh applications



Deputy Chief Minister Arun Sao addressing a press conference.

FASTFACTS

- Rs 450 crore already released, additional Rs 450 crore to be approved under 15th Finance Commission.

- Government committed to developing urban areas and providing better facilities to citizens.

were received, with 37% (48,000) resolved on the spot. The remaining applications are being reviewed and will be addressed soon.

Deputy CM Sao praised

Aims to complete construction works related to public needs

With the additional Rs 900 crore, the total amount for urban development will be Rs 2150 crore. The government aims to complete construction works related to public needs, which were delayed due to the monsoon season, soon after the rains subside. This significant investment in urban infrastructure is expected to boost development and improve the quality of life for citizens in Chhattisgarh's urban areas.

the Urban Administration and Development Department's efforts, saying that the government is committed to developing urban areas and providing better facilities to citizens. He highlighted

that the government has provided Rs 1250 crore to municipal bodies in the first eight months, which is being used for infrastructure development and improving public facilities.

Youth nabbed with 160 bottles of liquor

RAIPUR: In the special campaign under 'Nijat', the Raipur police have launched campaign against use of drugs and intoxication and under this all the teams of Anti-Crime and Cyber Units and Thanas are taking action. To put an effective end to use of drugs and intoxication, the Cyber units and thanas have been asked to take strict action illicit sale of liquor and round-off the drug vendors operational in different cities. Under this in an action on Aug 20, the police got a tip from an informer that a person from Gobranavpra area from Gran Chanta Road is coming to Navapara and is carrying illicit liquor.

Youth nabbed with knife

RAIPUR: A youth flashing a knife out in the open in Kharabhathi area under Azad Chowk Thana was taken into arrest and he disclosed his name as Mayank Tiwari (26), S/o Rajesh Tiwari, R/o Kharabhathi, Amapara, Raipur. The Police in Kharabhathi got an information that youth in front of Pradeep Scrap shop is flashing knife and threatening people. The police gheraoed the accused and nabbed him and seized a button operated knife from his possession.

Food Department cracks down on illegal gas cylinders



Central Chronicle News

HIGHLIGHT

- Seizes 55 units and 17,800 liters of flammable oil.

RAIPUR: A team from the Food Department, acting on the instructions of Collector Dr. Gaurav Singh, conducted raids on various hotels and eateries in the city. The raids were carried out to check for violations of safety standards and rules, including the use of domestic gas cylinders in commercial establishments.

During the raids, the team seized 55 illegal cylinders and over 17,800 liters of flammable oil. Food Controller Bhupendra Mishra said that deficiencies were found in the storage and safety standards of the cylinders. Collector Dr. Singh has directed Food Department officials to conduct regular inspections of all food establishments and ensure strict adherence to safety standards. Commercial establishments have been warned to comply with the rules, failing which strict action will be taken.

The raid was carried out by a team includ-

ing Assistant Food Officer Pavitra Ahirwar, Food Inspectors Vivek Mishra, Veena Kiran Sahu, Shradha Chauhan, Shailendra Ekka, and Devesh Devas.

The establishments raided included Hotel Highway Inn, CG 04 Dhaba, and Ashoka Biryani in Telibandha, from which 16, 21, and 18 gas cylinders were seized, respectively. Additionally, 138 gas cylinders and 17,800 liters of flammable oil were seized from Atul Rubber Processing Private Limited in Siltara.

The seized cylinders and oil were found to be in violation of the Liquefied Petroleum (Supply and Distribution) Order 2000, and the establishments failed to produce necessary documents. A total of 55 gas cylinders and 17,800 liters of flammable oil were seized from the establishments.

NEWSLINE

CRIME

Main shooter in Raipur firing case arrested from Punjab



RAIPUR: Raipur Police have made a significant breakthrough in the firing case that took place in the Telibandha area of the city. The main shooter, Saurabh Punjabi, has been arrested from Punjab's Bhatinda district. The accused, aged 21, was brought to Raipur by the Crime Branch team for further questioning.

This arrest is the latest in a series of arrests made by the police in connection with the case. So far, 10 accused have been arrested from Punjab and Jharkhand. The police are hopeful that the interrogation of Saurabh Punjabi will lead to more revelations and arrests.

The firing incident had taken place on July 13 outside the office of PRA Group, a construction company, in Telibandha. Two bike-borne shooters had opened fire, but no one was injured.

The police had recovered the bike used by the shooters and had launched a special investigation team to track down the accused.

Kashyap slams Cong for neglecting cooperative sector

Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: Minister Kedar Kashyap attended a meeting of the Cooperative Department at the BJP district office, where he criticized the previous Congress government for neglecting the cooperative sector. He stated that the Congress aimed to dismantle the cooperative movement, while the BJP wants to see the cooperative department thrive. Suggestions have been sought from members for the implementation of schemes, which will be implemented in the cooperative sector.

Minister Kedar Kashyap announced that the BJP will launch a membership drive across the country from September 1, which will be inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. A state-level meeting was held under the leadership of the state presi-



dent, and meetings will be held at the district, mandal, and booth levels to boost the membership drive.

Minister Kashyap clarified that no membership targets have been set, but the goal is to connect as many people as possible with the organization.

In response to a question about Congress' protests, Minister Kashyap took a jibe at the party, saying that Congress will face worse days ahead. He accused Congress of trying to vitiate the atmosphere in Chhattisgarh and the country, and stated that the public will not forgive them.

Twenty cattle die on lightning strike

KORBA: Due to lighting strike in Gram Panchayat Kerrakachar of Korba district, about 20 kms from Korba, the animal caretakers lost 20 cattle and in this more than 12 cattle owners faced the loss of their domestic cattle. Two of the shepherds nearby narrowly escape the lightning strike. The police on reaching the site conducted inspection and informed it to the Animal Husbandry department for post-mortem. The farmers in this village mainly practice farming and agriculture as their main source of livelihood and rear cattle and other domestic animals. To avoid grazing of crops in the fields, the villagers have made arrangements of two shepherds who used to take the cattle for grazing in the fields in nearby forest area. The shepherds like everyday took the cattle for grazing in the forest and were sitting at nearby place watching them.

'Expedite all works before Bhoramdev Mahotsav'

| BHORAMDEV TEMPLE |

Central Chronicle News

Deputy Chief Minister Sharma chairs meeting to enhance Bhoramdev Temple Infrastructure.

RAIPUR: Deputy Chief Minister Vijay Sharma convened a meeting with officials from the Archaeological Department and esteemed citizens to discuss the maintenance and development of the historic Bhoramdev Temple. The meeting aimed to augment facilities for devotees and revamp the temple complex.

Sharma emphasized the need to expedite ongoing construction work and treatment before the upcoming Bhoramdev Mahotsav. He instructed officials to create a video documentation of the temple's his-



Dy CM Sharma convened a meeting with officials from the Archaeological Department.

FASTFACTS

- All works to be carried out with Archaeological Department's permission.

- Govt committed to preserving cultural heritage and enhancing devotee facilities.

tory, conduct a 3D design and LiDAR survey, and address the issue of water

seepage during monsoon season.

Proposals for enhancing devotee facilities included constructing a shed, relocating the chowkidar quarter, and building a VIP room. The meeting also discussed preserving the traditional appearance of adjacent temples, such as Bhairav Temple, Chamunda Mata Temple, and Hanuman Temple.

To beautify the temple's outer area, offi-

cials proposed road widening, parking facilities, e-rickshaw operation, lake beautification, and painting Shiv Kathas on the boundary wall under the PRASAD scheme of the Tourism Department. Additional proposals included constructing a paved road to Chhedki Mahal-Madwa Mahal, installing solar lights and CCTV cameras, improving the drainage system, and replacing flooring with sandstone.

| DEEKSHARAMBH |

MATS University launches Deeksharambh-2024

Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: MATS University has commenced its Deeksharambh-2024 program, a seven-day initiative aimed at familiarizing newly admitted students with higher education. The program, aligned with the Ministry of Education's guidelines and the National Education Policy 2020, seeks to bridge the gap between school and higher education.



held at MATS College, Gullu Arang, featured a welcoming ceremony, worship of Goddess Saraswati, and addresses by esteemed university

officials. Principal Dr. Aj Khan highlighted MATS College's commitment to empowering students from rural areas, while

“Students should work hard in studies to bring glory to their families and the university through education”.

Gajraj Pagariya
Chancellor, MATS University
Registrar Gokulananda Panda emphasized the differences between

higher and school education. Vice Chancellor Professor Dr. KP Yadav and Director General Priyesh Pagariya encouraged students to work hard and focus on innovation.

Chancellor Gajraj Pagariya inspired students with his message, emphasizing the importance of hard work and competitive exam preparation. The program concluded with the national anthem, attended by university officials, teachers, and staff.

V-C IGKV inspects counselling procedure

Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: Vice Chancellor Indira Gandhi Krishi Vishwavidyalaya (IGKV) Dr Girish Chandel took stock of online counselling procedure under the New Education Policy (NEP) 2020 for BSc. (Agri) (Honors) in 39 government and private colleges under IGKV for academic session 2024-25. During the inspection Dean Agriculture College and Chairman of Counselling Samiti Dr

GK Das informed the V-C IGKV that allotment of seats to so far 1963 candidates has been given. He informed that 490 students have got their documents checked and 87 candidates have deposited their fees online. He informed that the examination of documents for other seats is in process. The candidates who have been allotted seats have to be present in the Agriculture College, Raipur on Aug 23 between 9:00 am to 5:30 pm.

OBITUARY

Pt. Ashok Trivedi



RAIPUR: Pt. Ashok Trivedi, R/o Nayapra, Raipur, breathed his last here on Wednesday. The final rites were held at Marwari crematorium. He was former secretary of Kanyakubh Brahmin Samaj and a senior advocate.

Bhilai



Administrative officials must discharge their duties with honesty and dedication
Ramen Deka

(Governor, Chhattisgarh)

Plant trees for protection of environment, says Guv

Governor holds discussion with the administrative officials in Durg.



Governor addressing the officials at PWD Auditorium in Durg.

Central Chronicle News

FASTFACTS

BHILAI: Governor of Chhattisgarh Ramen Deka called upon everyone to plant trees for environmental conservation, emphasizing on community participation for water and environmental conservation. Governor shared his views on the topic during a meeting of administrative officers held in the meeting hall of the Public Works Department on Wednesday. The Governor inquired about the implementation of

● **Governor urges all to plant trees for environment conservation**

● **Questions officials about implementation of government schemes**

various central schemes. Apart from various schemes, he inquired about the works being done in the interests of the society. Governor said that the successful implementation of the

Collector counts achievements

Collector Richa Prakash Chaudhary informed the Governor about the achievements of Red Cross Society, water conservation, awareness, tree plantation, environmental protection, organic farming, cleanliness and lifestyle, yoga for better life, TB eradication, sex ratio and girl child education, child labour education, integrated library, national and cultural heritage, rehabilitation of beggars, SHG livelihood, de-addiction campaign, cooperative promotion, tribal development, awareness and enforcement of traffic rules, etc.

government schemes must be ensured. With better implementation schemes, the common people will be benefitted.

He asked the officers to discharge their responsibilities with a sense of duty, honesty and dedication.

Governor plants Kachnar sapling

BHILAI: Governor Ramen Deka planted Kachnar sapling under the 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' campaign at Krishna Kunj in Titurdih on Wednesday during his stay in Durg. MLA Gajendra Yadav also planted a Jamun sapling. Divisional Commissioner Satyanarayan Rathore, IG Ramgopal Garg, Collector Richa Prakash Chaudhary, DFO Chandrashekar Pardeshi, Additional Collector Arvind Ekka, Superintendent of Police Jitendra Kumar Shukla, SDM Durg Mukesh Raote and other officials were present.

Water Utility Committee meeting on Aug 23

BHILAI: A meeting of the Water Utility Committee has been organised at Collectorate Auditorium on August 23. The meeting is scheduled to begin at 12:00 hrs. Collector Richa Prakash Chaudhary will chair the meeting. In the meeting, Kharif irrigation and other topics will be discussed as per the availability of water in the reservoirs of the district in the year 2024-25.

Governor Ramen Deka witnesses steel making process



Central Chronicle News

BHILAI: Governor of Chhattisgarh Ramen Deka visited SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant on Wednesday. Anirban Dasgupta, Director I/c (SAIL-BSP), and Senior Officers of the Plant welcomed Hon'ble Governor upon his arrival on his maiden visit to Bhilai Steel Plant.

Hon'ble Governor was accorded Guard of Honour by CISF Jawans at the Safety Excellence Centre, following which he was briefed about necessary safety instructions for visiting Plant. During his Plant visit, the Governor took keen interest in operations at Modex Units, including Blast Furnace 8, Steel Melting Shop-3, and Universal Rail Mill. Governor witnessed the production of hot metal at BF-8, production of crude steel

at SMS-3, rolling of the world's longest 130-metre rail at URM. He left for Raipur from Bhilai Niwas. Vijay Baghel, Mem-

HIGHLIGHT

● **During his maiden visit to Bhilai Steel Plant**

ber of Parliament (Durg) accompanied the Hon'ble Governor during his visit to SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant. During his Plant visit, Governor Ramen Deka was accompanied by Anirban Dasgupta, Director I/c (SAIL-BSP), Anjani Kumar, ED (Works), Pawan Kumar, ED (HR), and other senior officials of the Plant.

It is noteworthy that Ramen Deka, who hails from Assam, assumed office as the Governor of Chhattisgarh on July 31, 2024.

NEWSLINE

AGNIVEER RECRUITMENT

Free physical efficiency training begins



BHILAI: Free physical efficiency training began on Wednesday for the candidates who have passed the written examination conducted in the month of April 2024 for Agniveer recruitment in the Indian Army. Deputy Director (Employment) Rajkumar Kurre informed that 43 candidates attended the training in Durg Block, 13 in Patan and 08 in Dhamdha on the first day. NIS coach Vinod Nair, PTI Balakdas Dahare conducted the training at Ravishankar Stadium Durg; Lalit Sahu, Bhavani Shankar in Patan and Dushyant Mahobia, Shivkumar Rajak in Dhamdha.

RAMLALA DARSHAN

Special train for Ayodhya departs today

BHILAI: Under the Shri Ramlala Darshan Yojana, 850 devotees of Durg Division and Bastar Division will depart for Ayodhya Dham by special train from Durg Railway Station around 12:00 noon on August 22. Deputy Director (Social Welfare) Amit Singh Parihar informed that after Ramlala Darshan, the pilgrims will return to Durg by August 25. 07 devotees from Durg Municipal Corporation limits, 07 from Bhilai, 07 from Bhilai-Charoda, 07 from Risali, 03 from Jamul, 03 from Kumhari, 03 from Ahiwara, 02 from Amalshwar, 02 from Dhamdha, 02 from Patan, 02 from Utai, 45 from Janpad Panchayat Durg, 45 from Patan and 45 devotees from Dhamdha will travel in this train.

MISHAP

Youth killed in accident

BHILAI: A youth was killed and two others were injured in a road accident at Risali on Wednesday morning. The deceased was Prashant Kumar Mahla (21) a resident of Azad Chowk, Ruabandha Basti, Bhilai. Prashant and his two friends had gone to Hanoda to celebrate Rakshabandhan. On Wednesday morning, they were returning back on a scooter. Near the RMC office, their scooter collided with the road divider.

MASSIVE BLAZE

Medical factory gutted in fire

BHILAI: A factory was gutted in a massive fire at village Akola of Kumhari Police Station limits. Face masks, syringes, gloves and other items used in the healthcare sector were produced here. The Fire Brigade received information about the mishap around 16:00 hrs on Wednesday after which fire tenders rushed to the mishap site.

SC/ST Joint Sangharsh Morcha takes out impressive rally



Central Chronicle News

Bharat Bandh evokes mixed response in twin city

BHILAI: On Wednesday, Bharat Bandh evoked a mixed response in the twin-city with uninterrupted transport, medical, banking and other public services. Except for a few shops, almost all the markets remained open. However, the SC/ST Joint Sangharsh Morcha took out an impressive rally in support of Bharat Bandh against the Central Government's decision to keep the creamy layer out of reservation. Group of

demonstrators visited some markets and urged the shopkeepers to keep their establishments closed. On the other hand, the Chamber of Commerce had refused to support the call for bandh. Heavy police force was deployed across the twin city to avert any untoward incident. Overall the bandh was peaceful in the city. The joint front of various organisations took out a rally on Wednesday. The demonstrators gathered at Satnam Bhawan in Sector 6. The rally began from Satnam Bhawan Sector 6 and moved across Supela Chowk, Nehru Nagar Chowk, Malviya Chowk and Patel Chowk to reach District Collectorate.

BMC team inspects veg market

BHILAI: BMC has placed a trolley for garbage collection in Akashganga vegetable market after removing the garbage collection centre. On Wednesday, Zone Commissioner Yesha Lehare conducted an inspection. The vegetable wholesalers were found throwing garbage on the road. Garbage was thrown in the open instead of the trolley. Vendors had put their shops in the middle of the road.

Highway Patrolling saves bikers

BHILAI: The Highway Patrolling team of Durg Traffic Police averted an untoward incident on Tuesday. Two youths had parked their bike on the flyover and were sleeping on the roadside. Constable Jitendra and Narendra Yadav spotted them while patrolling on the highway.

Review meeting organised on important issues

Central Chronicle News

Issues related to redressal of demands and complaints of the citizens discussed

BHILAI: On the instructions of BMC Commissioner, Additional Commissioner Ashok Dwivedi called a review meeting of officers at the main office auditorium.

In the meeting, issues related to redressal of demands and complaints of the citizens were discussed prominently so as to resolve resolved them. Ashok Dwivedi directed all the officers to redress the application received in Collector Jandarshan, Collector Jan Shikayat, Collector Janchaupal, Chief Minister Jandarshan, Sarathi App.



Review meeting at the BMC auditorium.

FASTFACTS

● **Those obtained in Collector Jandarshan, Collector Jan Shikayat, Collector Janchaupal, Chief Minister Jandarshan, Sarathi App**

complaints have been received before August 05, they have been asked

to be resolved immediately. For the convenience of the citizens, a public resolution camp was organised for water, electricity, cleanliness and ration card etc. Similarly, under GVP check the red spot, yellow spot and strengthen the system and resolve the same. Among other issues

reviewed included action against those selling goods on the roadside during festive season and their removal. The team should also conduct continuous surveys in the BMC limits to keep a tab on seasonal diseases like jaundice, diarrhea, dengue and take necessary decisions.

EDUCATION |

DPS Bhilai celebrates 40th Foundation Day with Fiesta

Central Chronicle News

BHILAI: DPS Bhilai celebrated its Fortieth Foundation Day with a Fiesta of Colourful Programme on August 20. The Chief Guest of the function was Anirban Dasgupta, Director I/c, Bhilai Steel Plant. The other guests who graced the occasion were Pawan Kumar, Chairman, SES, ED Bipin Kumar Giri, Prabir Kumar Sarkar, Pro-Vice Chairman, SMC, DPS Bhilai, Dr Abhishek Pallav, SP Kabirdham Distt, DN



One of the cultural presentations.

Karan, Member, SMC, DPS Bhilai, Saptarsi Sengupta, Member, SMC, DPS Bhilai, Chandra Kant Kaushik,

ADM, Balod Distt. The glittering function began with a captivating welcome dance "San-

tuti 'Har-Har Shambhoo'. The Principal, Parshant Vashishta welcomed the guests and presented a brief account of students' wonderful performance. The school's Annual magazine 'DIPSVIEW' 2023-24 was released by the Chief Guest. The Pro-Vice Chairman Prabir Kumar Sarkar outlined the role by DPS Bhilai in imparting quality education and shaping the all-round personality of the students through academics, extra-curricular activities and sports.

gamika", followed by lamp lighting ceremony amidst the chanting of Shiva-S-

N-E-W-S



"Today the world is in the era of the fourth industrial revolution. India is also ready to face the challenges of this revolution and take advantage of opportunities arising from it."

Droupadi Murmu
President of India

SP leads Bharat Bandh protest against Govt policies



Samajwadi Party leaders and workers stage a protest in support of Bharat Bandh against the SC August 1 decision. PTI

Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

RESULT ANNOUNCEMENT

EC pauses Haryana recruitment results until polls conclude

NEW DELHI: To ensure a level-playing field in the Haryana assembly polls, the Election Commission on Wednesday barred authorities in the state not to announce the results of ongoing recruitment processes of police constables and teachers till the election is over.

The assembly elections in Haryana will be held in a single phase on October 1 and results will be declared on October 4.

The Election Commission's (EC) model code instructions do not bar the continuing regular recruitment process or promotion through the UPSC, the state public service commission or any other statutory authority. But state that "recruitments through non-statutory bodies will require prior clearance of the commission". **PTI**

SHAKTI BILL

Clear Shakti bill to ensure strict penalties: Deshmukh



MUMBAI: Former Maharashtra home minister Anil Deshmukh on Wednesday demanded the clearance and implementation of the Shakti bill with provisions for the death penalty for atrocities against children and women, referring to the Badlapur school incident. Both the House of Maharashtra legislature had passed the Shakti Criminal Laws Bill, 2020, three years ago when the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) was in power. **PTI**

SC takes time to consider LMV driving license petitions

The SC of India has decided to reserve its verdict on the matter regarding whether a person holding a Light Motor Vehicle license is eligible to drive public transportation vehicles.

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Wednesday reserved its verdict on a legal question that whether a person holding a driving license for a light motor vehicle (LMV) is also entitled to drive a transport vehicle with an unladen weight not exceeding 7,500 kg. The legal question has given rise to various disputes over payment of claims by insurance companies in accident cases involving transport vehicles being driven by those possessing licenses to drive LMVs.

The insurance firms have been alleging that the motor accident claim tribunals (MACTs) and courts have been passing orders asking them to pay insurance claims, disregarding their objections with regard to the LMV driving license.

The courts have been adopting a pro-insured approach while deciding insurance claim disputes, the insurance firms have said. A five-judge Constitution bench headed by Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud heard Attorney General R Venkataramani, who appeared in the court on behalf of the

HIGHLIGHT

• Several insurance firms have been raising allegations regarding payment of disputed claims regarding motor accident claim tribunals.

Centre, and others before reserving the verdict.

Meanwhile, the attorney general apprised the bench, also comprising Justices Hrishikesh Roy, P S Narasimha, Pankaj Mishra and Manoj Misra, that the consultations to amend the Motor Vehicles (MV) Act, 1988 are "almost complete".

He, however, said the

proposed amendments are yet to be tabled in Parliament and added that this can be done only in the winter session of Parliament now.

The bench, which had earlier deferred the hearing after taking note of the Centre's submissions that the Bill amending the MV Act will be put before Parliament, decided to proceed with the case.

The question was referred to the larger bench on March 8, 2022 by a three-judge bench headed by Justice U U Lalit (since retired).

The question arose from the apex court's

2017 verdict in the case of Mukund Dewangan versus Oriental Insurance Company Limited.

In the Mukund Dewangan case, a three-judge bench of the court had held that transport vehicles, the gross weight of which does not exceed 7,500 kg, are not excluded from the definition of an LMV. The judgment was accepted by the Centre and the rules were amended to align those with the verdict.

On July 18 last year, the Constitution bench commenced hearing a total of 76 petitions to deal with the legal question.

Bharat Bandh Response in Jharkhand

Mixed public sentiment towards Bharat Bandh in Jharkhand



RANCHI: The Bharat Bandh called by some groups over community-based reservation evoked a mixed reaction in Jharkhand on Wednesday, as vehicular movement was briefly disrupted, several public buses stayed off the roads and schools remained closed.

Chief Minister Hemant Soren has cancelled his visit to Palamu on Wednesday due to the strike, an official said. Twenty-one organisations across the country have called for the Bharat Bandh against the Supreme Court's August 1 decision on the issue of SC-ST reservation. The organisations have opposed the verdict, con-

tending that it will harm the basic principles of reservation.

The state's ruling alliance - Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM), Congress and the Rashtriya Janata Dal - have extended support to the bandh. The Left parties, too, have backed the strike. The workers of the ruling alliance were seen taking to the streets in support of the bandh in many parts of the state. Vehicular movement was affected as protesters burnt tyres and put up blockades at various places in Ranchi. The bandh supporters were also seen asking shopkeepers to down shutters in the state capital. **PTI**

Policeman accidentally hits SDO during lathi-charge

PATNA: A sub-divisional officer (SDO) was accidentally hit by police personnel while managing law and order during Bharat Bandh protests over community-based reservation here on Wednesday.

Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Rajeev Mishra told PTI that while police were lathicharging to disperse protesters blocking traffic at Dak Bungalow Chowk, an officer inadvertently hit the Sadar-Patna SDO, who was leading the force.

Mishra described the incident as a human error, and said the police officer did not recognize the official.

The Patna District Administration later confirmed that the incident was an honest mistake and said no disciplinary action will be taken against the police officer.

AMIT SHAH'S CHHATTISGARH VISIT

Amit Shah to oversee anti-naxal operations in Ch'garh

Press Trust Of India

Union Home Minister Amit Shah will be paying a visit to Chhattisgarh on 23rd August and will review and oversee the anti-naxal operations that have been carried out so far in the state.

RAIPUR: Union Home Minister Amit Shah will be on a three-day visit to Chhattisgarh from August 23 during which he will chair a series of meetings on anti-Naxal operations, officials said on Wednesday.

Shah will arrive in Raipur late in the evening on August 23 and return to Delhi on the evening



Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan speaking in Rajya Sabha. | File photo

FACTFILE

• Home Minister Shah will be arriving at Raipur on 23rd evening and will return to Delhi on 25th August.

of August 25, an official of the Press Information Bureau here said.

The Union minister

meeting on security and development in Left Wing Extremism (LWE)-affected areas of the state.

Next day, Shah will inaugurate an office of the Narcotics Control Bureau in Raipur at 10:30 am and chair a review meeting there, the official said. Thereafter, the Union minister who also handles the cooperation portfolio will chair a meeting on the expansion of the cooperative sector in Chhattisgarh.

Anti-Naxalite operations have intensified in Chhattisgarh since the BJP came to power in the last year's assembly elections. As many as 142 Naxalites have been killed by security forces in separate encounters in the state so far this year.

will visit the ashram of Mahaprabhu Vallabhacharya in Champaran town of Raipur district on the morning of August 24. Later, he will chair a meeting of Chief Secretaries and Director Generals of Police (DGPs) of Chhattisgarh and neighboring states on interstate coordination here.

He will then chair a

SEXUAL ABUSE CASE IN BADLAPUR

Sexual abuse case protest escalates, 72 detained

Press Trust Of India

Maharashtra's Badlapur is currently in the grip of severe protests as people are enraged over the sexual abuse of two minor girls.

THANE: Internet services at Badlapur in Maharashtra's Thane district were suspended on Wednesday

day a day after a massive protest over alleged sexual abuse of two kindergarten girls, and 72 persons have been arrested in connection with the violence during the stir, officials said.

At least 17 city police personnel and around eight railway cops were injured in the incidents of stone-pelting at the railway station and other

"At least 17 city police personnel, including two officers, were injured as an angry mob attacked them with stones during the protest in Badlapur."

Senior Police Officer



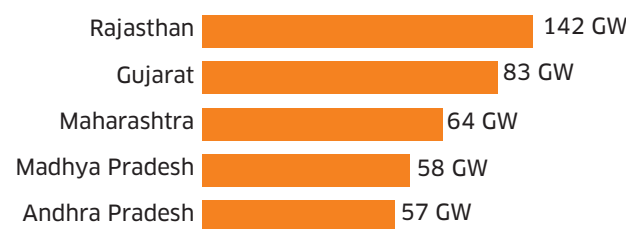
parts of Badlapur during the protest on Tuesday, they said. Police have been deployed in large numbers across Badla-

pur to maintain law and order, and the situation in the town is back to normal. Entire Badlapur town virtually came to a standstill on Tuesday after thousands of protesters blocked railway tracks at the station and stormed the school building, where sexual abuse of two girls by the school sweeper took place last week.

The Day's NUMBERS

Ministry of New and Renewable Energy

TOP 5 STATES BY SOLAR ENERGY POTENTIAL (2023)



Source: Agencies

WOMEN LAWYERS PROTEST

Lawyers group condemns recent attacks on women

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court Women Lawyers Association (SCWLA) on Wednesday condemned recent "horrendous, violent and brutal" crimes against women and young girls, and sought immediate and comprehensive reforms to protect them.

In a statement, the association, led by its president and senior advocate Mahalakshmi Pavani, sought a complete and effective ban on online pornography and obscenity on OTT platforms, along with the installation of CCTV cameras across workplaces and institutions. "The SCWLA is deeply shocked, traumatised, agonised and pained by the recent spurt of crimes against women, girls and infants, who come from various walks of life, caste, class and age, which were reported in Kolkata, Bihar, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra and other parts of India at the hands of brutal, insensitive, perverted perpetrators," the statement said. **PTI**

AAP'S WOMEN WING PROTEST

AAP women protest at Rajghat demanding justice for murdered doctor



NEW DELHI: The women's wing of the Aam Aadmi Party held a protest outside Rajghat, the memorial to Mahatma Gandhi, on Wednesday demanding justice for the trainee woman doctor who was allegedly raped and murdered at a hospital in Kolkata. Holding placards and raising slogans, the protesters demanded stringent punishment for the perpetrators of the crime. "Whatever happened in Kolkata was extremely saddening. We have gathered here to demand justice for the victim. We want the accused involved in the heinous crime to be hanged," a protester told PTI Videos. **PTI**

Cooperative is an important cell and suggestions from members of the cell would be taken into consideration.

Kedar Kashyap

Minister for Forest & Climate Change, Chhattisgarh.



Chhattisgarh



Collector Janmejay Mahobe held a time limit meeting in the meeting room of the district office on Tuesday.

'Ensure security in industrial areas'

Collector directed the concerned SDO Revenue and Police to maintain law and security in the private and cooperative industrial areas

Central Chronicle News

KAWARDHA: Collector Janmejay Mahobe held a time limit meeting in the meeting room of the district office on Tuesday. The Collector directed the concerned Sub-Divisional Officer Revenue and Police to maintain law and security in the private and cooperative industrial areas of Kabirdham. The Collector authorized the Revenue and Police Sub-Divisional Officers and directed them to keep a constant

vigil on these areas and submit a report from time to time after observing the law and security point of view. District Panchayat CEO Sandeep Agarwal, Additional Collector Nirbhay Sahu, Joint Collector Dr. Monica Kaudo along with all SDMs, Deputy Collectors and district level officers were present in the meeting.

Collector Mahobe reviewed the applications and letters received from Chief Minister Jandarshan, public repre-

HIGHLIGHT

Collector directed to dispose of the applications received from the CM Jandarshan in a quality manner.

Collector also reviewed the progress of the review meeting held by the Deputy Chief Minister.

sentatives, senior officers in the meeting and he directed to take all the applications seriously and resolve them with

full sensitivity and quality within the time limit.

The Collector reviewed the progress of the Prime Minister Janman Yojana, which is a priority of the Central and State Government. The Collector said here that this scheme is being run with the concept of social, economic and educational development and upliftment of the special backward tribe Baiga. Instructions were given to complete all the works approved under this scheme on priority.

Applications for jobs, housing etc in Jandarshan

KHAIRAGARH: In the Jandarshan camp organized in the meeting hall of the Collector office, citizens applied for housing and employment as well as repair of primary school building. Collector Chandrakant Verma, in the presence of all district level officers, listened to the problems of the applicants seriously and directed the concerned officers to resolve all the applications as per rules.

During this Jandarshan, Kumbh Lal Vishwakarma, resident of Jangalpur, demanded housing under PMAY.

Rakhi celebrations in Pandariya

PANDARIYA: Rakshabandhan, the festival of love between brother and sister, was celebrated with great joy in the city and the region. Sisters tied Raksha Sutra on the wrists of their brothers and took a pledge of protection. Due to Bhadra Kaal till 1.30 pm, Rakhi was tied after noon. As the auspicious time for tying Rakhi was from 1.30 pm, people had to wait till noon to tie Rakhi which continued till late evening.

Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

RAKHI

Sisters tie rakhis, brothers take oath on occasion of Raksha Bandhan

KATGI: Raksha Bandhan, the holy festival of brother-sister relationship, was celebrated with great pomp in Katgi as well as in the region. During this, a different kind of enthusiasm was seen in Katgi throughout the day.

Sisters came from far and wide to their brothers' house i.e. their maternal home to tie the thread of protection to their brothers on the holy festival of Raksha Bandhan. During this, many events took place in the houses, and the atmosphere appeared pleasant. Kalyani Sharma, who reached Katgi from Bilaspur to tie the thread of protection to her brothers, said that meeting brothers once in a year on the day of Raksha Bandhan gives a different kind of happiness. Kalyani says that is why she comes to her maternal home every year with her family.

RESPECTS

Congressmen pay respects to Rajiv Gandhi on his birth anniversary



KHAIRAGARH: Khairagarh: Former Prime Minister Late Rajiv Gandhi's birth anniversary was celebrated by Congressmen. During this, Congressmen including MLA garlanded the oil painting of Late Rajiv Gandhi and saluted him and raised slogans of Rajiv Gandhi Amar Rahe.

A seminar was also organized on the occasion of birth anniversary at MLA residence, while addressing which MLA Mrs. Verma said that former Prime Minister of the country Late Rajiv Gandhi had worked to strengthen the country by implementing various schemes in the country.

Lack of rainfall

Broken transformer leave field dry with large cracks, paddy crop turning yellow



RAJIM: Due to no rain for the last one week, farmers' fields have dried up and there are big cracks in the fields. Due to lack of water, paddy plants have started turning yellow. There is a need to irrigate them with water. The fields are not getting water due to which the farmers are very worried. Their worry has increased so much that the rural farmers of Pasoud are crying about electricity.

Farmers Santram Sahu, Bhagat Sahu, Ghanshyam Sahu, Surendra Kumar Sahu, Dinesh Sahu, Omprakash Sahu,

Dilip Kumar Sahu, Nathuram Sahu, Santosh Sahu said that the transformer has been out of order for the last one month. They have complained to the electricity department officials several times to repair it, but the transformer has not been repaired yet, due to which the load is increasing and the power goes off anytime.

The problem of low voltage has troubled them, as a result water is not reaching the fields due to which cracks have appeared in the fields.

Tokhan Sahu welcomed

RAJIM: On his return to the city from his visit to Gariaband, Union Minister of State for Urban Development and Housing Tokhan Sahu reached the residence of social leader Sahu Samaj Rajim Bhaktin Mata Samiti President Lala Sahu, Shri Parshuram Teej Villa in the evening where the Minister's supporter Lala Sahu and his wife Indu Sahu welcomed him by performing Aarti and applying Tilak. During this, Nagar Panchayat President Mrs. Rekha Sonkar, District President Pushpa Sahu, BJP leader Dr. Ramkumar Sahu, farmer leader Manish Harit, Sanjeev Chandrakar, Chhattisgarh State Sahu Sangh's Vice President Kuldeep Dr. Chandrika Sahu, Patron of Sahu Samaj Rajim Bhaktin Mata Samiti Bodhan Sahu, Councilor Tanku Sonkar welcomed Union Minister Tokhan Sahu by garlanding and showering flowers.

| SADBHAVANA DIWAS |

'PM Shri JNV Lavan celebrates Sadbhavna Diwas'

Central Chronicle News

On the auspicious occasion of the birth anniversary of Bharat Ratna Rajiv Gandhi on Aug 20, the Principal, teachers and students of the school by garlanding and offering flowers on the oil painting of Rajiv Gandhi.

LAVAN: PM Shri Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya Lavan, Baloda Bazar celebrated Sadbhavna Diwas with great pomp on the auspicious occasion of the birth anniversary of Bharat Ratna Rajiv Gandhi on 20 August by the Principal, teachers and students of the school by garlanding and offering flowers on the oil painting of Rajiv Gandhi.

On this occasion, Praveen Bhardwaj, a student



PM Shri JNV Lavan celebrated Sadbhavna Diwas with great pomp.

FACTFILE

The librarian of the school, Rajendra Sikka, gave a special information about the importance of Sadbhavna Diwas and the remarkable achievements of Rajiv Gandhi

of class 10th of the school, threw light on the life of Rajiv Gandhi and gave a

powerful speech about the achievements made by him. After this, the librarian of the school, Rajendra Sikka, gave a special information about the importance of Sadbhavna Diwas and the remarkable achievements of Rajiv Gandhi, the reputation of Navodaya Vidyalaya in India, establishing good relations between India and America, establishing Navodaya Vidyalaya for

the poor and talented students of rural India and the dream of making India a developed nation.

Rajiv Gandhi inspired to make India a developed nation through many social and economic works done for the country and his enthusiastic and inspiring words always inspire the youth of the country to lead India.

Addressing the program, the Principal of the school, Mrs. B. Girija, said in her speech that Bharat Ratna Rajiv Gandhi strengthened the economic condition of the country throughout his life and clearly saw the vision of making India a developed nation.

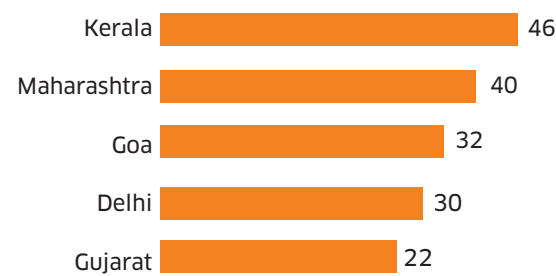
He started computer science in the country and used to inspire the youth of the society and the country.

The Day's NUMBERS

Kerala has the highest number of five-star hotels in India

Source: Agency

TOP FIVE STATES WITH HIGHEST NUMBER OF 5 STAR HOTELS



HEALTH AWARENESS

Health awareness campaign held under PM Janman Yojana

GAURELA-PENDRA-MARWAHI: Under the Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PA-Janman) Yojana, PVTG settlements mega event and IEC campaign are to be organized from August 23 to Sept 10. Through these camps, saturation is to be done in Aadhar Card, Jan Dhan Account, Ayushman Card, Forest Rights Certificate, Ration Card, Caste Certificate, PM Kisan Samman Nidhi, PM Matru Vandana Yojana, Ujjwala Yojana, Kisan Credit Card and Basic Health Facilities etc. Its objective is to ensure 100% saturation of immediate activities in all PVTG settlements. This program will be held at the district and block levels. In the weekly time limit meeting held in the Arpa Sabha Room of the Collector, Collector Mrs. Leena Kamlesh Mandavi gave necessary instructions to the district officers regarding the organization of camps. She asked the Kotwars to make announcements to inform about the organization of camps. The Collector also gave necessary instructions to the CMHO regarding the symptoms and prevention of swine flu.

I-DAY

Colourful Independence Day celebrations held at Bhendiri school



KHAIRAGADH: Rajim: Under Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, 78th anniversary of Independence Day was celebrated with gaiety in Government Primary and Pre-Secondary School Bhendiri. Retired teacher G R Dhruv in primary school, Bharat Lal Sahu in pre-secondary school, Sarpanch Mohanlal Sahu in gram panchayat office, former president of Sahu Samaj Kheluram Sahu in Gandhi Chowk, Manohar Sahu in Shitla Chowk, Anganwadi workers in Anganwadi Center 03 hoisted the flag. After flag hoisting, salute was given and the national anthem was sung and the honor was given. Prabhat Pheri was taken out in the streets of the village with patriotic songs. In the Gaurav Rangmanch of Government Primary School Bhendiri, children presented intellectual programs.

| KANWARIYA |

Best of facilities provided for Kanwariyas

Central Chronicle News

KAWARDHA: On the occasion of the last Monday of the holy month of Sawan, a crowd of devotees kept on gathering for Jalabhishek in Shiva temples. The whole of Amarkantak in Madhya Pradesh to Borhamdev in Kabirdham echoed with the chants of Har Har Mahadev, Bol Bam, Om Namah Shivay. Throughout the month of Sawan, the entire area became



devotional with the group of Kanwariyas dancing in saffron attire to the tune of devotional songs and the chant of Bol Bam. From the morning of the last Monday of the month of

Sawan, a crowd of devotees started gathering in Shiva temples. From village to city, a flood of devotion and faith kept pouring in the district for Jalabhishek in Shiva temples. During

The committee has been providing services to the Kanwariyas and devotees for the last 20 years. Members DBBCC.

this, Borhamdev, Dongaria and Panchmukhi Budhamahadev kept on resonating

with the chants of Bol Bam and Har-Har Mahadev.

This time, seeing the significant increase in the number of Kanwariyas bringing water from Maa Narmada from Amarkantak, on the initiative and instructions of Deputy Chief Minister Vijay Sharma, the District Bol Bam Coordination Committee and Kabirdham District Administration provided basic facilities to the Kanwariyas.

'Work in teams to prevent road accidents'

Need to be vigilant to maintain law and order during festival season

Central Chronicle News

RAJNANDGAON: District Collector Sanjay Agarwal chaired the weekly time-limit meeting held here in the Collectorate hall, and gave various instructions to officials and departmental heads. Talking about, upcoming festivals, the Collector said that there is a need to be vigilant to maintain law and order and instructions were given to take strict action in case of noise pollution due to DJ. He said that to prevent road accidents in urban and rural areas due to stray animals, teams should be formed for monitoring and work should be done to remove cattle from the marked areas, as there is a need to give priority to this work while following the instructions of the High Court.

Talking on Jal Jeevan Mission, he instructed to speed up the construction of tanks in villages where it has not started and complete the work on time. He said that the CREDA department was instructed to cancel the tenders of such contractors who are not working on time and asked to issue a new tender soon. He asked the Public Works Department and



District Collector Sanjay Agarwal chaired the weekly time-limit meeting held here in the Collectorate hall.

FASTFACTS

● To prevent road accidents in urban and rural areas due to stray animals, teams should be formed for monitoring

Rural Engineering Services Department to send information regarding renovation of schools and repairable and dismantled buildings, so that proposals can be made for the renovation of such schools. He also directed to run a door-to-door campaign for construction of Ayushman Card and to solve the problem of mobile number not being updated in Aadhar Card and said that citizens can get Ayushman Card made by registering them-

Instructions given to clean two ponds in city

Collector discussed about the continuous supply of water from Kharkhara Dam and Mongra Reservoir and told the officials that special work needs to be done for this so that the water supply is not disrupted. He instructed to clean Rani Talab and Budhatalaab and review was done regarding various important schemes including Urban Body Election Delimitation, Girdawari, Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, Road Safety, Plastic Waste Management, and ODF. Additional Collector Mr. CL Markandeya, Additional Collector Mrs. Indira Naveen Pratap Singh, Municipal Corporation Commissioner Mr. Abhishek Gupta, Joint Collector Mr. Khemlal Verma, Joint Collector Sheetal Bansal, SDM Rajnandgaon Mr. Atul Vishwakarma, SDM Dongargarh Mr. Manoj Markam, SDM Dongargarh Mr. Srikant Korram and other district level officers were present.

He also reviewed the cases of Chief Minister Jandarshan, Collector Janchaupal, PG Portal, Public Grievance, and District Level Public Problem Redressal Camp and directed for early res-

olution and told the lead bank manager that due to delay in e-KYC and other reasons, farmers are facing difficulty in getting the amount of Kisan Samman Nidhi and to resolve this problem on priority.

Dy CM pays courtesy visit

KAWARDHA: Deputy Chief Minister and Home Minister of the state Vijay Sharma reached the residence of senior journalist of Haribhoomi Mahesh Mishra and met his family members and discussed with the entire family and enquired about the well-being of everyone. During the courtesy meeting, Deputy Chief Minister was informed that journalist Mahesh Mishra has been ill for the last few days and is undergoing treatment in a private hospital. On this occasion, family members including Mr. Kailash Chandravanshi, Mr. Maniram Sahu, and Mr. Sanjeev Pandey were present.

Roshan Kose selected in CSEB

KAWARDHA: Roshan Kose a student of Government Polytechnic College has been selected for the post of Sub-Engineer in Chhattisgarh State Electricity Board and has secured 87th rank in the said examination. The Principal of the institution, Mr. Vimal Singh Bind, while expressing happiness on his achievement, congratulated the successful student and wished him a bright future. Head of the Department of Electricity, Mr. Abhishek Kumar Singh said that the success of the students has proved that success also likes those who are not afraid of hard work and understand the importance of time.

Festival of Rakshabandhan always special for me: Ajay



Central Chronicle News

HIGHLIGHT

KURUD: The festival of Rakshabandhan is always special to me and scores of sisters in Kurud Assembly, tie Raksha Sutra and also the sisters living in Kabir Ashram of village Mura also tied Raksha Sutra and give their blessings. The above was specified in a program on the occasion, of Rakshabandhan by MLA Ajay Chandrakar. While tying Rakhi, he talked about taking advantage of the government schemes

● While tying Rakhi, MLA Chandrakar talked about taking advantage of the government schemes which have been specially made for the sisters

which have been specially made for the sisters and celebrated the festival of Rakhi with the village residents including women workers of Atang, Achoti and Mura Gram Panchayat of Kurud assembly constituency.

Rakhi festival celebrated in village Bhaishod

ANWARI: Rakshabandhan festival, was celebrated with great pomp in village Bhaishod and in the auspicious muhurat amid the shadow of Bhadra, sisters tied Raksha Sutra on their brothers wrists and took a pledge of protection and wished for their brothers well-being by offering Tilak and feeding them sweets.

On the day there was a huge crowd in the markets to buy sweets and Rakhi and there was a

pleasant atmosphere in the village and the region. Villagers Mohit Sahu and Kuldeep told that according to beliefs, the festival of Raksha Bandhan is celebrated every year on the full moon day of the month of Savan and is considered to be the most sacred festival celebrated and is considered to have special importance in Hinduism. On this occasion, Mohit Sahu, Kuldeep etc. were present.

Rajim included in PRASAD Yojna: Sahu



Central Chronicle News

Union Minister Tokhan Sahu announced Rajim's inclusion in PRASAD Yojana to boost religious tourism.

RAJIM: Union Minister of State for Urban and Housing, Government of India, Tokhan Sahu, while giving information about the (PRASAD) Prasad Yojana in the year 2014-15 under the Ministry of Tourism, said that this scheme has been created to develop and increase the identity of pilgrimage sites across India to promote and enrich religious tourism and for this reason, Shri Sangam Dham Rajim has been included in the Mahati Yojana Prasad Yojana of the Government of India.

This scheme has been created to develop and increase the identity of pilgrimage sites across India to promote and enrich religious tourism, he said. The Minister was addressing a meeting in village Ghatkara of the region. It is known that on 15 June 2024, Minister of State for Urban and Housing Tokhan Sahu had come to Rajim for the first time and then Bhuneshwar Sahu, Vice President of Chhattisgarh Pradesh Sahu Sangh and Lala Sahu, President of Sahu Samaj Rajim Bhaktin Mata Samiti, in the felicitation ceremony organized at Shri Rajimalochan Temple, prominently demanded the inclusion of Shri Sangam Dham Rajim in the Prasad scheme in accordance with the public sentiments of the area.

Free check-up and treatment in Arogya Mega Health Camp

KOREA: A one-day Arogya Mega Health Camp will be organized on 21 August in Patna of Baikunthpur development block. The objective of this camp is to provide free health facilities to the common people of the district and this event is being organized on the instructions of Collector Chandan Tripathi. The camp will be conducted at Government Girls Higher Secondary School, Patna from 10 am to 5 pm. In this mega health camp, a team of various specialist doctors will give advice for health checkup and treatment, which includes Pediatricians, gynecologists, orthopedics, ophthalmologists, dentists, medicine specialists and psychiatrists will be present in the camp. Apart from this, advice will also be given for the examination and treatment of serious diseases like cancer in women and the health of pregnant women and infants will be examined under the maternal-child health program.

All citizens should be a part of plantation drive: Collector

Central Chronicle News

A tree plantation program will be organized in the gram panchayats of the district on August 22 under the 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' campaign.

KAWARDHA: A tree plantation program will be organized in the gram panchayats of the district on August 22 under the 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' campaign, in which a large number of villagers will plant saplings, for which preparations are being made by the Gram Panchayat.

According to the information received in this regard, Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam campaign was started to work towards environmental protection and to connect people with it and under this, plantation is being done



File Photo

in the district under different programs for the last two months, in which the villagers are participating enthusiastically. Giving information in this regard, Collector Janmejy Mahobe said that on the occasion of World Environment Day on 5 June 2024, the Prime Minister had started the Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam campaign for environmental protection. In the same sequence, tree plantation

was done at Amrit Sarovar sites on the occasion of World Environment Day under Kabirdham district. Along with this, awareness was created for the conservation of plants by planting trees in the houses of the beneficiaries of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana Gramin. On August 15, after the flag hoisting at the Amrit Sarovar sites of the Gram Panchayats, a plantation program was organized taking this cam-

FASTFACTS

● Tree plantation was done at Amrit Sarovar sites on the occasion of World Environment Day under Kabirdham district.

● Along with this, awareness was created for the conservation of plants by planting trees in the houses of the beneficiaries of PMAY

campaign forward, in which a large number of saplings have been planted by the villagers. 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' campaign was started to ensure the participation of every section of the society to make nature green and the special thing about this campaign is that people from cities to villages are planting trees in large numbers and taking a pledge to maintain them.

INSPIRING MODELS |

Students showcase water conservation models

Central Chronicle News

ANWARI: Under the guidance of the District Collector of Dhamtari and the Principal of Bhakhara Mahavidyalaya, 14 life-like and inspiring models were crafted by students as part of the 'Jal Jagar Abhiyan.' The models, focusing on water conservation and purification, were exhibited in front of the Department of Zoology. Following the exhibition, selected models were showcased at the



Jal Shakti Mission office in Kurud. The talented students behind the models included members from various groups such as Priyanka Sahdev, Omlata,

Bhimani Sahu, Varsha, Aparna Sahu, Tejaswi, Sandhyarani, and others. The selection jury, comprising Dr. Kavita Vaishnav, Janendra Banjare,

and Anunay Toppo, along with subject expert Dr. L.R. Dongre, assessed the models and offered valu-

able feedback. Rashmi's model on water treatment secured the first position, Divya Group's model on water purification and the importance of the banyan tree took second place, and Vasu and Sandhyarani's model on the water cycle and rainwater purification earned third place. The jury praised the models for their creativity and impact, highlighting the challenge of selecting the top three.

District workshop on single window system

Central Chronicle News

KAWARDHA: Chief Minister Shri Vishnudev Sai has inaugurated the Single Window System 2.0, aimed at streamlining industrial services across the state. This upgraded system provides 90 services from 16 key departments, including Commerce and Industry, State Electricity Distribution, Labor, Environment Protection, and Urban Administration, among others. Indus-

tries are required to register through the official government website to access these services.

To promote this system effectively, a district-level workshop will be held on 22nd August at 3 pm in the District Office's meeting hall. All entrepreneurs and industrialists in the district are invited to attend this workshop, where they can learn more about the functionalities and benefits of the Single Window System 2.0.

NEWSLINE

PROTEST

Congressmen burn effigies in protest



KHAIRAGARH: Congressmen protested the arrest of Bhilai Nagar MLA Devendra Yadav in connection with the Baloda-bazar violence by burning effigies of Chief Minister Vishnudev Sai and Home Minister Vijay Sharma at Gandhi Chowk and Udaipur Atal Chowk. A scuffle erupted between the police and protesters, with police managing to seize one effigy while Youth Congress members successfully burned the other. District President Gulshan Tiwari condemned the arrest, calling it a cowardly act by the government to cover up its failures. Several Congress leaders, including Chairman Himachal Singh Rajput and others, participated in the protest.

EFFIGY BURNED

BJYM demands action over effigy incident



KHAIRAGARH: The Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM) has demanded disciplinary action against the Chhukhadan police station in-charge, accusing him of disrespecting effigies of the Chief Minister and Home Minister during a Youth Congress protest in Udaipur. According to BJYM, the officer trampled the effigies with his feet, as seen in viral videos and photos. BJYM leaders have submitted a memorandum to the SP, warning of intense agitation if no action is taken. The incident has sparked outrage among BJP workers, who insist that such behavior is unacceptable and demands immediate corrective measures.

RAKSHABANDHAN

Anwari Celebrates Traditional Rakshabandhan Festival



ANWARI: Villages in the Anwari region, including Bhaishod, Kumhari, and others, celebrated Rakshabandhan with traditional customs. Sisters tied Raksha Sutra (Rakhi) on their brothers' wrists, symbolizing the bond of protection and love. The festival, celebrated on the full moon day of Shraavan, brought families together to share sweets, gifts, and promises of protection. Brothers, in return, offered gifts to their sisters, reaffirming the bond.



The public has halted "the non-biological prime minister" by the power of their votes.

Jairam Ramesh
Congress General Secy

Convocation of J.C Bose University of Science and Technology



President Droupadi Murmu during the 5th convocation of J.C Bose University Of Science And Technology, in Faridabad.

Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

MONKEYPOX OUTBREAK

Kerala issues mpox alert amid global reports of viral infection

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: The Kerala Health Dept on Wednesday sounded an alert in the state following reports of mpox (formerly known as monkey-pox) outbreaks in several countries. The state has gone into high vigilance mode, with surveillance teams in place at all airports to screen passengers arriving from affected nations, as the World Health Organisation has declared mpox a Public Health Emergency of International Concern in view of its prevalence and spread across many parts of Africa. According to state Health Minister Veena George, anyone arriving from countries where mpox has been reported must undergo screening at airports. If symptoms are detected, they will be isolated and treated according to the Standard Operating Procedure issued by the state government in 2022. **PTI**

TERROR FUNDING CASE

Engineer Rashid moves Delhi court seeking bail



NEW DELHI: Jailed Kashmiri parliamentarian Rashid Engineer has moved a Delhi court seeking regular bail in a 2017 Jammu and Kashmir terror funding case.

Sheikh Abdul Rashid, popularly known as Engineer Rashid, defeated former chief minister and National Conference leader Omar Abdullah in Baramulla in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls. **PTI**

Dabholkar's kin in HC against acquittal of 3 accused

The plea came up for hearing on Wednesday before a division bench of Justices Revati Mohite Dere and Prithviraj Chavan which issued notice to all the accused.

Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI: The family of slain rationalist Narendra Dabholkar has approached the Bombay High Court challenging a sessions court judgment acquitting three persons in the case.

The appeal filed by Dabholkar's daughter Mukta Dabholkar also challenged the judgment by which two other accused, who were convicted in the case, were acquitted of the offence of criminal conspiracy and for commission of terrorist act under the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA).

The appeal filed through advocate Abhay Nevagi said the killing of her father was a "well-planned murder and involved a larger conspiracy". The plea came up for hearing on Wednesday before a division bench of Justices Revati Mohite Dere and Prithviraj Chavan which issued notice to all the accused and the prosecuting agency - Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).

The court posted the matter for hearing on September 23.

In her appeal, Mukta Dabholkar said the sessions court had failed to appreciate the fact that the convicted individuals

HIGHLIGHT

● The appeal contended that the two other accused - Sachin Andure and Sharad Kalaskar - were acquitted of the charges of criminal conspiracy under the Indian Penal Code, under Section 16 (terrorist act) of UAPA and the Arms Act.

in the case were members of the right-wing group Sanatan Sanstha and that even the three acquitted persons were also associated with the outfit. "The accused persons hatched this conspiracy to elimi-

nate Dr Narendra Dabholkar, who was expressing his views against Sanatan Sanstha Establishment, Hindu Jan Jagaran Samiti and other similar organizations," the appeal alleged. It challenged the sessions court judgment acquitting Virendra Singh Tawde, Sanjiv Punalekar and Vikram Bhawe from the case.

Dabholkar (67), founder of the Maharashtra Andhashraddha Nir-moolan Samiti, dedicated to fighting superstition, was shot dead by two persons, allegedly linked to Sanatan Sanstha, while he was on a morning walk in Pune on August 20, 2013.

On May 10, 2024, a sessions court in Pune convicted Andure and Kalaskar (shooters) on charges of murder and sentenced them to life imprisonment. It acquitted the remaining three accused.

The charge of UAPA was levelled only against four of the accused. Punalekar was only charged with destruction of evidence.

Mukta Dabholkar in her appeal said the sessions court had erred in holding that there was no evidence to convict the two accused for criminal conspiracy and that UAPA provision was not applicable as the sanction was not valid.

Maoists 'kill' woman cadre on suspicion of being informer

HYDERABAD: A 24-year-old woman Maoist cadre was allegedly killed by the ultras on suspicion of being a police informer and her body was found in Bhadradi Kothagudem district of Telangana on Wednesday, police said.

The body was dumped on the road in Chennapuram village, bordering Chhattisgarh, they said.

The woman was working as an Area Committee Member and carrying a reward of Rs four lakh on her head.

The deceased hailed from Hyderabad and joined the rebels in 2017 and went underground.

She is suspected to have been strangled to death and a post-mortem is yet to be done, they said.

| BLESSINGS OF THE PEOPLE |

Atishi hopes Arvind Kejriwal will be soon out of jail

Kejriwal is lodged in the Tihar jail here in connection with a corruption case linked to the alleged excise policy scam being probed by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).

NEW DELHI: Delhi Education Minister Atishi on Wednesday hoped that Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal would be soon out of jail with the blessings of the people and be in the Maidangarhi area to lay the foundation stone of a new academic block. She was in Maidangarhi village in South Delhi to inaugurate a four-storey building of



Delhi Education Minister Atishi. | File Photo

FACTFILE

● The govt will soon start constructing another academic block in this area and children who lack access to quality education will get proper facilities to study.

the Government Co-Ed Secondary School.

During the event, Atishi announced that the government will soon start constructing another academic block in this area and children who lack access to quality education will get proper

facilities to study.

"The women of Delhi have prayed for his (Kejriwal) release (from jail) and even fasted for him. With the blessings of the people of Delhi, he will be soon be out of jail and will come here to lay the foundation stone of the new academic block," she said.

Of the building inaugurated by her, Atishi said thousands of children from Maidangarhi, Rajpur, Chhattarpur, Neb Sarai and other areas will benefit from this new school block.

"I am delighted to inaugurate this new academic block here. This a highly densely populated area where even finding a space to build roads is challenging," she added.

| UNION MINISTER KUMARASWAMY |

Will resign willingly if need arises: Kumaraswamy

Press Trust Of India

BENGALURU: Union Minister H D Kumaraswamy on Wednesday said he will willingly resign if the need arises unlike Chief Minister Siddaramaiah who found fault with Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot's permission to investigate and prosecute him in the Mysuru Urban Development Authority

land allotment 'scam.'

Reacting to the Chief Minister's allegation that the Governor was not giving consent to prosecute him, Kumaraswamy asked what stops Siddaramaiah from approaching the Supreme Court against him in connection with the alleged scam related to Sri Sai Venkateshwara Minerals. Lokayukta's Special

I will willingly resign if needed.
H D Kumaraswamy
Union Minister

Investigation Team has once again submitted a proposal to the Governor on Monday seeking permission to file



a charge-sheet against Kumaraswamy in the alleged illegal mining lease case.

Kumaraswamy, the Union Minister for Heavy Industries and Steel, said he has seen the statements of Virajpet MLA and legal advisor to the Chief Minister A S Ponnanna and some other ministers demanding his resignation.

High Court told

'Puja Khedkar's fraud not only against Union Public Service Commission but also public'

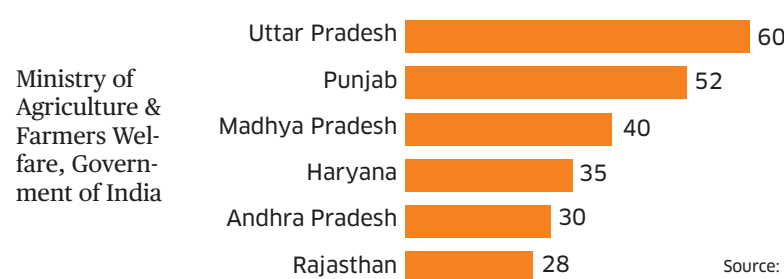


NEW DELHI: The UPSC on Wednesday opposed in the Delhi High Court an anticipatory bail plea by former IAS probationer Puja Khedkar, accused of cheating and wrongly availing OBC and disability quota benefits, and said she committed a fraud against the commission and the public. Justice Subramonium Prasad listed the matter for hearing on August 29, and extended the interim protection from arrest granted to Khedkar in the meantime. In its reply filed in court, the Union Public Service Commission said Khedkar's custodial interrogation was necessary to unearth the magnitude of the "fraud" that could not have been done without the help of

other individuals. Therefore, her pre-arrest bail plea should be dismissed, it said. "The gravity of the fraud committed is unprecedented in nature having been committed against not only a constitutional body the complainant whose traditions are untrammelled and unparalleled but also against the public at large, including the citizens of this country who have utmost faith upon the credibility of the UPSC as well as persons who could not be appointed despite being duly eligible and qualified due to illegal means employed by the applicant to seek appointment," the reply filed through advocate Vardhman Kaushik said. **PTI**

The Day's NUMBERS

TOP SIX STATES BY AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION (2023) (IN MILLION TONNES)



TRAINING PROGRAMME

Private hospital to provide martial arts training to female staff, other women

KOCHI: In the wake of the rape and murder of a resident doctor at a hospital in Kolkata, a private hospital here has decided to provide martial arts training for all of its female staff and women across the state.

The VPS Lakeshore Hospital here has set aside Rs 50 lakh, as an initial amount, for implementing the initiative across the state, it said in a release.

"The training programme will be mandatory for all female staff, underscoring the hospital's commitment to creating a safe and secure environment for its workforce," the release said. It further said that the martial arts training will be provided to women across the state by collaborating with local bodies and with the state government's support.

In the initial phase, the hospital plans to train approximately 50,000 women, besides its own female staff, within six months, free of charge, the release said. **PTI**

TRIPURA RAINS

Kharge urges Centre, state govt to put relief, rehabilitation measures



NEW DELHI: Cong president Mallikarjun Kharge on Wednesday expressed deep concern over the flood situation caused by heavy rainfall in Tripura and urged the Centre and the state government to put in place immediate relief and rehabilitation measures. He also urged Congress leaders and workers to provide all possible assistance to the people in distress. "Deeply concerned about the flood situation caused by heavy rainfall in Tripura where many people have lost their lives, and about 5,600 families have sought refuge in relief camps. **PTI**



QUOTE FROM THE QUOTABLE

"One needs a heart that has true love, a soul that has true fire, and a mind that has true faith."

[Sarojini Naidu]

Comment

The Bangladesh turmoil and its impact on Indian economy

OUR VIEW |

Modi government faces the burden of coalition politics

The spate of policy reversals by the Modi government serves as a stark reminder of the shifting dynamics within India's political landscape. These reversals are more than mere tactical retreats; they signify the growing realization that the government's approach to governance must evolve in the face of coalition politics. The decision to withdraw the Waqf Bill is perhaps the most telling of these shifts. This bill, which sought to centralize control over Waqf properties, ignited significant opposition from minority communities and political rivals alike. Faced with mounting pressure and the risk of alienating key allies, the government had little choice but to step back, demonstrating that even the most confident administrations must occasionally bend to the will of political necessity. Similarly, the Broadcast Bill, initially intended to regulate digital content and media, was met with widespread criticism for its potential to undermine press freedom. In an environment where media independence is already under scrutiny, the government's decision to refer the bill to a parliamentary panel for review reflects a calculated move to avoid further controversy. This retreat underscores a growing awareness within the administration that policies must be tempered by the realities of coalition governance. The most significant reversal, however, is the shelving of the lateral entry policy, which aimed to inject private sector talent into the upper echelons of the bureaucracy. Initially lauded for its innovative approach, the policy quickly became a lightning rod for criticism, with accusations of cronyism and a lack of transparency. The government's quiet abandonment of this policy signals a recognition that its top-down approach may not always align with the broader interests of its political base. In these reversals, there lies a lesson for the Modi government: governance in a coalition-driven democracy requires consultation, compromise, and humility. The strength of any administration lies not in its ability to impose its will, but in its capacity to navigate the complexities of political alliances with wisdom and foresight.

GUEST VIEW |

Safety concerns for doctors highlight national failures

The recent horrific rape and murder of a medical student in Kolkata's R.G. Kar Medical College have sparked outrage. The Supreme Court sharply criticized the West Bengal government for its delay in filing the FIR, emphasizing that this incident underscores a broader issue regarding the safety of doctors in India. A bench led by Chief Justice DY Chandrachud noted that the inability of women to work safely equates to denying them equality. Many believe the crime was detected early, but the college principal allegedly tried to dismiss it as a suicide. Despite being under investigation, the principal was swiftly reappointed to another college. The involvement of a 7,000-strong mob entering the hospital unnoticed by the Kolkata Police further highlights the law enforcement's failure. While the debate on the law and order situation in West Bengal continues, the alarming statistics from the National Crime Records Bureau reveal that India still grapples with rampant sexual violence. Law-abiding citizens hope the CBI will ensure all culprits are caught and that the courts will deliver stringent punishments to prevent future incidents.



BK Chatterjee

The recent political upheaval in Bangladesh, marked by the fall of the Sheikh Hasina government, has sent ripples across the economic landscape, both within the nation and among its key trading partners. This crisis, driven by widespread protests and significant political instability, is poised to have substantial implications for Bangladesh's trade relations, particularly with neighbouring India, its largest trading partner.

Disruptions in Trade Agreements: The ousting of Sheikh Hasina's government has brought into question the future of several trade agreements, the most significant being potential Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between India and Bangladesh. According to a World Bank report (Connecting to Thrive), this agreement could have increased Bangladesh's exports to India by up to 29% and India's exports by 17%. With the current political turmoil, the fate of these negotiations remains uncertain. The instability has already led to delays in several ongoing infrastructure projects funded by India, which are crucial for strength-

ening trade routes and connectivity between the two countries. Notably, projects like the Akhaura-Agartala cross-border rail link and the Khulna-Mongla Port rail line, which were expected to enhance trade efficiency, now face potential delays or disruptions.

Impact on Key Trade Sectors: The crisis in Bangladesh has already begun to affect key sectors that are vital to its trade with India. Bangladesh is a major importer of Indian cotton, petroleum products, and cereals. Conversely, India relies heavily on Bangladesh for ready-made garments, a sector that contributes significantly to Bangladesh's GDP. In the fiscal year 2023-24, trade between the two nations reached \$13 billion, with India enjoying a trade surplus of \$9.2 billion. The ongoing unrest has led to disruptions in banking transactions and difficulties in issuing letters of credit that are essential for trade. This has raised concerns among Indian exporters, particularly those dealing in commodities such as soybeans, wheat residues, and rapeseed. The agricultural export sector, valued at over \$1.8 billion, could see significant declines if the

situation persists.

Impact on India's Tourism: The political crisis in Bangladesh has drastically affected India's inbound tourism industry, particularly from Bangladeshi travellers who constitute 23% of the market. The turmoil has led to a dramatic 90% decline in outbound travel from Bangladesh, severely impacting the Indian tourism sector, especially in medical tourism, shopping, and leisure segments. Popular destinations like Kolkata and the northeastern states have seen business plummet, with many hotels reporting up to a 90% drop in bookings. Additionally, medical tourism, which saw a 48% surge in 2023, is now almost at a standstill, with only a fraction of patients arriving from Bangladesh compared to previous numbers. The suspension of visas, except for medical purposes, and the temporary halt in flights have contributed significantly to this decline. Experts predict that India will suffer a substantial revenue loss if the situation persists until December, as Bangladeshis are India's largest inbound travel group.

Potential Long-Term Consequences: The long-term impact of the political crisis in Bangla-

des could be severe if stability is not quickly restored. For India, any prolonged instability in Bangladesh could limit access to its Northeast region, which relies on transit routes through Bangladesh. Furthermore, the unrest threatens to unravel the progress made in recent years under Sheikh Hasina's leadership, which saw a marked improvement in economic and cultural ties between the two nations. In the broader regional context, Bangladesh's instability could also affect its trade relations with other South Asian countries. As the country grapples with internal challenges, its ability to participate in regional trade initiatives and negotiations could be compromised, leading to a slowdown in economic growth.

Looking Ahead

As the situation in Bangladesh remains fluid, trade experts and government officials are closely monitoring developments. The next few weeks will be crucial in determining the extent of the impact on trade relations. Both India and Bangladesh stand to lose if the crisis is not resolved promptly, with potential repercussions not only for bilateral trade but also for the broader South Asian economic landscape.



Divyam Aggarwal

Indian Institute of Management Raipur



Sanjeev Prashar

Indian Institute of Management Raipur

Seeding Farm Growth in Climate-Crisis Era

The government prioritizes farmer welfare, focusing on income growth, sustainable production, fair pricing, and innovative agricultural strategies for prosperity.

Agricultural development and farmer welfare is among the top priorities for our government. It is our resolve to bring joy and prosperity in the lives of food givers, who are architects of our sustenance. We will make all possible efforts to fulfill this resolution. We have formed a six-point strategy to help increase incomes of the farmers. Augmenting production, reducing the cost of farm produce, providing fair prices for products, providing appropriate financial assistance in the event of natural disasters, diversification and promoting organic farming are among the key aspects of this vision. The most important thing to increase production and reduce costs is good seeds, which can boost production even in water scarce regions and in adverse weather conditions. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has dedicated 109 new varieties of such seeds to farmers and the nation.

The agricultural landscape has evolved rapidly over the last 10 years. The challenge is now to boost production amid pressing issues such as global warming and environmental imbalance. To tackle this challenge, we will develop 1,500 new varieties of climate friendly crops in the next 5 years. At this moment, only science can help determine the well-being of farmers. I am proud of our agricultural scientists who are developing climate-friendly varieties of farm produce. I firmly believe that the innovations being made in agriculture will ensure the welfare of farms and farmers.

Being a farmer myself, I very well understand how good seeds are important for good production. There will be an unprecedented increase in production if the seeds are good and suitable to the nature of soil and weather of the particular region. Modi

ji understood this and guided us to work with a broader vision in this direction. Diversity is the speciality of agriculture in India. Here, farming evolves after every short distance. For instance, farming in the plains is different from farming in the hills and mountains. We have released 109 new varieties of seeds keeping all these differences and variations in mind. Of these, 69 varieties are for regular farming and 40 varieties are for horticulture. The Modi government is determined and fully committed to promoting healthy food and making India a global nutrition hub.

It is our resolve to ensure that the assessment of farmers' hard work is done properly and they get fair price for their crops. For this, we are purchasing their produce at minimum support price. It is our priority to increase the income of our farmers and along with increasing production, India is also concerned about ensuring that agricultural production is safe for our health as well as our soil.

Today, India is witnessing a new green revolution. Our food providers are also becoming energy providers and fuel providers. Due to



Shivraj Singh Chouhan

The author is the Minister of Agriculture, Farmers' Welfare and Rural Development, Government of India

the efforts of Modi ji, sectors such as animal husbandry, bee-keeping, medicinal farming, flowers and fruit farming, etc., are also being strengthened along with regular agriculture.

The previous governments never prioritised agriculture and farmers, whereas the farming sector has made unprecedented progress under the leadership of Modi ji. In 2013-14, the budget for the Ministry of Agriculture was Rs 27,663 crores, while in 2024-25, it increased to Rs 1,32,470 crores. This budgetary allocation is just for the agriculture department. There is a separate budget for

other areas of agriculture and fertilizer subsidies. The Modi government provides urea and DAP (diammonium phosphate) to farmers at cheaper rates. The government gives farmers a subsidy of about Rs 2,100 on urea, and Rs 1,083 subsidy on one bag of DAP. Farmers have become self-reliant and empowered through the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi scheme. The Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana is a huge insurance cover for farmers in the event of crop losses.

The Modi government has taken every decision, from seeds to providing a market, to empower farmers and make farming easier for them, to reduce their problems and increase their profits. In this direction, we are developing the agriculture infrastructure through an Agriculture Infrastructure Fund of Rs 1 lakh crores. More than 700 Krishi Vigyan Kendras are connecting farmers with science. Through the NAMO Drone Didi Scheme, our mothers and sisters from far away places are also being connected with technology. Through Krishi Sakhis, we have trained 35,000 agriculture personnel in the first phase of the initiative.

Modi ji has envisioned to

make India self-reliant in agriculture, and we are working strategically in that direction. In the next five years, we will create 100 export-oriented horticulture clusters at a cost of Rs 18,000 crores. More than 1,500 farmer market will be integrated to improve access for farmers. Simultaneously, we are also starting the Oilseeds Mission at a cost of Rs 6,800 crores. The government is also working towards creating vegetable production clusters. This will help small farmers to enter new markets and get better prices for their vegetables, fruits and other produce. The government has also resolved that among pulses, the entire procurement of tur, urad and masoor dal will be done on MSP.

In the Yajurveda, there is a saying of "Annanaam Pataye Namah, Kshetraanaam Pataye Namah", which means "We bow before the producers of grains and the custodians of farms". It is also mentioned in Krishi Parashar that "food is life, food is strength and food is the means for all needs". The existence of our country is incomplete without farmers, which is why farmers have been revered even in our ancient scriptures.

Agriculture is the backbone of the Indian economy and farmers are its soul. In our culture and tradition, service towards farmers is equivalent to worshipping God. Today, India and our agriculture sector is moving forward steadfastly in line with Prime Minister Modi ji's long-term, all-round, all-encompassing, inclusive and holistic vision for development.

I have full faith that our farmer brothers and sisters will also become self-reliant and prosperous in this golden age of Independent India (Azadi Ka Amrit Kaal). And our country's granaries will continue to fill with affluence and prosperity.

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

Succour for terror victims

Terrorism inflicts deep, lasting scars on its victims, both physically and psychologically. While tiny nations often suffer the most, victims worldwide face long lives of fear and trauma. The responsibility to protect and support these individuals falls on the state, yet lip service often replaces real action. The UN's "International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to Victims of Terrorism" on August 21 emphasizes the need for nations to address terror's impact without discrimination, ensuring that the voices of victims and their families are fully heard and supported.

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.

Business



Amazon's investment in India to make up for its losses.

Piyush Goyal
Union Commerce and Industry Minister.

BizBriefs

BEST OF THE REST

TOP BANKERS

RBI Governor ranked as top central banker for 2nd straight year

MUMBAI: Reserve Bank of India Governor Shaktikanta Das has been ranked as the top central banker globally for the second consecutive year by US-based Global Finance magazine. "Happy to announce that for the 2nd consecutive year, RBI Governor @DasShaktikanta has been rated 'A+', in the Global Finance Central Banker Report Cards 2024," the RBI said in a post on X. Das has been placed at the top of the list of three central bank governors, who have been rated A+. Grades are based on a scale from A to F for success in inflation control, economic growth goals, currency stability and interest rate management, according to a statement by Global Finance magazine. An 'A' represents excellent performance, while an 'F' for outright failure. Denmark's Christian Kettel Thomsen, India's Shaktikanta Das.

INDICATORS

Share MARKETS

Market	Close	%chg
Sensex	80,905	+0.13
Nifty	24,770	+0.293
Nifty, MidCap	58,444	+0.34
Nifty SmallCap	19,067	+1.21
Nifty Bank	50,685	-0.23

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

Forex RATES

Foreign currency Vs Rupee

US Dollar	83.90 (+)	↗
Euro	93.28 (+)	↗
Chinese Yuan	11.75 (+)	↗
UAE Dirham	22.84 (+)	↗
Pakistan Rupee	0.30 (+)	↗
Sri Lanka Rupee	0.27 (-)	↘

On August 21, 2024

World INDICES

Stock	Value	% chg
Dow Jones (US)	40,932	+0.24%
FTSE 100 Index	8,272	-0.01%
Nikkei 225 (JPN)	37,951	-0.29%
CSI 300 (CHN)	3,321	-0.33%

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

Use simple words in notices to taxpayers: FM tells taxmen

Sitharaman said that after adopting the faceless regime, the tax officers must now aspire to be more "fair and friendly" in their dealings with taxpayers.

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Wednesday asked tax officers to use simpler words in notices or letters they sent to taxpayers and exercise power bestowed upon them judiciously. Addressing the 165th Income Tax Day celebrations, Sitharaman said that after adopting the faceless regime, the tax officers must now aspire to be

more "fair and friendly" in their dealings with taxpayers. The tax notices should not trigger a "sense of fear" among the taxpayers and instead, it should be simple and straightforward, she added. The notice should make it "crystal clear" to the assessee the reason for which a notice was being sent to him/her, the minister noted. Sitharaman also said there was room for improvement in issuing refunds faster. Asking

NUMBER

165

• Tax notices should not trigger a "sense of fear" among the taxpayers.

• The notice should make it "crystal clear" to the assessee the reason for which a notice was being sent.

taxmen to avoid "ham-handed ways" in dealing with taxpayers, the minister said that the action taken should be proportionate to the issue at hand. She also asked taxpayers to use enforcement measures only as a last resort, and the goal of the department should be to encourage voluntary compliance. The minister also underlined that when she says that the tax department should be more friendly and trans-

parent, it does not mean that the tax officers were unfair all these years. "Can we explore issuing simple and easy-to-understand notices? Explain the reason behind why the action was taken and why the notice was being sent," Sitharaman said.

Stating that she would stand with the tax department, the minister said that tax officers should continue to perform their sovereign duties.

Nxtra by Airtel releases Sustainability Report

GURUGRAM: Nxtra Data Limited, a subsidiary of Bharti Airtel, on Wednesday, unveiled the second edition of its Sustainability Report for FY 2023-24. The report highlights Nxtra's consistent and increasing focus on environmental, social and governance (ESG) parameters. It details Nxtra's initiatives for building future ready, digitised infrastructure that is sustainable by design and engineered to accommodate high-density workloads and offer seamless scale to customers, thereby enabling their growth. Ashish Arora, CEO - Nxtra by Airtel said, "The future of data centers lies in our ability to harmonise intelligent infrastructure with sustainability. Integrating innovative ESG initiatives into our business model and operations has been integral to our data center build and operations from day one."

'Possible for Indian economy to touch USD 55 tn by 2047'

Press Trust Of India

Inflation targeting since 2016 had helped the country average out the rate of price rise to 5%.

KOLKATA: Executive director at the International Monetary Fund (IMF) Krishnamurthy Subramanian on Wednesday said that the size of the Indian economy has the potential to touch USD 55 trillion by 2047 if the growth rate in dollar terms remains at 12 per cent. Speaking at a CII event here, Subramanian, the former chief economic advisor to the government from 2018 to 2021, said that inflation targeting since 2016 had helped the country average out the rate of price rise to five per cent. Before 2016, the average rate of inflation was 7.5 per cent, he said. With a real growth of eight per cent,



IMF ED, Krishnamurthy Subramanian addresses the conference 'India @ 100 Building a US \$55 Trillion Economy', in Kolkata, Wednesday.

FACTFILE

• With a real growth of eight per cent, the nominal growth is expected to be 13 per cent

the nominal growth is expected to be 13 per cent with five per cent inflation rate, the economist said. "With rate of depreciation of the Indian currency to be less than one per cent

that it is possible for India to grow at eight per cent in real terms. According to him, in advanced economies, investments have been saturated where productivity improvement will be the only source of growth. The other cause for the country could grow at eight per cent is due to a greater formalisation of the economy. At present, one-half to two-thirds of the Indian economy is still in the informal sector, he said.

vis-a-vis the dollar in the long run, the fundamentals of the economy will start to show up," he said. In this context, Subramanian said that the real growth rate of India will be 12 per cent in dollar terms. According to him, then the size of the economy will double every six years. "With the present size of the economy at USD 3.8 trillion, the possible size in 2047 could touch USD 55 trillion", he said. Subramanian said

"Higher formalisation of the economy will lead to higher productivity. But there is still scope for raising productivity of the Indian formal sector as compared to global peers," Subramanian said.

Entrepreneurship, innovation and private credit creation are the other three key pillars which will help the economy to grow at eight per cent in real terms, he said.

LANDMARK ACHIEVEMENT

NSL achieves first major production milestone

Press Trust Of India

HYDERABAD: NMDC Steel Limited (NSL) proudly announces a landmark achievement of its production capabilities. Today, this ultra-modern, state-of-the-art plant has successfully produced 1 Million Ton (MnT) of Hot Rolled Coil (HRC), reaching this milestone four days ahead of the

first anniversary of commencement of HRC coil production.

This achievement underscores NSL's position as one of the fastest and most efficient plants in the industry, characterized by its remarkable spirit, performance and cutting-edge technology.

This significant accomplishment builds on NSL's earlier successes in 2024.



On July 21, 2024, the company achieved the production of 1.5 MnT of Hot Metal from its Blast Furnace, and on August 11, 2024, it produced 1 MnT of Liquid Steel from the Steel Making Shop (SMS).

Both milestones were reached in less than a year from the commencement of production, setting new benchmarks

for performance in the industry. These achievements highlight NSL's commitment to operational excellence and innovation.

The company continues to push the boundaries by aspiring to be a leader in the steel manufacturing sector with a sole focus on efficiency, sustainability, and technological advancement.

How the markets behave today?

Markets extend gains on buying in FMCG, consumer stocks; Sensex rises 100 pts



MUMBAI: Equity benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty closed higher on Wednesday, helped by gains in FMCG, consumer durables and healthcare stocks amid strong buying support from domestic institutional investors. However, foreign capital outflows amid a cautious trend in global equities ahead of the release of US Fed minutes restricted the gains in domestic markets, traders said. In a range-bound trade, the 30-share BSE Sensex gained for the second day in a row, rising 102.44 points or 0.13 per cent to close at 80,905.30. During

the day, it rose 149.97 points or 0.18 per cent to hit an intra-day high of 80,952.83. Rising for the fifth straight session, the NSE Nifty went up by 71.35 points or 0.29 per cent to end at 24,770.20. "The Indian market traded on a tight range with a positive bias supported by strong DII flows."

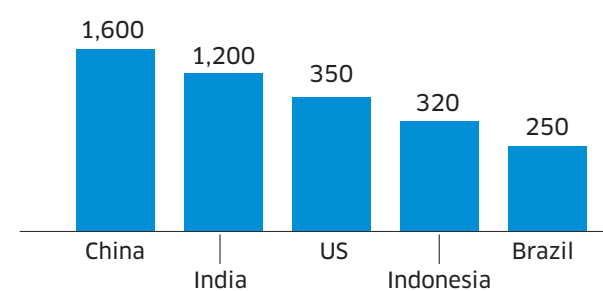
MAJOR GAINERS: Titan, Asian Paints, ITC, Hindustan Unilever, Nestle India, Bajaj Finserv and Bharti Airtel.

MAJOR LOSERS: UltraTech Cement, Tech Mahindra, Tata Steel, Power Grid, HDFC Bank, HCL Technology, SBI and ICICI Bank.

The Day's NUMBERS

(in Millions)

TOP MOBILE PHONE MARKETS BY SUBSCRIBERS IN 2022



TECHPRO COLLECTION

Blackberrys unveils TechPro Collection with Cricket Star Ruturaj Gaikwad

GURGAON: Blackberrys, India's premier premium menswear brand, is taking fashion innovation to new heights with the launch of its TechPro Collection, in collaboration with cricket sensation Ruturaj Gaikwad. The TechPro Collection celebrates the modern man who embodies resilience, ambition, and a relentless drive to excel in every aspect of life. Engineered for dynamic movement and unmatched comfort, the collection features advanced attributes such as stretchability, wrinkle resistance, and Smart-Dry technology. From T-shirts and khakis to shirts, trousers, blazers, and all-season jackets, the TechPro range provides a versatile wardrobe tailored to both professional and personal needs. Every piece in the TechPro Collection is designed for versatility and performance. The stretchable fabrics offer freedom of movement, while the sharp cuts and tailored fits make a sophisticated statement. The Smart-Dry technology ensures you stay fresh and stylish in any climate, and the wrinkle-resistant fabric maintains a polished look throughout the day.

NEW LAUNCH

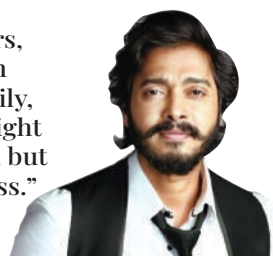
Motorola launches moto G45 5G fastest 5G smartphone at Rs 9999

MUMBAI: Motorola, India's best 5G smartphone brand, announced the launch of the moto g45 5G. The moto g45 5G disrupts the affordable 5G smartphone market in India with its powerful Snapdragon 6s Gen 3 processor, delivering incredible performance powered with the segment's highest 13 5G bands with VoNR for superior connectivity. Speaking on the launch, Mr. T.M. Narasimhan, Managing Director, Motorola India said "We are thrilled to unveil the moto g45 5G- Motorola's fastest and most capable 5G smartphone in the affordable segment. We believe in democratizing technology and our aim is to bring best in class 5G experiences to a wider audience across the country at an accessible price point."



“When you spread such rumours, it doesn’t just affect the person targeted—it also affects their family, especially young children who might not fully understand the situation but feel the emotional toll nonetheless.”

Shreyas Talpade
Actor



& Glitters

CLOSE UP

Ananya Panday stuns in a gritty new role for Call Me Bae

Ananya Panday is all set to shine on OTT with her new series Call Me Bae wherein she’s seen as trying to make ends meet after losing her luxurious lifestyle.

Central Chronicle News

Fans are excited to see Ananya in her comfortable avatar and are convinced that she has done a good job.

The trailer for Call Me Bae has officially dropped, marking Ananya Panday’s OTT debut with a splash. Set to premiere on Amazon Prime Video on September 6, the series introduces Panday as Bae, a South Delhi heiress whose life takes a dramatic turn when her husband loses their fortune. Forced to navigate Mumbai’s gritty streets and a rundown apartment, Bae’s journey from luxury to struggle unfolds with humour and heart. Echoing the Two Broke Girls vibe, the series follows Bae as she adjusts to her new reality traveling by auto-rickshaw, battling a leaky roof, and landing a job at a local newsroom. Her boss, portrayed by Vir Das, is initially unimpressed, adding a layer of comedic tension to her story. Produced by Dharmatic Entertainment, the show features a star-studded ensemble including Gurfateh Pirzada, Varun Sood, and Mini Mathur, with Collin D’Cunha at the helm. The writing trio—Ishita Moitra, Samina Motlekar, and Rohit Nair—brings fresh storytelling to the classic underdog narrative.



Ananya Panday’s OTT debut series ‘Call Me Bae’ begins streaming from September 6



Ananya reveals details about her new project

Ananya, thrilled about her role, shared, “Call Me Bae is a project I was drawn to from the start. Playing a complex character like Bae is incredibly rewarding. I’m

excited for audiences to experience her journey and see how she stays true to herself despite the challenges.” Prepare for a captivating blend of drama, humour, and resilience in this highly anticipated series!



| HOLLYWOOD |

Is Zeenat Aman ready for a Bollywood comeback?

Central Chronicle News

HIGHLIGHT

Veteran actress Zeenat Aman recently took to Instagram to share a nostalgic moment from her past, recalling a notable award show in Sri Lanka that pulled her out of her self-imposed seclusion. Reflecting on this quieter phase of her life, Aman wrote, “There aren’t too many pictures of me from this phase of my life, making this memory all the sweeter.” Despite her initial reluctance, Aman, accompanied by her two sons, flew to Sri Lanka where she was honoured with the Outstanding Achievement in Cinema award. The event turned out to be a heartening experience, rekindling her connection

to her craft and providing a rare opportunity for people-watching. In her Instagram post, Aman humorously described the lively atmosphere of the event. Sponsored by a prominent alcohol company, the vodka served kept the attendees in “unguarded, high spirits.” She playfully noted that the event featured enough shenanigans to fill a gossip magazine, but she chose to



Zeenat Aman shared memories of attending an award ceremony.

remain an observer, valuing discretion over participation. Looking forward, Zeenat Aman is set to appear in the upcoming Netflix series “The Royals,” a modern-day Indian royalty rom-com. This marks the first collaboration between Netflix and Pritish Nandy Communications. The series features an impressive cast including Bhumi Pednekar, Ishaan Khatter, Sakshi Tanwar, and others. Tanya Bami, Series Head at Netflix India, expressed excitement about the show, promising a contemporary fairy tale with a generous dose of wit and glamour.

CineBriefs

BEST OF THE REST

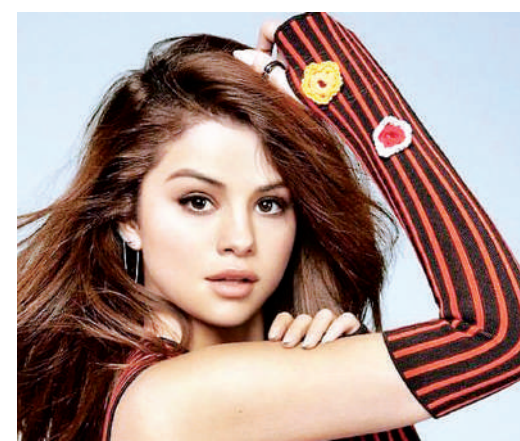
Web Series

Aparshakti Khurana’s Berlin promises a thrilling ride

Riding high on the success of “Stree 2,” actor Aparshakti Khurana is gearing up for his next big project, the thrilling “Berlin.” Directed by Atul Sabharwal, this film is set in 1990s Delhi and promises an engrossing narrative of espionage and intrigue. Khurana recently shared the film’s poster on social media, expressing his excitement about its release on ZEE5. The plot revolves around three central characters caught in a web of secrets and deception. Ishwak Singh plays a deaf-mute accused of being a spy, while Khurana portrays a sign language expert, adding depth to the suspenseful storyline.

Music

Selena Gomez’s tears say it all about Emilia Perez



Singer-actress Selena Gomez revealed her emotional reaction to landing a role in the upcoming French film “Emilia Perez” through a heartfelt Instagram post. The musical crime comedy, directed by Jacques Audiard, features Gomez alongside stars like Zoe Saldana and Edgar Ramirez. In her video, Selena expressed disbelief and excitement, saying, “I can’t believe I got the movie... I am so gonna cry right now.” Her post included touching photos with her mother and behind-the-scenes glimpses from the film set. Gomez also shared her admiration for co-star Meryl Streep, praising her for her talent and humility, and recalling being moved by Streep’s live performance.



Fashion

Is Malaika Arora’s Melbourne look her best yet?

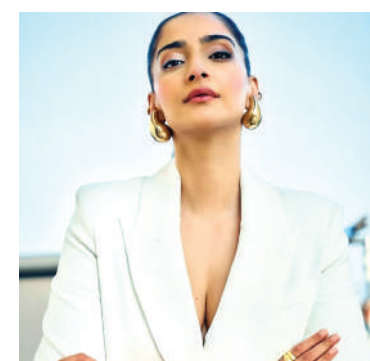
Malaika Arora has dazzled Melbourne with her recent fashion statement, turning heads at the 2024 Indian Film Festival. The actress delivered monochrome magic in a striking black-and-white ensemble, featuring a chic white jumpsuit paired with an oversized black coat. The jumpsuit’s ruched top, high halter neckline, and skinny pants highlighted her curves, while the black coat added a formal, androgynous twist. Accessories were minimal but impactful, including black gloves, oversized sunglasses, and subtle jewellery.

Trending on Insta

@Sonam Kapoor

Sonam Kapoor’s heartfelt birthday wish for Vayu

On Instagram, Sonam Kapoor celebrated Vayu’s second birthday with a video of him running. She wrote, “My baby turns two today!!! Happy 2nd Birthday to our sweet, precious Vayu!” and expressed how Vayu fills their lives with joy.



OTT Watch



Michaela Coel: New horizons?

Michaela Coel is reuniting with HBO and BBC for a new ten-episode drama series, First Day on Earth. In this show, Coel stars as British novelist Henri, who seeks reconnection with her estranged father in Ghana.



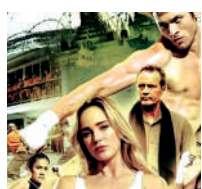
Has the force turned against The Acolyte?

Disney+ has cancelled the “Star Wars” spin-off series The Acolyte, which explored Sith origins before “The Phantom Menace.” Despite a cliff-hanger ending, the series, created by Lesley Headland, faced mixed reviews and will not return.



Will Murshid be Zee5’s next big hit?

The trailer for ZEE5’s original series Murshid has been released, showcasing intense drama and action. Directed by Shraavan Tiwari, it stars Kay Kay Menon as a gangster returning to the Mumbai underworld.



The Lockdown: A must-see film this August

Republic Pictures and Paramount have released the trailer for The Lockdown, a martial arts thriller marking Ryan C. Jaeger’s directorial debut. Premiering August 27, 2024, it features intense action and suspense in Myanmar’s notorious prison.



Kaos: A comedic twist on Greek mythology

Netflix’s Kaos trailer drops, blending dark comedy with Greek mythology. Created by Charlie Covell, the series stars Jeff Goldblum as a neurotic Zeus and Janet McTeer as a challenged Hera. Don’t miss it!



Art & Culture

INTERIORS

The unsung heroes of textile weaving: The Meghwal community

Rajasthan's traditional tribe, Meghwal are famous for their embroidery that is done on clothes or different items and which are presented as wedding gifts or dowry to a daughter by her mother.

In the sun-drenched deserts of Rajasthan, the Meghwal community creates textiles that are far more than mere fabric they are vibrant embodiments of a rich cultural heritage. Each piece of Meghwal weaving is a living artefact, crafted with meticulous skill and artistic flair that captures the essence of the community's traditions and narratives. For Meghwal women, weaving is both a revered art form and an essential cultural practice. At their looms, they transform threads into intricate patterns and vivid colours that reflect their community's folklore, spiritual beliefs, and everyday life. These textiles are not just functional garments but cherished symbols, preserving and celebrating their unique cultural identity. The tradition of Meghwal weaving is deeply intergenerational. Skilled artisans impart their techniques and stories to younger generations, ensuring the craft remains vibrant



Meghwal is a tribe residing mainly in Rajasthan.



HIGHLIGHT

● Meghwal Embroidery is practised on clothes worn or items given at the time of the wedding and as Dahej or dowry trousseau to the bride from mother. It includes items such as handbag, blanket and so on.



and authentic. This passing down of knowledge not only maintains the tradition but also fosters a sense of continuity and connection within the community. From ornate wedding saris to everyday shawls, Meghwal textiles play a crucial role in both significant life events and daily routines.

Even in the face of modern challenges and global market pressures, Meghwal weaving continues to adapt and thrive. Contemporary adaptations blend traditional techniques with new design elements, keeping the craft both relevant and dynamic. For art connoisseurs and cultural enthusiasts, Meghwal textiles offer a profound glimpse into a world where every thread weaves together history, identity, and artistry, creating a tapestry that seamlessly connects the past with the present.

Cultural Hues

Lahaina's resilient banyan tree begins to recover

One year after a devastating fire in Maui, Lahaina's historic banyan tree, now 151 years old, is showing signs of recovery. The fire, which ravaged much of Lahaina and killed over 100 people, left the banyan tree severely scorched. Initially, its survival seemed doubtful due to extensive charring. However, arborists, led by Timothy Griffith Jr., found living tissue and began a rigorous recovery regimen, including daily watering and nutrient treatments. By mid-September, new growth appeared. Today, the banyan is thriving with fresh leaves and extended branches, though it remains fragile.



Rare Mastodon skull unearthed in Iowa

Archaeologists in Iowa have uncovered a 13,600-year-old mastodon skull in Wayne County. Discovered during a 12-day excavation, the skull and a broken tusk were found after a mastodon femur photo surfaced on social media. The discovery, alongside stone tools from a later period, might reveal early human interaction with mastodons. Researchers aim to study the skull and tusk for insights into the mastodon's life and its possible human connections.



Pompeii: A new chapter in the story

Archaeologists have unearthed the remains of two individuals in Pompeii, revealing their final moments during the 79 C.E. eruption of Mount Vesuvius. The man, aged 15-20, and the woman, aged 35-45, were found in a small room, likely used as a temporary bedroom. They were trapped when pumice filled their home. The man was found under a crumbling wall, and the woman, clutching coins and jewellery, was lying on a bed. These findings offer a poignant glimpse into their last moments.



Amateur sleuth solves centuries-old Faberge riddle

Amateur detective Andreane Rellou has solved a long-standing mystery at an English museum. The identities of two women in Fabergé frames were unknown until Rellou used her expertise to identify them. The women are Sophia of Prussia, granddaughter of Queen Victoria, and Marie Perugia, wife of Leopold de Rothschild. Discovered by Geoffrey Munn at Brighton Museum and Art Gallery, the frames had puzzled researchers until Rellou's investigation provided the answers.



Honoring heroes: WWI memorial sculpture takes shape

The National World War I Memorial in Washington, D.C. is nearing completion with the installation of "A Soldier's Journey," a 58-foot-long bronze sculpture by Sabin Howard. Set to be unveiled on September 13, this centerpiece depicts 38 figures illustrating America's WWI involvement. The \$44 million memorial, located in Pershing Park, is designed by Joe Weishaar. Howard's sculpture, the largest free-standing bronze relief in the Western Hemisphere, aims to bring history to life for viewers.



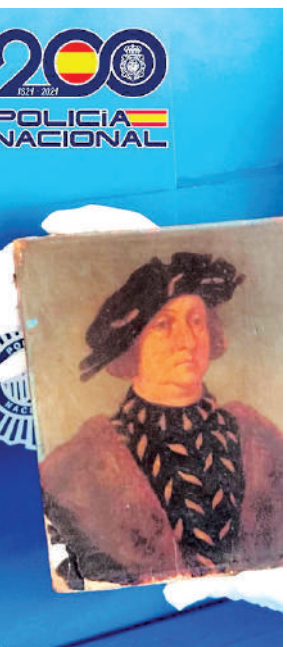
Ratnagiri takes steps to preserve ancient artefacts

The Maharashtra government has officially protected Ratnagiri's geoglyphs and petroglyphs under the Maharashtra Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act. These Mesolithic-era artworks, featuring animals and footprints, offer a glimpse into prehistoric life. With over 1,500 geoglyphs spread across 70 sites, Ratnagiri is a treasure trove of ancient history. Some of these sites are even on UNESCO's tentative World Heritage list, highlighting their global significance.



Art dealer caught selling \$1.4 million fake Da Vinci

French and Spanish authorities have arrested an art dealer for attempting to sell a counterfeit Leonardo Da Vinci painting for \$1.4 million. The arrest followed a two-year investigation into his activities. In 2022, the dealer tried to transport the painting from Spain to Italy, but French customs officers seized it at the Modane border due to an expired export license. Although the license falsely valued the painting at €1.3 million, experts determined it was a 20th-century imitation rather than an authentic Da Vinci. Valued between \$3,200 and \$5,400, the fake was confiscated, and the dealer was apprehended in Madrid.



MASTERPIECE

Satyr mosaic offers clues to ancient Greek life



Construction workers in Eretria, on the Greek island of Euboea, recently unearthed a stunning 2,400-year-old mosaic depicting dancing satyrs. The mosaic, discovered during water line construction, features two mythical figures—satyrs with horse-like tails, pointed ears, and yellow hair—set against a blue background. Dating back to the mid-fourth century B.C.E., the artwork was part of a luxurious floor, likely from a home used for gatherings and banquets.

LEGACY

Beyond Dhoop: The rise of modern scent and light diffusers

Central Chronicle News

HIGHLIGHT

● The blend of traditional and modern aromatherapy tools shows how integrating light and scent into daily life fosters relaxation and positivity across cultures.

fragrances—from soothing lavender to invigorating citrus—create an inviting atmosphere that promotes relaxation and emotional balance. The gentle flicker of candlelight adds a layer of warmth and serenity, making them a favoured choice for enhancing personal and shared spaces. Aroma diffusers, another modern innovation, disperse essential oils into the air, offering a customizable and continuous sensory



Traditional dhoop and modern diffusers, a new era of relaxation.

experience. These devices are celebrated not only for their ability to infuse environments with pleasant scents but also for their benefits in reducing stress, improving sleep, and supporting mental clarity.

This evolution from traditional incense to contemporary aromatherapy illustrates a broader cultural shift towards integrating wellness practices into everyday life. Both ancient and modern methods play a significant role in fostering positivity and calmness. As we embrace these tools, we continue to explore how light and scent can profoundly impact our well-being, bridging the gap between time-honored traditions and contemporary lifestyles.

Sports



"I'm feeling a lot of apprehension because this season is going to be very difficult."

Al-Hilal defender Kalidou Koulibaly

ICC shifts Women's T20 World Cup venue to UAE

ICC relocates the Women's T20 World Cup from Bangladesh to the UAE due to security concerns following widespread unrest in the South Asian nation.



HIGHLIGHT

● Despite losing the event, Bangladesh retains hosting rights, ensuring it receives revenue while the tournament proceeds safely in Dubai and Sharjah.

● Australian T20 skipper Alyssa Healy voiced strong concerns about playing in unrest-hit Bangladesh.

explored "all avenues to try and enable the event to be hosted" there.

"...but travel advisories from the governments of a number of the participating teams meant that wasn't feasible. However, they will

retain hosting rights. We look forward to taking an ICC global event to Bangladesh in the near future," he said.

Over 230 people have been killed in incidents of violence that erupted across the country following the fall of the Sheikh Hasina-led Awami League government, taking the death toll to more than 600 since the massive protest by students against a quota system in government jobs first started in mid-July.

An interim government has been formed and 84-year-old Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus has been named its Chief Adviser.

Bangladesh Cricket Board's president Najmul Hassan Papon, known

to be close to the former PM, has also fled the country.

The ICC decision comes after Australia T20 skipper Alyssa Healy expressed her apprehensions about playing there on Monday.

"I would find it hard to fathom playing there at the moment, as a human being. I feel it might be wrong thing to do," Healy was quoted as saying by the Australian Associated Press.

Allardice said that all available options were explored before deciding on shifting the venue.

"I'd also like to thank the Emirates Cricket Board for stepping in to host on behalf of the BCB and Sri Lanka and Zimbabwe for their generous

offers of support, and we look forward to seeing ICC global events in both of those countries in 2026."

UAE was a feasible venue as both Dubai and Sharjah are located close to each other and logistical cost of conducting the event there won't shoot up drastically.

As anti-government protests reached a crescendo on August 5, Hasina resigned and fled the country. The 76-year-old embattled leader landed in India and is currently staying in a safe house in Delhi.

There have been reports of atrocities against the nation's minority communities in the aftermath of the change of guard.

Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

SOCCER

Cristiano Ronaldo aiming to help Al-Nassr end Al-Hilal's dominance

RIYADH: Cristiano Ronaldo is lining up for another Saudi Pro League season with the main aim of helping Al-Nassr end the dominance of Riyadh rival Al-Hilal. Ronaldo signed for Al-Nassr in December 2022 and has yet to win a domestic trophy with the club. In a social media post this week, he wrote: "New season, same goal. Al-Hilal won the title last season with 31 wins and three draws, finishing 14 points clear of second-place Al-Nassr. Hilal beat Ronaldo's team 4-1 in the final of the Saudi Super Cup last weekend. The 18-team league kicks off its season on Thursday. "I'm feeling a lot of apprehension because this season is going to be very difficult," Al-Hilal defender Kalidou Koulibaly, who signed from Chelsea last year, told The Associated Press. "Last year, it was a tough championship, but we managed to come out on top. PTI

CRICKET

Priyansh Arya leads South Delhi Superstarz to six-wicket win



NEW DELHI: Priyansh Arya's scintillating 82 off 51 balls powered South Delhi Superstarz to a six-wicket win over Central Delhi Kings in the Delhi Premier League here. Fifties from Dhruv Kaushik (56) and Yash Dhull (52) guided Central Delhi Kings to 176/7 after they were asked to bat on Tuesday. However, South Delhi Superstarz chased down the target with five balls to spare, courtesy a solid 101-run partnership between Arya and Ayush Badoni (42). PTI

Mixed Reviews for New York Pitches

T20 World Cup: New York's notorious drop-in pitches gets six 'satisfactory' ratings



DUBAI: The ICC match referees have gone soft on the much-maligned pitches used for the New York leg of the T20 World Cup with six of the eight games, including the India versus Pakistan contest, getting a "satisfactory" rating.

Only two games at the makeshift Nassau County Cricket Stadium, including India's opening fixture against Ireland, have got an "unsatisfactory" rating from the game's governing body which remains bullish on promoting cricket in the United States.

The surface used for the game between Sri Lanka and South Africa also got thumbs down from the

match referee.

After a rather long delay, the ICC published the pitch ratings on its website on Tuesday. The tournament, won by India, was played from June 1 to 29.

All eight games in New York ended up being low-scoring affairs, drawing scathing criticism from experts and fans during and after the ICC event.

The cricket on display in New York was not the best advert for a sport trying to make its presence felt ahead of the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics, where it will make its debut. India played three games in New York while their match against Canada in Fort Lauderdale was washed out. PTI

| BORDER GAVASKAR TROPH |

Border Gavaskar Trophy on par with Ashes for Australia

Press Trust Of India

Mitchell Starc equates upcoming Border-Gavaskar Trophy with Ashes, eyes clean sweep against India.

SYDNEY: Australia pace ace Mitchell Starc believes that with the upcoming Border-Gavaskar Trophy against India becoming a five-Test affair for the first time in over three decades, it would be "right on par" with the esteemed Ashes series for his team.

The marquee series between India and Australia, set to begin in November, was extended by a match this year for the first time since the 1991-92 season.

"Being five matches



now it's probably right on par with an Ashes series," Starc told Wide World of Sports. Since 2014-15, Australia have failed to lay their hands on the Border Gavsakar Trophy,

with India winning four consecutive series including the historic triumphs Down Under in 2018-19 and 2020-21. Starc is not only intent on reversing this trend but also

FACTFILE

● Starc prioritizes the five-Test Border-Gavaskar Trophy, aiming to reclaim the trophy from India.

● Starc scales back white-ball commitments to focus on prolonging his Test career.

harbours aspirations of a clean sweep, particularly as the series forms a crucial part of the World Test Championship. "We always want to win every game at home and we know India are a very strong team," he said. Currently, India leads the World Test Championships table with Australia in second place.

| CITY STARS CROWNED |

Phil Foden and Shaw win PFA awards

Press Trust Of India

MANCHESTER: Manchester City duo Phil Foden and Khadija Shaw were voted the men's and women's player of the year in English soccer for last season at the Professional Footballers' Association awards. The 24-year-old Foden helped Man City win a fourth consecutive Premier League title,

scoring 19 times and providing eight assists. Shaw was the top scorer in the



Women's Super League as the Jamaican forward net-

ted 21 goals, although City lost the title on goal difference to Chelsea. Foden and Shaw also won the equivalent award from the Football Writers' Association, which is voted on by journalists. The PFA winners are selected by professional players. Chelsea attacking midfielder Cole Palmer was voted the men's PFA young player of the year, with Man-

chester United midfielder Grace Clinton winning the women's prize after her performances on loan at Tottenham last season. Palmer was second only to City's Erling Haaland in the Premier League scoring charts with 22 goals and also had more assists than any other Chelsea player, with 11. Haaland won the men's player of the year award in 2023.

The Day's NUMBERS

FASTEST FIFTIES IN TEST CRICKET (BY BALLS FACED)

Misbah-ul-Haq	21
David Warner	23
Jacques Kallis	24
Shahid Afridi	26
Ian Botham	28

Source: ICC

U17 WORLD WRESTLING

India's Ronak Dahiya win bronze in 110kg in Greco-Roman category

AMMAN: India's Ronak Dahiya bagged the bronze medal in the 110 kg Greco-Roman category at the ongoing U17 World Wrestling Championship here. In the bronze medal play-off, Ronak, currently ranked two in the world in his age-group weight category, comfortably disposed the challenge of Turkey's Emrullah Capkan 6-1 to claim India's first medal from the championship on Tuesday. Earlier, Ronak had lost to eventual silver medalist Zoltan Czako of Hungary in the semi-final. The gold in this category was won by Ukraine's Ivan Yankovskiy, who beat Czako 13-4 by virtue of technical superiority. India have a chance of a second medal in the 51 kg repechage if Sainath Pardhi wins two bouts. He is first pitted against Dominic Michael Munaretto of the United States and if he wins the bout then he will fight the bronze medal play off for repechage with winner of the bout between Armenian Sargis Harutyunyan and Luri Chapidze of Georgia. PTI

TENNIS

Czech teen Noskova beats Danilina to reach the round of 16



MONTERREY: Sixth-seeded Linda Noskova dropped just one game in a 49-minute, 6-0, 6-1 win over Anna Danilina of Kazakhstan to reach the round of 16 at the WTA 500 event at Monterrey. The 19-year-old Czech will next meet either Wang Xiyu of China or Germany's Tatjana Maria at the hardcourt tournament in Mexico. Top-seeded Danielle Collins was playing later Tuesday against Russian Erika Andreeva for a place in the quarterfinals.

Defending champion Donna Vekic withdrew from the Monterrey tournament after winning the Olympic silver medal in Paris. PTI

Sports News

Manika Batra highlights UTT's impact on Indian TT

Manika Batra praises the Ultimate Table Tennis (UTT) tournament for significantly driving growth and international success in Indian table tennis, particularly among women players.



(L-R) Table Tennis players Bernadette Szocs, Achanta Sharath Kamal, Manika Batra, Sathiyan Gnanasekaran and Ayhika Mukherjee during a press conference.

Press Trust Of India

Sharath Kamal and Manika Batra acknowledge rising performance of Indian players on the global stage.

CHENNAI: Indian table tennis is headed in the right direction thanks to the advent of the UTT tournament which attracts top players from across the world, feels Manika Batra, who is the most prominent face of the women's game in the country.

Manika and Sreeja Akula recently made history by becoming the first Indian table tennis players to reach the Olympics singles pre-quarterfinals in Paris. Next, the 29-year-old Manika will represent Bengaluru Smashers in the eight-team Ultimate Table Tennis (UTT) competition, which gets underway here on Thursday.

"Personally, it has helped me because the players come for UTT from different countries, and we play against them, we play with them,"

HIGHLIGHT

● Quadri Aruna's anticipated clash with Sharath Kamal is a key highlight of UTT.

● Aruna praises India's investment in table tennis, noting Indian players' rise as global title contenders.

Manika told reporters here on Wednesday.

"It's really fun, and we enjoy this. I can see the growth that's happening, especially in

women's table tennis in India, how we all are performing internationally. We have improved a lot from UTT." Manika lost to Miu Hirano of Japan 0-3 in the women's singles pre-quarterfinals in Paris. In the team event, India, who were represented by Manika, Sreeja and Archana Kamath, lost to Germany 1-3 in the quarterfinals.

In the UTT, one of Manika's most anticipated contests will be against world No. 13, Bernadette Szocs of Romania, who will play for

Ahmedabad SG Pipers.

The two players also clashed during the pre-quarterfinals of the team event in Paris Olympics, with India winning the tie 3-2.

Bernadette said, "I love to play here; I love all the fans who are very big supporters of table tennis. And, of course, always when I come here, everything is perfect with good organisation."

Veteran Sharath Kamal, who will lead Chennai Lions in UTT, feels the performance graph of Indian players is going up gradually.

"This is the first time both Indian teams, men and women, qualified for the Olympic Games in the team event. The girls went further; they went on to play in the quarterfinals in the team event, and especially Manika and Sreeja got into the last 16 in the individual event," Sharath pointed out.

"So, performances like this have been constantly coming up, and India has been constantly growing in the international arena, and we look forward to more growth."

Nigerian legend Quadri Aruna returns to the tournament, and his clash against Sharath is expected to be one of the highlights of the tournament.

Pakistan reach 158-4 on rain-hit first day

Press Trust Of India

Bangladesh pacers dominate early, Pakistan recovers to 158-4 on Day 1.



Pakistan's Saud Shakeel, front, and Saim Ayub run between the wicket.

FASTFACTS

● Saim Ayub and Saud Shakeel's 98-run stand steadies Pakistan after early wickets.

● Hasan Mahmud breaks Pakistan's recovery, dismissing Ayub in the final session.

wicket.

Hasan lured Abdullah Shafique (2) to go for an early ambitious drive and Zakir Hasan took a spectacular acrobatic catch in the gully while diving full length to his right side.

Pakistan skipper Shan Masood fell to a contentious caught behind decision from television umpire Darren Gough as left-arm fast bowler Shoriful Islam's (2-30)

delivery jagged back into the left-hander.

Gough ruled in Bangladesh's favor after the tourists went for a TV referral of on-field decision of not out. Masood argued with on-field umpire Richard Kettleborough before walking off in disbelief.

Pakistan's former all-format captain Babar Azam's struggle in red-ball cricket continued for the seventh successive test match as he tried to flick Shoriful down the leg side and was brilliantly snapped by wicket-keeper Litton Das without scoring. Ayub and Shakeel then staged a good recovery and negated the off-spin of Mehidy Hasan Miraz with sweep shots and the pace of tall Nahid Rana before Hasan broke through.

CHOPRA'S LAUSANNE RETURN

Chopra takes field in Lausanne in bid for Diamond League title

Press Trust Of India

Neeraj Chopra resumes competition at Lausanne Diamond League, aiming to end the season strong.

LAUSANNE: Two weeks after winning his historic silver medal at the Paris Olympics, star Indian javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra will resume action at the Lausanne Diamond League meeting on Thursday, seeking to reclaim the DL trophy at the season-ending finale next month.

Nursing a long-standing groin injury, Chopra claimed a silver in the Paris Olympics on August 8 with a 89.45m throw, having won a historic gold in the Tokyo edition of the Games



FASTFACTS

● Chopra faces top contenders in Lausanne, including five of the top-six Paris Olympic finishers.

● Despite his injury, Chopra has been the most consistent javelin thrower in recent seasons.

three years ago. The 26-year-old dou-

ble Olympic medallist Indian on Saturday confirmed his participation at the Diamond League meeting in Lausanne, leaving a decision on a possible surgery after the end of the season.

Chopra was the Diamond League champion in 2022 and finished second behind Jakub Vadlejch of Czech Republic in the winner-takes-all DL final in Eugene, USA, last year.

TT ace Sharath Kamal eyes administrative role

CHENNAI: Achanta Sharath Kamal might have appeared in his last Olympics, but the veteran Indian table-tennis player wants to stay connected to the sport as an administrator and said he will soon have a sit-down with powers that be to chalk out a "roadmap." Sharath Kamal suffered a shocking opening round exit in the men's singles at the Paris Games, losing to Deni Kozul of Slovenia 2-4. In the team event Sharath, alongside Harmeet Desai and Manav Thakkar, went down 0-3 against China in the pre-quarterfinals. "Still haven't decided clearly what will be my roadmap ahead. But, I'll sit down and have a talk with the federation and decide with my family as well about what exactly has to be done ahead," Kamal told PTI on the sidelines of the Ultimate Table Tennis (UTT) launch here on Wednesday.

Unlucky loss to Germany, bronze a major achievement: Harmanpreet

Press Trust Of India

Harmanpreet Singh reflects on India's close semifinal loss and bronze medal triumph.

BHUBANESWAR: India hockey captain Harmanpreet Singh on Wednesday said that his side was unlucky to lose to Germany in the Paris Olympics semifinal despite creating several chances before calling the back-to-back bronze winning performance a "huge achievement". India repeated their 2021 Tokyo Games performance in Paris, defeating Spain to win consecutive bronze medals for the first time in 52 years. The keenly-contested semifinal earlier saw



India going down to reigning world champions Germany 2-3 to set up a bronze-medal match with Spain.

"It (semifinal vs Germany) was a very close match. I think we created a lot of chances but you can say we were not lucky that day and some chances were off target," Harmanpreet told PTI Videos during a felicita-

HIGHLIGHT

● India won consecutive Olympic bronze medals after narrowly losing to Germany in semifinals.

● Harmanpreet praises Odisha's support and facilities, calling the bronze a significant achievement.

tion ceremony organised by the Odisha government.

"But I think the bronze medal was very important. It was the last match of the tournament and feeling very happy after winning the match. Our effort was that we should fulfil our dream (of winning gold) but somehow we were unlucky. "But, still, we had the

bronze medal to play for. So, went into the match with that mindset that we will win. We've won back-to-back medals in hockey; it's a very big thing for us," he added. Harmanpreet was left speechless with the reception given to the players, saying the team gets the same affection every time it comes to Odisha.

ASHWIN ADVOCATES SELF-RELIANCE

Ravichandran Ashwin warns against over-reliance on coaches

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Ravichandran Ashwin doesn't like "latching on to people" and that's one reason why he has never warmed up to the idea of banking on coaches in the traditional sense as he believes that such dependence makes players dogmatic.

In his 14-year international cricket career, spanning 281 games and 744 wickets across formats, Ashwin's sense of agency and his ability to time and

again rediscover himself, have helped him survive the grind.

"A lot of players are heavily dependent on coaches or mentors, or one person which I think is a very dangerous trend because latching on to people and over-dependency can cause you to not be able to open to new ideas," the 37-year-old off-spinner told PTI in a telephonic interview recently.

It is not that Ashwin never had a sounding board. His first state team



coach WV Raman, one of the respected names in Indian cricket, and Tamil Nadu legend and former India batter S Badrinath, have been guiding forces

for him.

But his equation with them never turned into the kind of dependence that would take away his own ability to search for solu-

“See very often the challenge of a coach is to be able to offer you several solutions. This is because what works for one (particular player) might not work for the other,” he explained.

“One modern-day coaching philosophy which I totally disagree with is the fact that they try to copy-paste the same technique (solution) that's worked for another cricketer,” Ashwin, who recently made his debut as an author with 'I Have The Streets: A Kutti Cricket Story', added.

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be able to offer you several solutions. This is because what works for one (particular player) might not work for the other,” he explained.

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Sathish Kumar moves into pre-quarters

Press Trust Of India

YOKOHAMA: Indian shuttler Sathish Kumar Karunakaran progressed to the men's singles pre-quarterfinals after Denmark's Anders Antonsen retired hurt midway in their opening-round match at the Japan Open here on Wednesday.

The 23-year-old Indian was leading 6-1 when Antonsen, the world number three, retired just three minutes into

the contest at the Yoko-

hama Arena. Sathish, ranked 47th in the world, will take on Kantaphon Wangcharoen of Thailand in the round of 16. However, Kiran George made a first-round exit from the men's singles competition, going down to Japan's Kanta Tsuneyama 19-21 14-21 in the Super 750 tournament.

Sumeeth Reddy and Sikki Reddy's campaign also ended prematurely.

World



"The United States should elevate Taiwan on the world stage. You should no longer be silenced in global affairs."

Nikki Haley
Former US ambassador to UN

Israeli strike in the southern port city of Sidon, Lebanon



Workers use a crane to remove a car that was hit by an Israeli strike in the southern port city of Sidon, Lebanon, Wednesday, Aug. 21, 2024.

UK to speed up returns in illegal migration crackdown

The National Crime Agency (NCA) will deploy these officers to dismantle and disrupt criminal gangs involved in people smuggling and trafficking.

Press Trust Of India

LONDON: The UK government on Wednesday announced a new set of illegal migration crackdown measures that include the immediate recruitment of up to 100 new specialist intelligence officers and the reopening of detention centres to speed up returns to countries of origin.

Home Secretary Yvette Cooper said the new officers will be deployed at the National Crime Agency (NCA) to target, dismantle and disrupt organised immigration crime networks. She also announced a "surge" in immigration enforcement, with plans for the next six months to

achieve the highest rate of removals of those with no right to remain in the UK, including failed asylum seekers. In addition, a new "intelligence-driven" illegal working programme will be rolled out to target, investigate and take down "unscrupulous employers" who illegally employ those with no right to work in the country.

"We are taking strong and clear steps to boost our border security and ensure the rules are respected and enforced," said Cooper. "Our new Border Security Command is already gearing up, with new staff being urgently recruited and additional staff already stationed across Europe working with

HIGHLIGHT

- The government plans to increase immigration enforcement, aiming for the highest rate of removals of those with no right to remain in the UK.

- A new "intelligence-driven" program will target employers who illegally employ those with no right to work in the country.

European enforcement agencies to find every route into smashing the criminal smuggling gangs organising dangerous boat crossings, which undermine our border

security putting lives at risk. And by increasing enforcement capabilities and returns we will establish a system that is better controlled and managed, in place of the chaos that has blighted the system for far too long," she said.

As part of the measures unveiled this week, the Home Office expects a "large surge" in enforcement and returns flights, with the aim of putting removals at their highest level since 2018. There will also be increased detention capacity, including 290 added beds at Campsfield and Haslar Immigration Removal Centres, and redeployment of staff to drive the process of returning

migrants entering the UK illegally from a country deemed as safe.

The Home Office claims there have been nine "successful returns flights" in the last six weeks, including the largest-ever chartered return flight, since the new government took charge following the July 4 general election. According to official statistics, the NCA currently has around 70 investigations targeting the highest harm criminal networks involved in people smuggling and trafficking and worked with international partners to support the seizure of around 400 boats and engines intended for use in English Channel crossings.

Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

US INDIAN ARREST Indian doctor arrested in US for taking photos of naked children

WASHINGTON: A 40-year-old Indian doctor was held in a US jail on a USD 2 million bond after being charged with multiple sex crimes for allegedly recording hundreds of nude images and videos of children and women over several years, according to media reports. Oumair Aejaz was arrested earlier on August 8 after he allegedly placed hidden cameras in a variety of settings from bathrooms, changing areas, hospital rooms, and even his own home where he would record children as young as 2 years old in varying states of undress, Fox News reported. Authorities became aware of his offences after his wife came forward with disturbing materials. Before his arrest, he had no criminal history. He also allegedly recorded sexual encounters with numerous women who were unconscious or asleep, the Oakland County Sheriff said on Tuesday. The magnitude of Aejaz's offences is not currently known, but Sheriff Mike Bouchard said it will take months to fully investigate.

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RUSSIA UKRAINE WAR

Moscow comes under one of the largest Ukrainian drone attacks but destroys them all



MOSCOW: Moscow came under one of the largest attacks yet by Ukrainian drones since the start of fighting in 2022, Russian authorities reported Wednesday, saying they destroyed all of those headed toward the capital. Russia downed 45 Ukrainian drones overnight, the Ministry of Defense said. It said 11 were destroyed over the Moscow region, 23 over the Bryansk region, six over Belgorod, three over Kaluga and two over Kursk.

FROM AROUND THE WORLD

Hezbollah fires more than 50 rockets, hitting Israeli-annexed Golan Heights



JERUSALEM: Lebanon's Hezbollah has launched more than 50 rockets, hitting a number of private homes in the Israeli-annexed Golan Heights. The attack on Wednesday came a day after US Secretary of State Antony Blinken met with fellow mediators Egypt and Qatar as he pressed ahead with the latest diplomatic mission to secure a cease-fire in the war in Gaza, even as Hamas and Israel signaled that challenges remain. Hamas in a new statement called the latest proposal presented to it a "reversal" of what it agreed to previously and accused the US of acquiescing to what it called "new conditions" from Israel. There was no immediate US response.

First responders in Golan Heights said they treated a 30-year-old man who was moderately wounded with shrapnel injuries in Wednesday's attack. One house was engulfed in flames, and firefighters said they prevented a bigger tragedy by stopping a gas leak.

Hezbollah said the attack was in response to an Israeli strike deep into Lebanon on Tuesday night that killed one and injured 19. On Tuesday, Hezbollah launched more than 200 projectiles toward Israel, after Israel targeted a Hezbollah weapons depot some 80 kilometers from the border, a significant increase in the daily skirmishes.

Another case filed against former PM Hasina, her aides in Bangladesh

DHAKA: A case was filed on Wednesday against Bangladesh's deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina and 86 others on charge of attacking a procession in Sylhet city which left several people shot and injured during the recent mass protests on August 4, taking the number of cases against her after her ouster to 33.

Juber Ahmed, acting president of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal's Sylhet city unit, filed the case

with the court of Sylhet Metropolitan Magistrate Suman Bhuiya. Hasina's sister Sheikh Rehana is also an accused in the case.

According to the case statement, the accused attacked a peaceful rally, brought out by Bangladesh Nationalist Party and its associate organisations in Sylhet City's Bandarbazar area on August 4, which left several shot and injured. Awami

League's general secretary and former road transport minister Obaidul Quader, former home minister Asaduzzaman Khan, were among people named in the case.

| BANGLA UNREST HOSPITALITY |

Hospitality sector hit in Dhaka, rooms empty at hotels

Press Trust Of India

The recent anti-government protests that rocked Bangladesh for over a month have hit the hospitality sector hard in the capital Dhaka.



A public square in a commercial area containing luxury hotels and other properties, in Dhaka, Bangladesh, Tuesday, Aug. 20, 2024.

FASTFACTS

- Luxury and economy hotels in Dhaka have seen a significant decline in occupancy rates.

- Majority of rooms at several hotels are empty, resulting in financial losses

the "heaviest impact" was felt in July when huge booking cancellations took place resulting in a "big financial loss".

PTI spoke to front office employees, managers and restaurant staff at some of the luxury chains as well as economy hotels located in plush areas, and they all painted a sombre picture

of the current condition of the hospitality sector in Dhaka. "The situation is now a bit better, but still far from normal in our sector as the majority of the rooms are still empty. While a certain section of business travellers are still coming, after the unrest in the country, the number of guests occupying rooms have dramatically shrunk," a senior manager in the sales department of a luxury hotel told PTI on the condition of anonymity.

This five-star hotel operating under the current brand name for a year-and-a-half is located in a towering building near Gulshan enclave -- an affluent area which also houses several diplomatic missions of foreign countries in Bangladesh.

| CHINA-EU-DAIRY |

China probes EU dairy exports amid trade tensions

Press Trust Of India

BEIJING: European milk and cheese producers have become the latest target in a simmering trade war with China. The Chinese Commerce Ministry said Wednesday that it would launch an investigation into subsidies given by the European Union and EU member countries for



dairy products that could lead to tariffs on their export to China. The announcement came one

day after the EU released a draft decision to finalize tariffs on electric vehicles made in China, in a follow-up to provisional tariffs announced last month. The tariffs have been denounced by the Chinese government and automakers and threaten to set back the industry's efforts to go global. The dairy investigation will cover a range

"Regrettably, use of trade defense instruments by one government is increasingly being responded to seemingly in kind by recipient government."
EU Chamber of Commerce, China

of products including fresh and processed cheese, blue cheese and milk and cream with a fat content of more than 10%, a Commerce Ministry notice said. It will look at subsidies under the EU's Common Agricultural Policy as well as those given by eight European Union countries including Italy, Finland and Croatia.

कालड़ा बर्न एवं लार्जिक कॉस्मेटिक सर्जरी सेंटर
कानों की रिशेपिंग

सुयश हॉस्पिटल (NABH से मान्यता प्राप्त)
डायलिसिस

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- ◆ हिमोडायलिसिस
- ◆ पेरीटोनियल डायलिसिस
- ◆ सीएपीडी
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