



CHHATTISGARH
NCC cadets launch anti-drug campaign Pg 07



Central Chronicle

Bilaspur | TUESDAY, August 27, 2024

Fastest Growing English Daily Of Chhattisgarh

www.centralchronicle.in

Pages: 16 | Price: Rs. 4.00

BJP starts with a jerk in Jammu and Kashmir

BJP releases 44 names, withdraws, re-releases list of 16 candidates for the first phase.

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: The BJP on Monday issued a list of 16 candidates for the first phase of the Jammu and Kashmir assembly elections, considerably pruning an initial list of 44 names following protests by some party cadre who alleged that "parachute candidates" were favoured over dedicated workers.

The original list, which included candidates for 36 segments in the Jammu region and eight in the Kashmir Valley, sparked significant dissatisfaction among party workers.

A group of disgruntled members protested at the BJP headquarters in Jammu.

While Jammu and Kashmir BJP president Ravinder Raina attempted to downplay the discontent, the protests highlighted a growing rift within the party



BJP workers protest after the party released the first list of candidates for the J&K Assembly election, in Jammu, Monday. | Photo: PTI

HIGHLIGHT

● The original list sparked significant dissatisfaction among party workers.

Some angry BJP workers from different assembly constituencies staged a protest at the party headquarters over the leadership "ignoring" hardworking

BJP is fully prepared for the elections.

Ravinder Raina
BJP J&K president

workers and giving the mandate to "parachute candidates".

Jagdish Bhagat, president of the BJP's Sched-

uled Caste Morcha, asserted that long-time members of the party felt overlooked.

"I have been associated with the party for the last 18 years and have worked day and night to strengthen it but the mandate was given to a person who joined the party only a few days back," Bhagat said. Welcoming the

withdrawal of the initial list, he said, "We hope that party leaders would be given the mandate instead of those who have done nothing for the party.

"If they ignore us, there will be serious consequences. We will not allow any wrongdoing and will protest against this injustice within the party," he added.

BJP schools Kangana Ranaut over farmers' protests remarks

NEW DELHI: The BJP on Monday denounced its Lok Sabha MP and film actor Kangana Ranaut for her disparaging remarks on the farmers agitation, as it expressed disagreement with her views and made it clear that she is neither permitted nor authorised to comment on the party's policy matters.

"The Bharatiya Janata Party has directed Kangana Ranaut to not make

any statement of this kind in future," the ruling party said in a statement as her controversial remarks threatened to inflame an issue it has tried hard to contain over the last few years.

The Mandi MP had posted a clip of her interview in which she suggested that a "Bangladesh-like situation" could have erupted in India but for the country's strong leadership.

Ladakh gets 5 new districts

NEW DELHI: Union Home Minister Amit Shah announced Monday the creation of five new districts in Ladakh, raising their number to seven in a decision welcomed by local people as fulfilment of their long-pending demand. The new districts are: Zaskar, Drass, Sham, Nubra, and Changthang. However, the Leh Apex Body, which along with the KDA is fighting for their four major demands.

25 Naxalites surrender

BIJAPUR: Twenty-five Naxalites, five of them carrying a cumulative bounty of Rs 28 lakh on their heads, surrendered in Bijapur district on Monday, a senior police official said.

The 25 ultras, who were active in Gangloor and Bhairamgarh area committees of the outlawed Communist Party of India (Maoist), include two women, the official added. "The two women, Shambati Madkam (23) and Jyoti Punem (27), and Mahesh Telam were active in company no. 2 of the Maoists and carried rewards of Rs 8 lakh each on their heads.

NEWSLINE

KARACHI

37 massacred in Balochistan

Heavily-armed Baloch gunmen killed at least 37 people in separate attacks in Pakistan's restive Balochistan province on Monday, as insurgent attacks spiked in the region bordering Afghanistan. According to the government and security officials, on the intervening night between Sunday and Monday, militants belonging to outlawed separatist groups carried out four attacks leading into Monday in which 37 people were killed.



NEW DELHI

Narrow escape

Two rickshaw-pullers, who had a narrow escape after a truck ran over people sleeping on the divider in northeast Delhi road, said they felt like riding a high-speed boat with a current flowing through them as they were dragged by the vehicle. Istekar, 43, and Deepak, 32, dodged death when a truck allegedly ran over them.

NEW DELHI

Decline in birth rate

Delhi saw a decline in birth rate after the COVID-19 pandemic as it reduced from 18.35 per 1000 population to 14.85 in 2020, according to the latest report of the government.

BIJAPUR

Maoists kill man

A man was killed by Naxalites in Bijapur district after they accused him of being a police informer, an official said on Monday. Situ Madvi was killed near his native Jaigur village under Bhairamgarh police station limits in a kangaroo court held by the ultras on Sunday morning, the official said.

RG Kar ex-principal Ghosh named in corruption FIR

Press Trust Of India

The cases read together account for cognisable offences and are non-bailable in nature, a senior Calcutta High Court lawyer said.

KOLKATA: The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has named Sandip Ghosh, former principal of RG Kar Medical College and Hospital, in the FIR the agency has filed in connection with its probe into the alleged financial irregularities at the insti-



CBI officials come out after a day long questioning of Sandip Ghosh (seen in white shirt).

tution during his tenure.

The agency has slapped Section 120B of IPC (criminal conspiracy) read with Section 420 IPC (cheating and dishonesty)

and Section 7 of Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 (amended in 2018) which covers unlawful acceptance of gratification by a public servant.

FACTFILE

● The FIR was lodged after the CBI took over the probe from a state-constituted SIT.

The cases read together account for cognisable offences and are non-bailable in nature, a senior Calcutta High Court lawyer said. Besides Ghosh, the CBI has also registered cases against one M/s Ma Tara Traders of Madhya Jorehat, Banipur, Howrah, M/s Eshan Cafe of 4/1, H/1, JK Ghosh Road, Belgachhia, Kolkata and one M/s Khama Louha.

NC, Congress crack J&K seat-sharing deal

Press Trust Of India

The talks were successful and end hours before the deadline to file nominations for the first phase.



FASTFACTS

● NC will contest the majority of seats - 51 and the Congress will contest 32.

● There will be a 'friendly but disciplined contest' on five seats.

majority of seats - 51 and the Congress will contest 32, the latter's J&K unit chief, Tariq

SRINAGAR: The Congress and National Conference have reached a deal to share Jammu and Kashmir's 90 Assembly seats ahead of next month's election, senior leaders from each side said Monday evening, bringing talks to a successful end hours before the deadline to file nominations for the first phase.

The NC will contest the

CRPF trooper kills self in Dantewada

Press Trust Of India

DANTEWADA: A Central Reserve Police Force head constable allegedly committed suicide on Monday in Dantewada district, an official said.

At around 10:30 am, head constable Vipin Chandra of the CRPF's 195th battalion shot himself in the barracks with his AK-47 rifle, the official said. The incident took place in the 195th battalion's headquarters under Barsoor police station limits, some 400 kilometres from here, the official added. "He shot himself in

the neck. On hearing the gunshot, his colleagues arrived at the site and rushed him to Dantewada district hospital where doctors declared him dead on arrival. A probe is underway to find out why he took this extreme step," the official said.

"He shot himself in the neck. On hearing the gunshot, his colleagues arrived at the site and rushed him to Dantewada district hospital where doctors declared him dead on arrival. A probe is underway to find out why he took this extreme step," the official said.

NEW STUDY |

'Local emissions in most NCAP cities to rise'

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Local emissions in most cities covered under the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) are projected to rise by at least 11 per cent by 2030 compared to 2019 levels, according to a new study.

The study, conducted by the think tank Center for Study of Science, Technology and Policy (CSTEP), examined 76 out of the total 131 NCAP cities over a period of 2.5 years.

The findings revealed that only 8 of the 76 cities are likely to achieve a 40



per cent reduction in four major pollutants -- PM10, PM2.5, sulphur dioxide, and nitrogen oxides -- by 2030, compared to 2019 levels. "Our study shows that most cities covered under the NCAP will not be able to achieve a 40 per cent reduction in local emissions even by 2030," said Anirban Banerjee, project lead at

NUMBER

11

● Local emissions are expected to increase by 11 to 45 pc in the studied cities by 2030

CSTEP. Local emissions are expected to increase by 11 to 45 per cent in the studied cities by 2030, relative to 2019 levels, significantly worsening pollution, the study said. The study estimated the share of the four major pollutants for the base year 2019 and projected their con-

tributions from different sources until 2030. These outcomes were validated against transport and domestic fuel consumption surveys conducted in over 70 percent of the studied cities.

The findings suggest that without targeted interventions, local emissions will likely rise by 2030. The study recommends prioritising targeted interventions for major emission sources such as industries, transportation, construction, and open burning in these cities to meet NCAP targets and achieve cleaner air.

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City dances to divine beats of Janmashtami!

All deities adorned with new cloth and ornaments after Dugdhabhishek ritual



Idols of Lord Krishna, Radha and other deities at ISKCON temple, Tatibandh.

Central Chronicle News

FASTFACTS

RAIPUR: Raipur was transformed into a vibrant and joyous hub of devotion and celebration as Janmashtami, the birth anniversary of Lord Krishna, was observed with grand festivities and fervor. The city's temples and homes were adorned with stunning decorations, creating a kaleidoscope of colors and festive spirit.

Devotees thronged various temples, including ISKCON Mandir in Tatibandh, Mahamaya Mandir, and Radhakrishna Mandir, to participate in the auspicious occasion. The ISKCON Mandir in Tatibandh witnessed a

● **Mahaarti Ceremony: 12 am, marking the birth of Lord Shri Krishna**

● **Radha-Krishna Tableau: a stunning display captivating the hearts of all present**

series of rituals and cultural programs, including Mahabhishekam, Maha Arti, and Bhajan Kirtan, which began at midnight and continued throughout the day.

The three-day Janmashtami Mahotsav in ISKCON Mandir featured a range of activities, including Mangal

Jaitusav Math celebrates Janmashtami with grandeur

Raipur's Jaitusav Math commemorated the birth of Lord Shri Krishna with a majestic Mahaarti ceremony at 12 am. The math was traditionally decorated, with all deities adorned in new attire and ornaments after a sacred Dugdhabhishek ritual. A large gathering of devotees from surrounding areas attended the event, which featured a special Bhajan-Kirtan performance by Shri Lallu Maharaj's party from 8 pm onwards. A stunning tableau of Radha-Krishna was also on display, captivating the hearts of all present. The celebrations will continue on Tuesday with Shri Raj Bhog Arti at 1 pm, followed by Prasada distribution in the evening from 5 pm. The Mandir Samiti has made extensive arrangements for the offerings, ensuring a memorable experience for all devotees.

Arti, Guru Puja, Shringar Darshan, and Prasad Distribution, showcasing the city's devotion to Lord Krishna. The

celebration was a testament to Raipur's rich cultural heritage and its people's deep-rooted faith in the divine.

Prof. Chakrawal meets Governor

BILASPUR: Prof. Alok Kumar Chakrawal, Vice Chancellor of Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya (a Central University), met with the newly appointed Honorable Governor of Chhattisgarh, Ramen Deka, at the Raj Bhavan in Raipur on August 23, 2024. During the courtesy meeting, Vice Chancellor Prof. Chakrawal honored the Governor with a bouquet.

Prof. Chakrawal informed the Governor that Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya, being the only central university in Chhattisgarh, is committed to fulfilling its responsibilities while maintaining its NAAC A++ grade and Category-I autonomy granted by the University Grants Commission, New Delhi. He discussed the university's innovative plans for all-round development of the local youth with skill development, entrepreneurship, and self-reliance while making them aware of their responsibilities and the local needs. He appraised that in accordance with the National Education Policy-2020 the complete implementation of the policy with Academic Bank of Credits, facilities for inter and intra-disciplinary research has been started since 2023. The Vice Chancellor also mentioned the implementation of various collaborations with prestigious national and international institutions through MoUs for research, startups and academic excellence.

Students gain knowledge on wildlife and biodiversity



Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: A group of 33 students from the College of Forestry and Research Station, Mahatma Gandhi University of Horticulture and Forestry, Durg, along with 3 assistant professors, embarked on a successful educational tour to Nandanvan Jungle Safari in Raipur on August 25. The objective of the tour was to provide students with practical knowledge on wildlife health management, biodiversity conservation efforts, and operational guidelines of wildlife sanctuaries.

During the tour, students were introduced to various aspects of jungle safari, including conservation efforts, wildlife rehabilitation, species conservation, and environmental balance maintenance. They visited

the veterinary hospital to learn about wildlife health care, treatment, and rehabilitation processes. The students also toured the zoo, where they gained knowledge about different types of wildlife, and experienced four exciting safaris (Herbivore, Bear, Tiger, and Lion Safari), learning about the natural habitats and behaviors of various species.

The educational tour concluded at 4:30 pm, with students and professors appreciating Nandanvan Jungle Safari's conservation efforts and describing the tour as highly informative and inspiring. This hands-on learning experience will help students apply theoretical knowledge in real-world scenarios, contributing to the conservation of wildlife and biodiversity.

NEWSLINE

SPORTS COURT

Sports court built under overbridge



RAIPUR: In a unique initiative, a sports court has been built under an overbridge in Raipur, inspired by cities like Mumbai and Bhopal. The court, which can be used for cricket, badminton, and basketball, has been constructed to utilize the empty space under the overbridge and prevent encroachment. The sports court is almost complete and will be ready for use in a few days. The court features a rubber ground and iron mesh fencing, with pillars and slabs painted in four colors. The surrounding area has also been beautified, making it an attractive spot for sports enthusiasts. The initiative aims to promote sports and recreation among citizens, especially in urban areas where open spaces are scarce.

POLITICS

Sharma speaks on renaming of squares

RAIPUR: Deputy Chief Minister Vijay Sharma addressed the controversy surrounding the renaming of squares in Nava Raipur, stating that the BJP government believes in working rather than renaming. He was responding to criticism from the opposition regarding the renaming of squares, which they alleged was a political move. Sharma emphasized that the previous government had named some squares, and now it's the BJP's turn to focus on development and complete pending work in Nava Raipur.

STRIKE

Forest employees continue indefinite strike



RAIPUR: The indefinite strike by forest department employees entered its 16th day, with no resolution in sight. The employees, led by Chhattisgarh Daily Wage Forest Workers' Union, are demanding regularization, stabilization, and accidental fund service.

They are also seeking a ban on direct recruitment, adjustment of daily wagers in vacant posts, payment of 8-9 months' salary, and immediate payment of Rs 4,000 as labor respect amount.

The striking employees celebrated Krishna Janmashtami at the protest site, where they also organized a pot-breaking ceremony to mark the occasion. The strike has affected forest department operations, and the government is yet to initiate talks with the striking employees to resolve the impasse.

Munishri Sudhakar delivers sermon on Janmashtami



Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: On the auspicious occasion of Krishna Janmashtami, a special sermon was organized at the Shri Lal Ganga Patwa Bhavan in Tagore Nagar, Raipur. Munishri Sudhakar, a revered disciple of Acharya Mahashraman, delivered a thought-provoking sermon on "How to live life as per Shri Krishna's teachings".

He emphasized three special qualities of Lord Krishna that are relevant to modern life - being

joyful in every situation, being a great warrior yet accepting the humble role of a charioteer, and having the power to forgive.

Munishri Sudhakar also drew parallels between the lives of Lord Krishna and Lord Mahavir, highlighting the importance of non-violence, compassion, and self-control. The sermon was attended by a large gathering of devotees who sought spiritual guidance on the occasion of Krishna Janmashtami.

Pensioners welcome new pension scheme

RAIPUR: Former employee leader, National General Secretary of ISPF and State President of Chhattisgarh Virendra Namdev has welcomed the Integrated Pension Scheme announced by the Central Government from 1 April 2025, describing it as giving financial security to the future of the employees and has urged the Chief Minister to implement it immediately in the state of Chhattisgarh as well. He further gave his reaction and told that under this scheme, a person doing a government job for 10 years will get a pension of Rs 10,000 and a person working for 25 years will be given full pension.

At the same time, if an employee dies during the job, then his wife will be given 60 percent pension. If an employee has worked for 25 years, then at least 50 percent of the average salary of the last 12 months before retirement will be given as pension.

IIT Naya Raipur welcomes freshers with tree plantation

Central Chronicle News

The event was attended by the new batch of students, faculty members, and the Treewards team, who all participated enthusiastically in the plantation drive.

RAIPUR: IIT Naya Raipur, in collaboration with Treewards Foundation, organized a tree plantation drive to welcome the new batch of students. This initiative, part of the larger 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' campaign, aims to encourage sustainability and environmental awareness among the youth.

The event was attended by the new batch of students, faculty members, and the Treewards team, who all participated



New batch of students planting saplings.

FASTFACTS

● **He campaign underscores the importance of environmental conservation and aligns with the vision of PM's mission, 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam'**

enthusiastically in the plantation drive. The campaign underscores the importance of environmental conservation and aligns with the vision

of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's mission, 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam', which emphasizes planting trees in the name of one's mother.

Anand Goel, founder of Treewards Foundation, expressed his delight at the event, stating, "IIT Naya Raipur has set a new benchmark by giving a green welcome to its freshers. This initiative not only marks the beginning of an academic journey for the students but also instills a sense of responsibility towards the environment. The participation of students and faculty in such large numbers demonstrates their commitment to a sustainable future." The plantation drive is part of Treewards Foundation's ongoing efforts to promote eco-friendly practices through their innovative Treewards program. This initiative allows individuals and organizations to plant trees while engaging in various activities, thereby contributing to carbon neutrality and environmental preservation. The 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' campaign is a heartfelt tribute to mothers, encouraging people to plant a tree in their mother's name, symbolizing the nurturing and life-giving role of both mothers and trees.

ALUMNI MEET

Mahant College alumni meet: a nostalgic reunion

Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: Mahant Lakshmi Narayan Das College recently hosted its first alumni meet, bringing together over 500 students from 1997 to 2023. The event was a nostalgic reunion, with former students sharing fond memories of their time at the college.

Alumni from various fields, including police, journalism, and politics, attended the meet. They credited the college's



teachers for their success, saying they received valuable education and guidance. Sanjana Sharma, a student from the 2003 batch, now working in

the Chhattisgarh government's panchayat department, said, "The teachers played a crucial role in shaping our personalities."

We treat every student like our own child, providing equal opportunities for growth

Dr Devashish Mukherjee
Principal, Mahant College

The meet saw alumni sharing their experiences, with some even expressing their desire to re-enroll in the college if

they could. The college's founder student, Prolay Wanderkar, emphasized the importance of the teacher-student relationship in personality development.

Principal Dr. Devashish Mukherjee said, "We treat every student like our own child, providing equal opportunities for growth." He announced plans to make the alumni meet an annual event, fostering a lifelong connection between teachers and students.

Justices and judges are also part of the society: TP Sharma

Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: Judges and judges working in the judicial fraternity are also an integral part of the society, they are also part of the society. They should also participate in the programmes of the society, said Justice T P Sharma, Chief Lokayukta, in the felicitation ceremony of Sarayuparin Brahmin Sabha here on Monday.

In the presence of hundreds of members of the society, Justice T P Sharma said that the person sitting on the chair of justice does not fall prey to any temptation, he should show activism in the society. The program was held in the presence of Rajeshri Mahant Dr. Ramsundar Das (former MLA and Chairman Gau Seva Commission) and the special guest. Dr. Suresh Shukla.

Raipur



Celebrating Janmashtami with 'divyang' children has been the most pleasant experience and honour for me.

Vishnu Deo Sai
Chief Minister - Ch'garh

Traffic congestion due to festive season



Due to festive seasons on the rise and holiday, people in large number faced traffic jam near RD Tiwari School and upto RKC for long hours.

Govt to announce new surrender policy: Vijay

Sharma emphasized the need to further enhance the existing policy.

Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: After Union Home Minister Amit Shah's recent visit, the state government is preparing to introduce an updated surrender policy for Naxalites aimed at improving reintegration efforts. State Home Minister Vijay Sharma on Monday emphasized the need to further enhance the existing policy by offering better facilities to Naxalites who surrender, allowing them to reintegrate into main-

stream society. Sharma stressed that the situation in Bastar is conducive to swift rehabilitation. He explained that surrendered Naxalites are often trustworthy and can be integrated into roles such as security personnel within just seven days. "Our aim is to connect those who have laid down their arms to the mainstream and help them reorganize their lives," he said, highlighting the government's commitment to creating a smoother transition for those who leave

HIGHLIGHT

● Home Minister stressed that the situation in Bastar is conducive to swift rehabilitation.

behind violence. Sharma also addressed the issue of drug addiction in the state, noting that the government is working diligently to ensure that no drugs enter the state. He emphasized that if narcotics are found, strict action will be taken, including

the demolition of the offender's property. "The entire police administration is fully engaged in this mission," he added, underlining the state's zero-tolerance approach. On the topic of pension reforms, Sharma discussed the recent implementation of a unified pension scheme, which merges aspects of both the old and new pension systems. "We considered the demands of both sides and introduced a scheme that balances their concerns," he stated.

Police bust sex racket in Raipur

RAIPUR: Raipur police have made yet another breakthrough in their ongoing crackdown on prostitution in the city. Following a recent bust at a hotel in Telibandha where 11 girls and 5 boys were arrested, the police have now dismantled a major sex racket operating from a residential area. In a raid conducted at a house in Gokul Vihar of Janaki Nagar, Tikrapara, police apprehended 7 individuals, including 6 women and 1 man, found in objectionable conditions. The police had been tracking the illegal activities in the area for some time based on intelligence reports. Acting on the tip-off, a police team carried out a raid on the house, leading to the arrests. Authorities have confirmed that this is part of a broader effort to root out such illicit activities in the capital. This latest operation is part of a series of actions the police have taken against sex rackets, as they continue to intensify their vigilance and commitment to public safety.

Dahi Handi Utsav to be held in Raipur today on Janmashtami

Central Chronicle News

Govinda teams from multiple states to participate.

RAIPUR: Continuing the cherished tradition, the Dahi Handi Utsav competition will be organized this year on the occasion of Lord Shri Krishna's birth anniversary on August 27 at 4:00 pm in Gudhiyari, Raipur, Chhattisgarh. The event is being hosted with the special cooperation of Sarvajanic Dahi Handi Utsav Samiti and Shri Hanuman Mandir Trust. Govinda teams from Chhattisgarh and various other states like Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, and Odisha are set to participate. Addressing the scribes here on Monday, Basant Agarwal, eminent social worker and committee's coordina-



Social worker Basant Agarwal addressing the scribes to announce Dahi Handi Utsav competition.

FACTFILE

● World-renowned Shiv Bhajan singer Baba Hansraj Raghuvanshi to perform.

tor said that the winning team will be awarded a grand prize of Rs. 8,00,000. In addition, all participating teams that put in significant effort will receive a consolation prize of Rs. 11,000, he added. Hemen-

dra Sahu, the co-convenor of the committee, shared that 20 teams from Raipur, Durg, Rajnandgaon, including women's teams, have already registered for the event. Teams from Indore and Jabalpur from Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra have also signed up.

Also, bell ringing performance by artists from Odisha and a beautiful tableau of Krishna Leela from Vrindavan will be the main attractions of this event.

Karan Baghel arrested with 130 Quarters of Liquor on Dry Day

RAIPUR: In a significant crackdown under the ongoing Nijaat Abhiyan, Raipur Police arrested Karan Baghel for illegally selling liquor on a dry day. The operation, conducted under the guidance of Senior Superintendent of Police Dr. Santosh Kumar Singh, led to the recovery of 130 quarters of illegal liquor from Nehru Nagar in the Kotwali area. On August 26, law enforcement received a tip-off that someone was selling liquor near Sulabh in Nehru Nagar. Acting swiftly, a joint team from the Anti Crime and Cyber Unit, along with Kotwali Police, apprehended the accused at the scene. Karan Baghel, a resident of Nehru Nagar, was unable to produce any valid documents for the liquor and attempted to mislead the authorities. Upon his arrest, the police seized 80 quarters of Goa English liquor and 50 quarters of country liquor, with an estimated value of Rs 16,500.

A case has been registered against Karan Baghel at Kotwali police station under crime number 266/24, in accordance with section 34(2) of the Excise Act.

Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

FAMILY COURTS

Two new family courts formed, hearing will start from September 2

RAIPUR: Two new family courts are being formed in the capital from September 2. The Law Legislative Department has issued a notification in this regard, in which the formation of two additional family courts and the setup of two judges for them has also been decided. According to the notification issued by Rajneesh Srivastava, Principal Secretary, Law Legislative Department of Chhattisgarh Government, the third and fourth additional Chief Justice Family Courts are being established in Raipur. Hearing of family matters will start in these courts from September 2. Cases related to divorce, judicial separation, maintenance, custody of children, and property disputes between husband and wife will be heard in these courts.

The purpose of setting up new courts is to settle family disputes quickly and justly.

KRISHNA JANMASHTAMI

Kedar Kashyap urges public to follow path of Truth and Justice



RAIPUR: Forest Minister Kedar Kashyap participated in the Krishna Janmashtami festival held in Bhanpuri village, Bastar, on Monday. The event, organized by the Tulsi Mahila Mandal, was marked by traditional festivities, including the worship of Lord Krishna and the ceremonial swinging of the deity's cradle. Addressing the gathering, Minister Kashyap extended his heartfelt greetings on the occasion of Krishna Janmashtami. He expressed his hopes for peace, prosperity, and happiness for the people of the region and the entire state.

Suspense, thrills, and comedy await audiences

Chhattisgarhi Film 'Ae Dada Re' set for release on August 30th



RAIPUR: Following the success of the Chhattisgarhi film Handa, N. Mahi Film Production and producer Mohit Kumar Sahu are ready to release their next venture, 'Ae Dada Re', a film packed with suspense, thrills, horror, and comedy. The much-anticipated movie will hit all cinemas across Chhattisgarh on August 30th.

The film is directed, written, and acted by Anand Das Manikpuri. Drawing inspiration from real incidents that took place in rural Chhattisgarh, 'Ae Dada Re', revolves around ghostly folklore that

has been passed down for generations in villages. Manikpuri shared that the title of the film was inspired by the fearful words "Ae Dada Re" that his grandmother and father used when recalling their encounters with supernatural entities like "Chatiya-Matiya" and "Raksa" nearly 40-45 years ago. These tales from his childhood became the foundation of the film's plot. 'Ae Dada Re' follows a village where rumors of ghosts have taken over, but the protagonist investigates and uncovers the truth behind these eerie stories.

The Day's NUMBERS

During 2014 to 2024, NH work increased by 60%

TOTAL LENGTH OF NHS IN THE LAST FIVE YEARS EVOLVED IN INDIA (IN KMS)

FY-24	1,46,145
FY-23	1,45,240
FY-22	1,41,345
FY-21	1,38,376
FY-20	1,32,995

Source : PIB

INVESTIGATE

CBI to investigate Mahadev App Scam, 70 cases handed over for inquiry

RAIPUR: The ongoing investigation into the widespread Mahadev Satta App scam in Chhattisgarh has been officially handed over to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). An official notification was issued, confirming that 70 cases registered across various police stations in the state will now be investigated by the CBI. Home Minister Vijay Sharma, addressing the development, assured that stringent action will follow. He mentioned that efforts are in place to bring the accused individuals, who are reportedly hiding abroad, back to India to ensure that justice is served. This is the third major case in the state to be handed over to the CBI, following the Biranpur incident and the Chhattisgarh PSC scam. The Mahadev Satta App scam, however, has garnered considerable attention due to its vast reach. The Enforcement Directorate (ED) had previously revealed the involvement of high-profile leaders, officials, and businessmen in the scandal. The Mahadev Satta App facilitated illegal betting on sports such as cricket, badminton, tennis, football, and even political elections.

BUTTERFLY CONSERVATION

Butterfly Conservation Program captivates students at Nandanvan Jungle Safari



RAIPUR: On August 24, a "Walk and Talk" program focused on butterflies was held at Nandanvan Jungle Safari in Raipur, drawing the participation of 80 students from colleges in Raipur, Kurud, and Bilaspur. The event aimed to raise awareness about butterfly conservation and the vital role these colorful insects play in the environment. The program began with an introduction by J.P. Tandon, President of the Conservation Society, who highlighted the importance of butterflies in maintaining ecological balance and emphasized the need for their conservation. Dr. Kavita Das, a professor of Zoology from Government Science College Raipur, discussed the alarming decline in butterfly populations due to excessive pesticide use. She urged students to actively participate in conservation efforts and develop environmental sensitivity.

JANMASHTAMI CELEBRATIONS

Mesmerizing tableau at Shanti Sarovar Retreat Center

Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: On the occasion of Janmashtami, the Prajapita Brahmakumari Ishwariya Vishwavidyalaya has created a mesmerizing tableau at the Shanti Sarovar Retreat Center on Vidhansabha Marg. The tableau, which features a beautiful portrayal of the Maharas and the episode of "Shri Krishna's Tuladan" by talented child artists, has drawn significant attention from the public. The display will be open for viewing on Monday from 5 pm to 10



pm. Brahmakumari Savita Didi, the director of the Raipur center, shared a profound message on this occasion. She emphasized that the celebration of Shri

Krishna Jayanti should inspire individuals to embody the divine qualities of Lord Krishna. Referring to the teachings of the Bhagavad Gita, she highlighted the importance of overcoming

inner enemies such as lust, anger, greed, attachment, and ego, which, according to

Brahmakumari Savita Didi
Director, Raipur Center.

the Gita, are the true adversaries in every human's life.

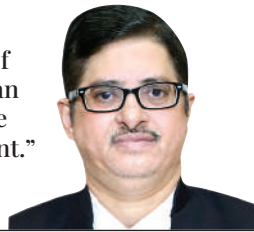
Savita Didi further elaborated on the significance of Shri Krishna Jayanti, noting that it is not merely a time to celebrate his birth but also to reflect deeply on the great deeds he performed and to strive to incorporate his teachings into daily life.

She explained that the essence of Krishna's teachings is that every individual should seek knowledge and strive to become an "Arjun," absorbing the wisdom of the Gita.

the Gita, are the true adversaries in every human's life.

"As per the instructions of the Chief Justice of Chhattisgarh High Court an initiative is being taken to make the District and Sessions Court convenient."

Justice Narendra Kumar Vyas
Hon'ble Judge, CG High Court



Bilaspur

'Patrolling in hospital needed for security'

Doctors suggested that there is a need for patrolling in the hospital by the local police party from time to time.



A meeting of various MRs and doctors was held in SP's office.

Central Chronicle News

KORBA: A meeting of various medical practitioners (MRs) and doctors was held in the auditorium of the Superintendent of Police (SP) office on Sunday. In the meeting discussions were held about continuous monitoring through quality CCTV cameras at all such places including casualty in government and non-government hospitals where there is general movement of patient's family and general public and keeping private security personnel as per requirement and keeping

fire extinguishers for the

FACTFILE

● In adverse circumstances, information was given regarding seeking police help from the local police station and others.

purpose of dealing with emergency situations.

In adverse circumstances, information was given regarding seeking police help from the local police station, outpost, concerned city Superintendent of Police, Police Sub-Divi-

sional Officer, Police Control Room and Dial 112 number. The suggestion came from the doctors that there is a need for patrolling in the hospital by the local police party from time to time, on which it was agreed that the local police patrolling will visit the hospitals from time to time.

Doctors from all hospitals including Medical College Hospital, Korba Sahu Hospital, Korba Krishna Hospital, Shweta Nursing, DK Hospital, BALCO Hospital, NTPC Hospital, CSEB Hospital

and Gevra were present in the meeting. In the meeting, Additional Superintendent of Police Korba UBS Chauhan, City Superintendent of Police Darri Ravindra Meena and City Superintendent of Police Korba Bhushan Ekka discussed the necessary measures to be taken regarding security and also informed the doctors about the provisions of the Medical Servants and Medical Service Institutions (Prevention of Violence and Damage or Loss of Property) Act 2010.

Free old age camp concludes in Nara

ARANG: A free old age camp was organized in Ayushman Arogya Mandir Nara on Saturday. In the camp, BP, sugar tests, disease treatment were done and medicines were distributed. Along with this, decoction and saplings were distributed after giving yoga advice for lifestyle improvement. Dr. Sangeeta Dhire said that for the last 01 month, such camps are being organized in all Ayurveda dispensaries as per the guidance of District AYUSH Officer Dr. Nanda Sahu and the order of the Directorate. In which the elderly are treated with special care.

Kamarchhat celebrated in Atal Vihar Colony Arang

ARANG: In Atal Vihar Colony, Arang, the festival of Halshasthi Kamarchhat was celebrated with enthusiasm by the women power by performing Puja Archana Aarti through Bhaav Bhajan and Sagri. On this occasion, the women offered milk, curd, ghee, lai, mahua, pashar rice and 6 types of grains etc.

Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

AWARD

Inspire Award Awareness Prog held in Arundhati Devi Utkrisht School

ARANG: Science Inspire Award Awareness Program concluded in Arundhati Devi Government Utkrisht English Medium School, Arang. Principal Harish Sharma said that the objective of this program is to connect children with science and new inventions, today is the time of science and like every field like sports, scout-guide, cultural programs etc., this school has been making efforts in the field of science and Inspire Award. Last year, a student named Suhana of our school has also been awarded for this. Arundhati Devi Hindi Medium School's Vice Principal Lokeshwar Sahu, lecturer Kamlesh Sahu and Mehar Singh Raote organized various activities and seminars for awareness related to Inspire Award in the field of science.

CELEBRATION

Janmashtami celebrated with great pomp in ABC Public School

KHARORA: Krishna Janmashtami was celebrated with great pomp in ABC Public School. On this occasion, various programs like Dahi Handi Phod, Matka Phod etc. were organized, along with this, children gave a wonderful presentation of dance and dandiya in devotional music. As per every year, various programs were organized in the school on the occasion of Krishna Janmashtami. Children from nursery to second class enjoyed the game of 'throw ball' and children from third to tenth participated in Matka Phod and Dahi Handi Loot. The school director said that along with studies in the school, other activities are also very important because moral development of children takes place through cultural and spiritual activities.

CSR by NTPC Sipat

Sangwari Mahila Samiti, NTPC, Sipat distributes benches and desks to Govt Primary School, Janji



KORBA: Sipat. Sangwari Mahila Samiti, NTPC Sipat provided 35 sets of three-seater benches and desks to Government Primary School Janji on 22 August 2024 in village Janji under the Corporate Social Responsibility. Mrs. Sadhana Pandey, Chairperson of Sangwari Mahila Samiti handed over these benches and desks to the Principal of the school Mrs. Kalpana Sharma for the use of the school children. On this occasion, Vice President

Sangwari Mahila Samiti Mrs. Arpita Paul and Mrs. Namrata Sharan, senior members of Mahila Samiti, school teachers and Sarpanch of village Janji Shvinnath Rohidas along with school children were present.

Sadhana Pandey, Chairperson Sangwari Mahila Samiti interacted with the children and encouraged them to study diligently, set goals with full concentration and work hard.

INSPECTED COURT PREMISES

Justice Narendra Kumar Vyas visits Mungeli court

Central Chronicle News

MUNGELI: Justice Narendra Kumar Vyas of Chhattisgarh High Court Bilaspur and Additional Judge Bibhu Dutt Guru were on a visit to the district. During this, District and Sessions Judge Chandra Kumar Ajgalle, Collector Rahul Dev, Senior Superintendent of Police Girija Shankar Jaiswal and Chief Judicial Magistrate Balram Kumar Dewangan welcomed the judges by presenting a flower bouquet at the Circuit House. After this, the judges inspected the District and Sessions Court Mungeli. They inspected the court rooms and sections in the court and took information about the court cases from the judicial officers present and gave necessary instructions. The judges inspected



04 Judges in tree plantation programme.

FACTFILE

● The judges inspected the lawyer hall, toilet complex and digital computer lab under construction in the District and Sessions Court and the residential colony under construction in village Kheda

the lawyer hall, toilet complex and digital computer lab under construction in the District and Sessions Court and the residential colony under construction in village Kheda. He held a meeting of the Public Works Department officials in the presence of the District and Sessions Judge and Collector and

directed them to expedite the work and complete the quality work within the stipulated time frame. On this occasion, District Judge Neeraj Sharma, along with court officials and employees, advocates, Divisional Forest Officer Sanjay Yadav, and other officers were present.

STARTUP COMPETITION

Poster competition held in Dantewada

Central Chronicle News

GEEDAM: District Level Startup Competition was organized by the Institution of Innovation Council (IIC) Cell at NMDC DAV Polytechnic Jawanga on the occasion of National Entrepreneurship Day 2024. In this competition, students of various schools of Geedam and Dantewada blocks participated and presented their startup innovations.



Dr. Mukesh Thakur Principal of NMDC DAV Polytechnic College said that the Innovation Council Cell of the Institution

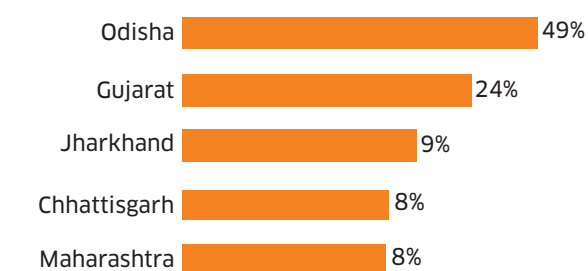
which was approved by the Ministry of Education, Government of India and All India Council of Technical Education

Innovation Council Cell organized a district level startup innovation competition, including workshops on entrepreneurship
Dr. Mukesh Thakur Principal, NMDC DAV Polytechnic (AICTE) has organized a district level startup innovation competition,

organizing workshops on entrepreneurship in various schools of the district under the outreach program. In this competition, Sabin Lal Markam and Nitesh Madvi of Aastha Vidya Mandir English Medium School Jawanga presented the "Multidisciplinary Skill Tech Education and Training" startup innovation idea in the poster exhibition competition and got second place in the district.

The Day's NUMBERS

STATES WITH MAXIMUM SHARE OF ALUMINUM PRODUCTION



Source - Statista

FESTIVAL

Special rituals mark Krishna Janmotsav in Jhagrahatta

MUNGELI: Krishna Janmotsav was celebrated with great pomp in the city, but on the lines of Vrindavan, in village Jhagrahatta, which is situated just 5 km from the city, preparations for Krishna Janmotsav start from the beginning of the Hindi month of Bhadrpada. It is celebrated on Ashtami Tithi of Krishna Paksha of Bhadra month. Special preparations for Janmotsav are done in Krishna temples. Apart from all this, in the nearby village Jhagrahatta, on the lines of Vrindavan, twelve Ashtank Puja is performed. Ashtank Puja is being performed continuously for the last 50 years in this temple established 80 years ago. In the whole of India, Ashtank Puja is organized only at two places. The first is in the temple of Vallabhacharyaji's birthplace Champaran and Jhagrahatta. In the Radha Krishna temple located in Jhagrahatta village, just 5 km from the city, Ashtank Puja of Lord Krishna is performed daily on the lines of Vrindavan. Village representative Gokulesh Singh said that apart from Vrindavan, this Ashtank Puja is performed only at two places in the whole of India, the birthplace of Vallabhacharyaji, Champaran and Jhagrahatta temples.

CLEANLINESS

Cleanliness awareness prog held in village Chintalnar, Pakela and Keralapal



SUKMA: In Sukma district of Chhattisgarh state, under the guidance of Collector Haris S. District Sukma and under the able guidance of CEO District Panchayat Mrs. Namrata Jain, awareness programs are being organized in the rural areas of district Sukma under Swachh Bharat Mission Gramin. Every Saturday is being celebrated as Swachhata Diwas. Under which district level cleanliness program is being organized in one village each from the district panchayats. In the same sequence, cleanliness rally and community shramdaan program were organized under the cleanliness program in village Chintalnar under Kanta block, village Pakela under Block Chhindgarh and village Keralapal under Block Sukma. Regular cleanliness rally and shramdaan are also being done in other villages of Sukma district.

In the remote Primary Health Centres of the district, sanction has been granted for construction of houses.

Ajit Vasant
Collector, Korba district



Chhattisgarh

'Forest dept silent as old trees are being cut'

At one place govt is promoting 'Ek Ped Maa ke Naam' and on the other tree felling is going on openly.



Central Chronicle News

FACTFILE

BALOD: In the entire country including Dalli-Rajhara, Doundi block, plantation is being done at various places under the campaign 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam'. On the other hand, a big case has come to light in the forest village Kotagaon of Balod, where seventeen, 200 years old mango trees were razed to the ground without permission through cutter machines in the name of farm construction.

It is worth mentioning that 17 huge mango trees were cut down ten days ago by a farmer named Omendra Singh Kunjam of Kotagaon through a Sonkar contractor resident of Latabad without permission from the revenue department. After the revenue department officials came to know about this, the patwari reached the spot and prepared the panchnama and registered the case.

● A total of seventeen 200 years old mango trees were razed to the ground without permission through cutter machines.

● After the revenue department officials came to know about this, the patwari reached the spot and prepared the panchnama and registered the case.

After the revenue department officials came to know about this, the patwari reached the spot and prepared the panchnama and registered the case but kept watching as a mute spectator while the

trees were being taken away through a tractor, whereas as per the rules, the wood along with the tractor should have been seized. On Thursday, after the felling was stopped for last one week and no concrete action was taken by the Revenue Department, the saw started again on the huge trees.

The villagers and senior people of Kotagaon said that in their childhood they have eaten mangoes from this mango garden built by the royal family and today they are very sad to see these trees being cut.

It is worth mentioning that recently 500 fruit and shade plants have been distributed by the Panchayat in

Kotagaon and the top officials of the district and block are planting saplings at various places and getting their photographs taken under the Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam campaign.

On the matter, Kotagaon Sarpanch Jam Bai Churendra said that the Patwari had come and called her to Ama Baghicha to prepare a Panchnama, where trees were being cut and loaded on a tractor. The Patwari stopped the work and prepared the Panchnama but did not seize the wood and the tractor.

The Patwari Gangotri Kortia of Kotagaon said that he has prepared the case and given it to the Tehsildar.

Krishna Janmashtami celebrated at IEPS



KURUD: Shri Krishna Janmashtami festival was celebrated with great pomp in Inventure Education Public School. Little children reached school wearing Krishna and Radha's costumes. Children took out beautiful tableaux of Shri Krishna and Radha. Children of first and second classes made beautiful flutes. Children of fifth class made the atmosphere Krishna-like by performing a beautiful dance related to the life of Shri Krishna. Children also presented a beautiful program of Dahi Handi and broke the handi. School Principal Shilpa Kela said that such festivals not only provide new energy and enthusiasm in children but also keep them connected to their culture and civilization.

Shri Krishna Janmashtami festival was celebrated with great pomp under the leadership of Shri Mahesh Education Society's Chairman Deepak Agarwal, Vijay Kela, Mahesh Kela, Toran Chandrakar, Saurabh Kela and Vikas Sahu. On this occasion, children of Nursery class dressed up as Radha-Krishna and performed a dance. Children of KG class presented poems.

Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

PREMCHAND JAYANTI

Premchand Jayanti celebrated at Maharishi Vedyas govt PG college



KURUD: Premchand Jayanti was organized in Maharishi Vedyas Government Post Graduate College, Bakhara. On the occasion of Premchand Jayanti, an effective staging of Panch Parmeshwar was done in the college by the creative cooperation of Azim Premji Foundation Dhamtari and Shashwat Utsarg Youth Theatre Group. The dramatic adaptation of the Panch Parmeshwar story was worth seeing. Throwing light on the then rural justice system through Panch Parmeshwar, Panch was shown as the representative of God.

PMAY

Register for PM Awas Yojana (PMAY); govt. committed to housing: Rohit Sahu

RAJIM: Rajim assembly constituency MLA Rohit Sahu issued a press release saying that the government is committed to providing the benefits of the housing scheme to all the eligible beneficiaries of the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana. During the assembly elections, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Chief Minister Vishnu Dev Sai had guaranteed that the government will identify the eligible beneficiaries whose names are not registered in the waiting list and supplementary list and they will be provided the benefits of the housing scheme in the coming days. Such beneficiaries should get their names attached to the housing list in the Gram Sabha as soon as possible and through the Awas Plus app, their names will be fully added as beneficiaries in the housing list in the coming days.

Halashasthi Festival

Mothers in Birkoni fast and worship for children's longevity on Halashasthi Festival



BIRKONI: Halashasthi festival was celebrated with great pomp in Birkoni on Saturday near Ram Janaki temple, Upadhyay Nagar, Bhatapara Sahu hostel and in homes. All the women gathered and kept a fast for the long life of their children. Group worship was done at various places. The women were busy with the preparations of worship a day before.

In Ram Janaki Mandir Parishad, from 11 am onwards, a Sagri was made in the worship place and decorated with Khamhar, Kashi, Bel and flowers and Halashasthi Mata was worshipped. In Bhatapara Sahu hostel, women made clay idols of Shiva, Parvati, Kartikeya, Ganesh, Nandi, Bhavra, Baati and installed them near the Sagri.

Devendra admitted to engineering college at GGU

LAVAN: After passing 12th class from PM Shri Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya Lavan Baloda Bazar, Devendra, a student of the school took the JEE M a i n s exam and after securing a good rank for engineering got selected in

Guru Ghasidas University, Bilaspur and also took admission in the college. Principal of Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya Lavan, B Girija said that Devendra is the first student of the first batch of the school who has been selected for engineering college, on this the school family congratulated him and wished him a bright future, the Principal called it the pride of Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya.

Orientation prog inspires students at SGGPG College

Central Chronicle News

KURUD: An orientation program was organized on 24th August under the aegis of National Service Scheme Unit 1 at Sant-guru Ghasidas Government Post Graduate College (SGGPGC), Kurud.

The chief guest of the program was Dr. Ganesh Prasad Sahu, excellent program officer, National Social Service (NSS) and the special guest was famous theatre artist and program officer of Rashtriya Seva Yojana unit Khartuli Akash Giri Goswami. The program was formally started by offering flowers to the photograph of Swami Vivekananda and singing the national anthem, state song and target song. Guests were welcomed by putting on National Service Scheme badges.



An orientation program was organized at SGGPGC, Kurud.

FACTFILE

● NSS, NCC, Scout-Guide and Red Cross are some such activities in our schools and colleges which bring a big change in our lives.

● NSS is such an institution joining which we can refine and improve every aspect of society, nation, culture, intellectual, literary and life.

Dr Ganesh Prasad Sahu said from the seat of the

chief speaker that NSS, NCC, Scout-Guide and Red Cross are some such activities in our schools and colleges which bring a big change in our lives. Further, giving examples of various incidents of his life, he said that it is only the lack that teaches a person to move forward. Every big success requires time, so never lose patience, be patient, keep thinking and keep moving with time, keep moving, don't stop, then you will achieve the things that you

have not imagined and I have experienced this in my life. The special guest of the program, famous theater artist and Program Officer of Rashtriya Seva Yojana unit Khartuli, Akash Giri Goswami said that Rashtriya Seva Yojana is such an institution joining which we can refine and improve every aspect of society, nation, culture, intellectual, literary and life, this is not just a cleaning program, Rashtriya Seva Yojana gives new heights to our personality.

EMPOWERING WOMEN SUCCESS |

PM Modi applauds success of Korea Millets Cafe

Central Chronicle News

KORIYA: The way the Didis of the group are running the Millets Cafe in Koriya for traditional food, it is writing a new chapter for the hard work and success of our sisters. The Prime Minister of the country, Narendra Modi, openly praised the Korea Millets Cafe in Jalgaon, Maharashtra on Saturday. In the Lakshpati Didi Sammelan organized at the



national level, he interacted with Heena Begum of Roshni Self Help Group of Gram Panchayat Patna

in Korea and applauded the people present for their collective success. Another achievement

The hard work of the sisters who are doing self-employment by joining self-help groups is now paying off.

Chandan Tripathi
Collector Koriya

has been achieved in the chain of success of women's self-help groups in Koriya. Lakshpati Didi,

Ms. Heena Begum, the director of Korea Millets Cafe, got the opportunity to meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi today and Modi had a cordial conversation with Heena. First of all, Modi got introduced to Heena. Then he inquired about their work in detail. Heena Begum told him that their Roshni Self Help Group is running the Millets Cafe in collaboration with 4 other groups.

The Day's NUMBERS

NO. OF REGISTERED TWO-WHEELERS ACROSS INDIA

State	No. of Registered Two-Wheelers
UP	2,836.41
Maharashtra	1,744.62
Tamil Nadu	1,566.86
MP	1,255.24
Bihar	1,119.43

Source - Statista

SANSKRIT DAY

Sanskrit Day celebrated at Bharat Devangan government school

KHARORA: Bharat Devangan Government Excellent Medium School Kharora organized Sanskrit Day under Sanskrit Week last Monday. In this event, the chief speakers were Sanjay Sen, founder Adarsh Jankalyan Seva Samiti CG and Bhuneshwar Sarathi. The program was inaugurated by garlanding the statue of Mata Sharda and lighting the lamp. The students sang Vandana and Welcome song in Sanskrit. The program was conducted by Shahina Parveen Lecturer in Sanskrit language. Student Poorva Verma gave speech, Damini Sahu 10th presented the song Bharatam, Bharatam, Bhavatu Bharatam in a melodious manner. Sania presented various shlokas by singing and with meaning. Vidya Devangan 10th gave an excellent presentation by outlining the works of great poet Kalidas. Sonia Devangan, Yogita Bharti gave their presentation in Sanskrit. The views of Anis Sen 12th, Maya Devangan, Reshma were also praiseworthy. Chief speaker Sanjay Sen said that Sanskrit is a global language. It shows the behaviour and decency of people. It shows our culture, values and behaviour at a high level.

SWACHCHATA

Swachhata festival observed in district under Swachh Bharat Mission



RAJNANDGAON: Swachhata festival is being organized every Saturday in all the villages of the district under Swachh Bharat Mission in which the villagers are participating enthusiastically and cleaning the squares, mohallas and markets of the villages and other places. The villagers are giving the message of making the village an ODF Plus model and cleanliness. In this episode, as per the instructions of Collector Sanjay Agarwal, cleanliness activities were organized in every village of Dongargaon development block to maintain the sustainability of ODF Plus model under Swachh Bharat Mission. Swachhata festival was celebrated with great joy and gaiety in every village in which school children, teachers, Panch, Sarpanch, volunteers and villagers participated and cleaned the streets, squares and intersections.

'VHP prevented 50 lakh Hindus from conversion'

VHP prevented 50 lakh Hindus from conversion and brought 18 lakh people back to Hinduism.

Central Chronicle News

GAURELA: Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) prevented 50 lakh Hindus from conversion and brought 18 lakh people back to Hinduism and in 18 thousand cases of 'love jihad', 8 thousand sisters were brought back to religion. The above was said by VHP Central Minister Ajay Parik on the 60th Foundation Day of Vishwa Hindu Parishad celebrated in Pendra.

On this occasion, the chief guest, Vishwa Hindu Parishad's Central Minister and head of the Central Service Department and Bhopal region's guardian Ajay Parik, in his address said that the main objective of the establishment of Vishwa Hindu Parishad was to organize and awaken the Hindu society, to protect and promote its rights, values and life values, to establish contact with foreign Hindus and make them culturally strong as well as to help them.

Parik also said that Vishwa Hindu Parishad stopped 50 lakh people from conversion and brought 18 lakh people back to Hinduism and in these 18 thousand cases of love jihad, 8 thousand sisters have



The 60th Foundation Day of Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) was celebrated in Pendra on Sunday.

FASTFACTS

- The main objective of the establishment of Vishwa Hindu Parishad was to organize and awaken the Hindu society.

- A Hindu nation is not made by the declaration of the governments and India is a Hindu nation.

been brought back to the religion. He said that a Hindu nation is not made by the declaration of the governments and India is a Hindu nation, there is no need to declare it and

'Like four Vedas, four Dhams, Hindus should have 4 children'

Vishwa Hindu Parishad Chhattisgarh's state minister Vibhuti Bhushan Pandey said that just as there are four Vedas, four Dhams, in the same way Hindus should also have four children. Swami Paramatmanand Maharaj said that the number of carpenters, barbers, tailors, plumbers of Hindu religion is decreasing and Hindus should give up the policy of 'Hum Do Hamare Do' and produce more children. In the program, Vishwa Hindu Parishad's Central Minister and Head of Central Service Department and Bhopal region's Guardian Ajay Parik, Chhattisgarh's State Minister Vibhuti Bhushan Pandey, Swami Parmanand Maharaj, Swami Krishna Prapanacharya Kamta Maharaj, VHP District President Harsh Chhabaria, District Director Tirath Prasad Badgaiyan were present on the stage.

even during the Mughal rule, it was and will remain a Hindu nation

and Lord Ramlala has been established at his birthplace.

Registration renewal till Dec 31

KHAIRGARH: Construction workers registered under Chhattisgarh Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Board can get their renewal done till 31 December 2024. The labour officer in the information statement said that after renewal, the registered workers can benefit from various welfare schemes run by the Board. Construction workers can apply for renewal of registration along with necessary documents through the Labour Resource Centre of Janpad Panchayat, Shramev Jayate Mobile App and nearest Choice Centre.

Manohar Gaushala's Director meets Governor

KHAIRAGARH: Manohar Gaushala's trustee and Animal Welfare Board's honorary representative Akhil Jain (Padam Dakliya) met Chhattisgarh Governor Ramen Deka at his residence on Sunday. During this, he gave information to the Governor about the Gaushala and invited the Governor to visit Kamdhenu Mata and Gaushala, which he accepted and assured to visit the Gaushala soon with his family.

Inspection of medical stores under drug de-addiction campaign



Central Chronicle News

KORIYA: Under the drug de-addiction campaign in district Koriya, a surprise inspection was conducted here with the aim of keeping a close watch on the purchase and sale of narcotic and psychotropic medicines. This action was taken as per the instructions of District Collector Mrs. Chandan Tripathi and under the guidance of Chief Medical and Health Officer Dr. Prashant Singh.

As per information, the team of District Food and Drug Administration conducted a surprise inspection of various medical stores operating in Baikunthpur city and during the raid Uttam Pharma, R.K. Medical Agency, Vijay Medical Store, Akash Medical Store, and Kumar Medcos and other shops were inspected and no evidence of abuse of narcotics and psychotropic drugs was found in most of the shops.

Executive committee meeting of Khairagarh University held

KHAIRAGARH: The executive committee meeting of Indira Kala Sangeet University was held on 23 August under the chairmanship of Divisional Commissioner and Vice Chancellor Satyanarayan Rathore. Important decisions were taken after discussing various subjects related to the university administration in the meeting and issue of appointment of guest lecturers, guest teaching assistants and

accompanists for the academic session 2024-25 was approved. The committee approved the payment of arrears of the seventh pay scale of teachers, officers and employees working in the university, while in-principle approval was given to the access road for the international women's hostel of the university, partition of large rooms in the hostel and construction of sheds in various buildings.

NEWSLINE

JANMASHTAMI

Shri Krishna Janmashtami celebrated in Asaunda School



KHARORA: Government Pre-Madhyamik Shala Asaunda Complex Asaunda School organized a program on the occasion of Shri Krishna Janmashtami festival on Saturday. On this occasion, the students dressed up as Lord Krishna, Radha, Balram, Sudama and performed a mesmerizing dance on songs like Maiya Yashoda, Mukh Murli, Krishna etc. and charmed the visitors. On this occasion, the school's principal Nevaran Das Gaikwad and AK Pushpakar appreciated and congratulated all the children for this program. On this occasion, school teacher

CYCLES

Vikrant Singh distributes free Saraswati cycles in Madoda High School



KHAIRAGARH: In Government High School Madoda, under Saraswati Cycle Scheme, cycle distribution program was done under the chief hospitality of State BJP Working Committee Member and Rajnandgaon District Panchayat Vice President Vikrant Singh. Later, while addressing the program, District Panchayat Vice President Vikrant Singh said that this scheme is being run by the Central Government and State Government with the aim of promoting girl education and CM Vishnudev Sai is running this scheme for daughters which are commendable.

ADOPTION

Nalini Kridatta adopts two girls

KURUD: In a bid to give a message of dedication and cooperation towards education to the people, social worker Nalini Kridatta, resident of Sanjay Nagar Kurud, in the memory of her late husband Dr. Shahji Rao Kridatta, adopted two school girls to improve their basic education.

The adopted two poor students of class 10th of Government Girls Higher Secondary School Kurud are Dikshanshi Sen and Lokeshwari Kanwar. School Principal D P Devangan, Lecturer N L Chandrakar, Teacher Sunil Chandrakar, Chairman School Development Committee Praveen Kela, Rakesh Jain, Vikash Agarwal, Sanju Chainwani and members of School Development Committee have congratulated Nalini for this initiative.

Samagra Shiksha and smart classroom training organised



Central Chronicle News

In the training the entire process of conducting digital class was made known, such as entering the lab/digital class operation from OPMS portal etc.

KHARORA: District Education Officer Raipur CG under Samagra Shiksha, DG Duniya, ICT Scheme, for the use of ICT lab and smart classroom in regular study-teaching, in order to make proper and meaningful use of resources,

a training was organized at Training Center Government Pre-Secondary School Kharora from 03 August to 24 August.

In the training the entire process of conducting digital class was made known, such as entering the lab/digital class operation from OPMS portal, using digital class through learning material LMS (MBD) from projector, creating teacher ID, training was given on many such topics. In this training, pre-assessment and post-assessment examination was also taken online for skill information.

Mass tree plantation done

ANWARI: On the call of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in the campaign 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam', Sahu Samaj Borjhara planted hundreds of saplings near Sahu Samaj Bhawan. Here it is worth to note that while on one hand a large section of wood mafias are destroying the environment by cutting trees, on the other hand, Sahu Samaj in village Borjhara is spreading greenery by planting trees near Samaj Bhawan. A large tree plantation program was organized in village Borjhara under the leadership of President Doman Lal Sahu, in which fruit and shade trees like mango, neem, banyan, peepal, karanja, kadam, jamun, jackfruit were planted. President Doman Lal Sahu in his address said that about 350 saplings have been planted by Sahu Samaj and the responsibility of protecting the plants has been given to the youth of the society.

NCC cadets launch anti-drug campaign in Rajim

Central Chronicle News

NCC has launched a campaign 'Naya Savera Abhiyan' against drug and alcohol addiction, in city RPUEMS.

RAJIM: NCC has launched a campaign 'Naya Savera Abhiyan' against drug and alcohol addiction, in the city's Rambishal Pandey Utkrish English Medium School, (RPUEMS) under the direction and guidance of Commanding Officer of 27 Chhattisgarh Battalion Colonel Saurabh Kumar and Administrative Officer Lieutenant Colonel Pradeep Kumar and with the cooperation of Principal Sanjay Ekka of SEZES Rajim and NCC Officer Sagar Sharma.

The NCC cadets of the school made people aware by running a campaign against drug



FASTFACTS

- NCC cadets of the school made people aware by running a campaign against drug addiction, narcotics and alcohol addiction, under which a pledge was taken with the motto of 'India should be free from drugs'.

addiction, narcotics and alcohol addiction, under

which a pledge was taken with the motto of 'India should be free from drugs', the mantra of developed India. Along with this, an effort was made for public awareness by getting all the cadets to make pictures, drawings and write slogans on the theme of Naya Savera and displaying them through a competition.

It is to be noted that

the Government of India, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, New Delhi has started the Drug Free India Campaign, in which the mantra of developed India should be free from drugs and on the theme of this, all the students should be made to take the oath of de-addiction at the level of schools, colleges and hostels.

ENCROACHMENT REMOVED |

Major action to be taken against encroachment

Central Chronicle News

KHARORA: After complaints of government lands in the city being encroached upon being received repeatedly by the Nagar Panchayat and Tehsil office, the Nagar Panchayat Council took action against the encroachers. Same way action was also taken against traders doing business in a haphazard manner in the city, along with putting carts and kiosks on the public road.



A resolution has been passed unanimously to organize the small traders doing business, under which Tehsildar

B.L.Kurre, Chief Municipal Officer Hori Singh Thakur and Police Station Incharge Surendra Kumar Mishra took action

Action was also taken against traders doing business in a haphazard manner in the city

BL Kurre Tehsildar- Kharora

against the encroachers. Action was taken against Komin Sahu who was doing business by putting up a cart on the govern-

ment land of ward number 10, Yogesh Dwivedi who was encroaching on government land under the guise of cow-shed in ward number 07, Yashwant Chandravanshi who encroached the shop of Nagar Panchayat and the traders who were doing business by keeping goods outside the shop on the main roads, squares and intersections of the city and the concerned were warned to remove the encroachment done by them within two days.

Theft in city's ancient Sheetla temple

Central Chronicle News

KURUD: A theft has been reported in the ancient Sheetla Mata temple of Kurud city and stole goods worth thousands including the deities crown and cash. As per information, on Saturday night thieves committed theft in the ancient Sheetla temple, the center of people's faith and a complaint was lodged by Manoj Kumar Agarwal, father late Rajkumar Agarwal, age 45 years, resident of Kurud. In his



complaint he said that like every day, he went to the temple on Sunday at 8.30 am, while the temple priest Ashwani Dhruv told that on August 24 at 7:30 pm he had locked the Sheetla temple and went to his home and on Sunday morning at 7:30 am, when he came back.



Make friends with people having good thoughts and positive attitude

Tank Ram Verma
Cabinet Minister, CG Govt

Drug smugglers nabbed with cannabis and heroin

Police crackdown on illegal trade of narcotics and intoxicants.



CSP Satya Prakash Tiwari and other officers addressing the media persons.

Central Chronicle News

FASTFACTS

- Two arrested with cannabis in Chhawani
- One held with Heroin (Chitta) in Supela

BHILAI: Durg Police are conducting a special drive against the people involved in smuggling and peddling of narcotics and other intoxicants. The joint teams of Anti Crime and Cyber Unit and various police stations are maintaining vigil on the activities of suspects and criminal record holders. The network of informers has been activated for the purpose.

CSP Satya Prakash Tiwari informed that acting on a tip off, Supela

Police rounded up a suspect at Contractor Colony in Supela. Two sachets of heroin (6 grams), electronic weighing machine and mobile phone were recovered from the accused identified as Harjinder Singh alias Ballu (45) a resident of Contractor Colony Supela. He was booked under

Joint teams nab accused

The smugglers were nabbed by the joint teams of ACCU and Police Stations of Chhawani and Supela. SI Pramod Sinha, Varun Devta, ASI Dinesh Singh, Head Constable Prakash Tiwari, Murlidhar Kashyap, Jaspal Singh, Vijay Shukla, Constable JinaidSiddhiqi, Rinku Soni, Ajay Gehlot, Akash Tiwari, Dhruv Chandrakar, Sunil Verma, Trilok Bhati, Jugnu Singh and Anup Sharma played a vital role.

section 21(b), 22 of NDPS Act.

In the second case, Chhawani Police rounded up two persons with cannabis. 3.230 kgs of cannabis was seized from

Hussein Sharif (24) of Camp-1 while 3.622 kgs of cannabis was seized from Gagandeep Singh (26) of Dhancha Bhavan. They were booked under section 20(b) of NDPS Act.

FIR lodged on ex CM's security

BHILAI: Old Bhilai Police Station lodged an FIR in the case of former Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel's security breach which occurred at Sirsa Gate in Old Bhilai on August 24. Taking cognizance, Police asked the Security Officer of the former Chief Minister to give a written complaint. As soon as the written complaint of Platoon Commander Daman Singh Deshmukh was received at Police Station Old Bhilai, an FIR was registered under Sections 126, 189 (2), 221 BNS against unknown 20-25 people. Police have taken up the matter for investigation.

Congmen to gherao Bhilai-3 Police Station

BHILAI: Congress party workers are going to stage gherao at Bhilai-3 Police Station at 11:00 hrs on August 27. They will gather at Sirsa Gate Chowk in Bhilai 3 and then march to the Police Station. Bhilai DCC President Mukesh Chandrakar said that the Bajrang Dal workers had intercepted the convoy of former Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel without any prior notice.

IBS launches IBSAT 2024 Kit for admission into MBA / PGPM Prog



Central Chronicle News

BHILAI: IBS, a Top Ranked Business School in India, launched IBSAT 2024 Kit for Admission into MBA / PGPM Program 2025-2027. Prof Debarghya Bagchi & Prof Dibyendu Nandy, Professors of IBS Kolkata, formally released the kit which contains detailed general and admissions related information about all IBS campuses.

Addressing the gathering, they shared their thoughts about the Indian Management Education system and also offered insights about courses offered at IBS. The MBA / PGPM Program is unique with 100% case-based learning, state-of-the-art infrastructure, empha-

sis on acquiring practical skills, establishing strong industry interface resulting in getting excellent final placements for all MBA/PGPM graduates, they said. They further shared insights about the admission modalities of IBSAT 2024 in detail. IBSAT is a computer based test, being conducted at 100 Test Centers across India. The test gives the applicants a single window opportunity to apply to 9 IBS campuses.

Applicants interested in applying to IBS can register online at the website of IBS India (www.ibsindia.org) ibsindia.org/apply. Alternatively they can contact (Suraj Kumar Singh 8889720236), IBS (Chhattisgarh) Branch Manager for assistance.

Ruffian snatch mobile phone

BHILAI: Three bike-borne ruffians snatched a mobile phone from a biker at Old Bhilai on Sunday. The victim Rajneesh Meshram was moving from Padum Nagar to Jamul. At Transport Nagar around 15:15

hrs, three bike borne ruffians came near him and snatched a mobile phone from his pocket. The victim chased the snatchers but they vanished in the narrow streets of Khursipar.

NEWSLINE

TRAFFIC VIOLATION

Bikes having modified silencers seized



BHILAI: On the instructions of SP Jitendra Shukla, Traffic Police team led by DSP Satish Thakur and DSP Sadanand Vidyaraj took action against the drivers who use modified silencers and drive vehicles carelessly. The checking drive was conducted in the Bhilai Township Area and Surya Mall area by the Traffic Zone Civic Center Bhilai. A total of 15 vehicles were seized and action was taken against the drivers under the section of Motor Vehicle Act. The modified silencers were removed and seized on the spot and the riders were advised not to make such a mistake in future.

ARREST

Man held for land deal fraud

BHILAI: Police arrested a man on charges of duping several people in land deals. The absconding accused was arrested from a factory in Tadesara. CSP Chirag Jain informed that they had received a complaint from the victim Srinu Babu of Sector 07 against Sumer Kumar alias Vijay Joshi and Chandra Kumar alias Dinesh Joshi, both residents of village Phuljhar (Rajnandgaon). Srinu had paid Rs 4.60 lakh as advance after finalising a deal to purchase lands of the accused. Later he discovered that the accused land owners had entered into sale agreements and accepted advance money from several other people. Police launched a search operation to trap the accused, who had absconded after coming to know about the police case. Acting on a tip off, police nabbed the accused from a factory in Tadesara. The accused was booked under section 420 of IPC.

FORGERY

Surety held for producing fake documents

BHILAI: Police arrested a man on charges of producing fake property documents in the court to give surety for bail of a person. Police arrested the accused Om Prakash (37) son of Chhagan Lal a resident of village Deokar. Police had received a complaint from Ajay Kumar Sahu (Reader of JMFC Payal Topno) against Om Prakash. He had produced Kisan Kitab for bail of the accused in the case of Chhabilal Sahu v/s Nitin Dodani.

The reader remembered that the same person had given surety for bail in the case of Kailash Sao v/s Ravi Kumar but the entry was not there in the Kisan Kitab. When enquired from the court of Tehsildar, it was found that any duplicate Kisan Kitab has not been issued. It was discovered that the accused had produced tampered documents before the Court as surety for bail.

Inter School Hindi Debate Contest at DPS Bhilai



Central Chronicle News

Eleven prominent schools of Bhilai-Raipur participated in the contest

BHILAI: Delhi Public School hosted the annual Inter - School Hindi Debate Contest on the topic debate 'Desh-meinbadhrahe dummy schoolonkeprachlan se paramparikshikshaevamsamajikshiksha ka haashorahahi'.

Eleven prominent schools of Bhilai-Raipur participated in it. Each school was represented by a team of two participants (one for the motion and the other against it). Panel of judges comprising of Dr Anita Sawant, Dr Rita Gupta and Dr Ambrish Tripathi, judged the contestants. Speaking for the motion - Ritika Sharma of DAV Public School, Hudco, bagged the First position, Katha Jaiswal of DPS, Raipur secured the Second position and the Third position went to Jhamit Sahu of Sharda Vidyalaya, Risali.

Workers set factory on fire

BHILAI: Cartel Health Care Private Limited Company located in village Akola (Kumhari) was destroyed in a blaze on August 21. The factory owner Ashok Agrawal complained that after checking CCTV footages, he came to know that two employees were talking about setting fire with a matchstick in the store room. An employee gave a matchstick to his fellow who set the stored chemicals on fire.

Battery stolen from BSNL tower

BHILAI: Battery and cables were stolen from a BSNL Tower in Borai, Rasmada. BSNL Officer Doleshwarjange complained that they received a complaint on August 18 that the BSNL Exchange services were completely shut down at Rasmada.

Weeklong 'Vedic Saptah' concludes at DAV Hudco

| PRINCIPLES OF VEDAS |

Central Chronicle News

Weeklong event dedicated to exploring and celebrating teaching and principles of Vedas.

BHILAI: Vedic saptah - a weeklong event dedicated to exploring and celebrating the teaching and principles of Vedas concluded at DAV Public School Hudco. The aim of the program was to instill traditional values, spiritual awareness and cultural heritage among the students and to the larger community of the society. Throughout the week various activities and sessions were organised including Vedic chant-



Havan being performed on the concluding day of Vedic Saptah

ing, Shlokas Recitation and Speeches on famous propagates of Arya Samaj. Each day began with auspicious Yajana and rally to awaken the conscience of the people with regards to Vedas. All these activities helped students to connect with ancient wisdom and enhance their spiritual development.

This program emphasized on the relevance of

Vedic teaching in modern life covering topics such as Dharma (Duty) Karma (action) and the pursuit of knowledge, practical application of Vedic Principles in our day to day life. The finale concluded with grand 'Purnaahuti' havan in which Prashant Kumar (Principal cum Regional Officer, CG, Zone A) was accompanied by the parents faculties and stu-

FASTFACTS

- Aim was to instill traditional values, spiritual awareness and cultural heritage
- Program emphasized on the relevance of Vedic teaching in modern life

dent filling the ambience with purity harmony and contentment. Prashant Kumar reciprocated to the request to continue such event to keep the spirit of Vedic teaching alive in the future generation. He added that Arya Samaj teaches us the way of life and its core tenets focus on the welfare and larger interest of the society spreading the light of Vedas.

FOUNDATION DAY CELEBRATION |

Minister attends Saraswati School foundation day

Central Chronicle News

BHILAI: Revenue, Sports and Youth Welfare Minister of Chhattisgarh Government, Tank Ram Verma attended the foundation day celebration of Saraswati Higher Secondary School in village Jangaon R of Patan development block on Monday. He graced the function as chief guest. Addressing the function, Revenue Minister Tank Ram Verma congratulated everyone on the 34th foundation day of the school. He exchanged greetings on Shri Krishna Janmashtami. Appreciating the institution, he said that this school works to



make ideal citizens. The students here are well cultured and this school is not less than a Gurukul. Speaking about the power of the human mind, he said that one thought can change our life. Further, a positive thought can bring

revolution in the society. Thoughts change our lives, he said. Minister Verma asked the students to associate with people having good thoughts and positive attitude, who can influence your thoughts in a positive direction. On the demand

of the institution director, he announced Rs 1 lakh to improve the sports facility in the school. Minister Verma also distributed certificates to the students who performed well in academics and sports. Devnarayan Sahu also

“A positive thought can change our life and revolutionise the society.”
Tank Ram Verma

expressed his views in the program. The students of the school staged wonderful cultural programs. On this occasion, institution director Askaran Jain, Principal PL Banjare, teachers, dignitaries and SDM Lavkesh Dhruv, Tehsildar Meena Sahu and other administrative officers, students and their parents were present.

MVN celebrates Krishna Janmashtami

Central Chronicle News

BHILAI: Maitri Vidya Niketan EMSSS Risali celebrated Krishna Janmashtami with full zeal and enthusiasm in the presence of President MECA, Rajam Sudhakaran and Director MECA S Sajeew, Vice Principal DrBeena Sajeew, Headmistress Nishi Sajan teachers and students.

The School premises was decorated with pictures of Bal Krishna, flowers, and matkies giving the vibes of festivity. Speeches, Poems, Shlokas and melodious songs presented by students made the programme



colourful, cheerful and informative. Tiny tots of pre-primary and primary students, dressed in traditional attire representing the culture, put up an excellent show, dancing and singing to the tunes of Krishna Leela. The highlight of the program was the "MatkiPhod" which made the children reminisce the festival.



QUOTE FROM THE QUOTABLE

"If you're offered a seat on a rocket ship, don't ask what seat! Just get on."

[Sheryl Sandberg]

Comment

India's action plan against rising Monkeypox threats

OUR VIEW |

Unified Pension Scheme: A balanced approach needed

The Centre's unveiling of the Unified Pension Scheme (UPS) marks a pivotal recalibration in employee benefit policies, poised to reshape the fiscal and political landscape. Set to roll out in April next year, the UPS emerges as a calculated response to the intensifying clamor for the reinstatement of the pre-2004 Old Pension Scheme (OPS). With an estimated 23 lakh employees standing to gain from this initiative, the scheme extends an olive branch to those currently under the National Pension System (NPS), offering them the choice to transition to UPS. This move is far from a mere administrative adjustment; it is a strategically crafted gambit by the ruling establishment, designed to undercut the Opposition's rallying cry for OPS. States like Himachal Pradesh and Punjab, under Opposition control, have staunchly advocated for OPS, arguing that its provisions are more advantageous for employees. The BJP-led Centre's response, through the introduction of UPS, is clearly aimed at neutralizing this opposition, especially as the specter of upcoming Assembly elections looms large. It is anticipated that BJP-ruled states will swiftly fall in line, adopting UPS as a means of consolidating political leverage. Yet, the implications of this policy shift transcend electoral calculations. The reconfiguration of the pension landscape necessitates a thorough and informed examination by all stakeholders. To summarily dismiss the UPS without delving into its intricacies or to fail in offering substantive critiques would be a gross dereliction of responsibility. The Reserve Bank of India has already sounded alarms about the fiscal repercussions and the accrual of liabilities associated with OPS, underlining the urgency of a more sustainable approach. The Centre, in advocating for UPS, asserts its fiscal prudence, highlighting the scheme's contributory nature as a safeguard against the unchecked financial burdens that OPS entails. While the initial reactions from employee unions have been predictably polarized, an obstinate stance serves no constructive purpose.

GUEST VIEW |

Fear is real: Protecting women is more than just slogans

The safety of doctors, particularly women doctors, is not just a legal issue but a fundamental principle of equality. The nation cannot wait for another horrific incident to take action. If women cannot work safely, we are denying them their basic rights. Despite the central government's repeated claims of supporting 'Nari Shakti' (women's power), there has been a consistent failure to address violence against women effectively. Notably, leaders like Smriti Irani, who oversees the Ministry for Women and Child Development, have sometimes dismissed or criticized victims who speak out against sexual violence, accusing them of tarnishing the government's image. Campaigns like Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (Save the Daughter, Educate the Daughter) lose their significance when the empowered women they produce are met with violence and a government that remains a silent spectator. We must ask ourselves if the government has forgotten about the women it claims to support. The central government must recognize that women's safety is not just a state issue but a national crisis. It must go beyond mere slogans and ensure that concrete actions are taken to protect women and uphold their right to work in a safe environment.



Narendra Kumar Raut

As the global health community continues to grapple with emerging infectious diseases, monkeypox has emerged as a new concern in India. The country, which is still recovering from the long-term impacts of COVID-19, is now gearing up to address the threats posed by monkeypox, a zoonotic virus that has seen a resurgence in several parts of the world.

Rising Cases and Global Concern

Monkeypox, primarily found in Central and West Africa, has recently spread to non-endemic countries, triggering alarm among health authorities. The World Health Organization (WHO) has reported an increase in cases globally, particularly in regions with no prior history of the disease. In India, the first confirmed case was reported in July 2022, followed by sporadic cases across various states. Although the number of confirmed cases in India remains relatively low compared to other countries, the potential for a widespread outbreak cannot be ignored.

Government Response and Preparedness

In response to the growing threat, the Indian government has ramped up its efforts to prevent and control the spread of monkeypox. The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has issued guidelines to states and Union Territories, focusing on surveillance, isolation, and treatment protocols. Health authorities have been advised to maintain high alertness, particularly in areas with reported cases, and to strengthen surveillance at points of entry, including airports and seaports.

A dedicated task force has been established to monitor the situation, assess risks, and coordinate responses at both the state and national levels. This task force includes experts from the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), and other health institutions. The government has also begun procuring vaccines and antiviral medications, which have shown efficacy against monkeypox, to be used in case of a significant outbreak.

Public Awareness and Precautions

Public awareness campaigns are being launched to educate people about monkeypox, its symptoms, and preventive measures. The virus, which spreads through close contact with an infected person or animal, can cause fever, headache, muscle aches, and a characteristic rash. Health authorities have emphasized the importance of early detection and isolation of suspected cases to prevent further transmission.

Citizens have been advised to avoid close contact with anyone showing symptoms of the disease and to report any suspicious cases to local health authorities. Additionally, the public is urged to maintain good hygiene practices, such as regular handwashing and avoiding contact with animals that could carry the virus.

Challenges Ahead

Despite these efforts, several challenges remain in India's fight against monkeypox. The lack of widespread testing facilities and the limited availability of vaccines are significant hurdles. Moreover, the stigmatization of infected

individuals may discourage people from seeking medical help, potentially leading to unreported cases and further spread of the virus.

Health experts have also raised concerns about the potential for monkeypox to strain India's already burdened healthcare system, which is still dealing with the aftereffects of the COVID-19 pandemic. There is an urgent need for increased investment in healthcare infrastructure, including the expansion of testing capabilities and the stockpiling of vaccines and antiviral drugs.

Conclusion

As India braces for the potential spread of monkeypox, the focus remains on preparedness, early detection, and public awareness. While the current situation is under control, the evolving nature of the virus requires continuous vigilance and a coordinated response. The lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic have underscored the importance of swift and decisive action in the face of emerging health threats, and India is now applying these lessons to its battle against monkeypox.



Prof. Varaprasad Kolla

Director
Amity Institute of
Biotechnology,
Amity University
Chhattisgarh

Whodunnit: A case of misplaced priorities in Railways

A tragic June 17 train accident near Siliguri exposes systemic failures in Indian Railways, highlighting misplaced priorities over safety and infrastructure investment. *by Sujit De*



The aftermath of the tragic June 17 train accident near Rangapani station highlights systemic failures and the urgent need for safety infrastructure like the Kavach system.

Assume the role of a detective to find out whodunnit. On June 17, a tragic train accident occurred near Rangapani station on the outskirts of Siliguri, where the Kanchenjunga Express was struck from behind by a goods train. The accident claimed ten lives, including that of the loco-pilot of the goods train and two other railway employees.

In the immediate aftermath, the railway authorities were quick to place the blame squarely on the deceased loco-pilot. However, the enquiry report, submitted by Janak Kumar Garg, Chief Commissioner of Railway Safety, on July 12, reveals a different story.

The 29-page report attributes the accident to "lapses at multiple levels in managing train operations under automatic signal failures." Garg's findings highlight the systemic failures that led to the accident, rather than the individual mistake of the loco-pilot.

The report also stresses the urgent need for the installation of the anti-collision device, Kavach, which could have prevented the disaster. Unfortunately, the installation of Kavach has been sluggish at best, raising questions about the priorities of the Indian Railways.

Kavach, an automatic train protection system designed to prevent collisions, was introduced in 2016. Yet, despite the potential to save countless lives, it has been installed on only 1,500 kilometers of track out of the 70,000 kilometers under the purview of Indian Railways.

This means that in the eight years since its field trials, Kavach covers just over 2 percent of the railway network. The reason? According to railway officials, it's due to the high cost and technical challenges. But when juxtaposed with the government's enthusiasm for costly projects like bullet trains, this

excuse rings hollow.

The misplaced priorities become even more glaring when we consider the disparity in railway safety investments. While significant funds are being funneled into the glamorous bullet train project, the basic safety infrastructure for everyday train travel remains woefully inadequate.

The irony is stark: while the government pushes for high-speed rail to compete with air travel, it fails to ensure that existing train journeys are safe and reliable.

Adding to the problem is the severe shortage of rail-

way personnel. An RTI reply revealed that as of March 1, nearly 15 percent of the 1,27,644 sanctioned posts of loco pilots and assistant loco pilots were vacant.

This shortage forces train drivers to work extra shifts, leading to fatigue and increased chances of human error. Similarly, the lack of manpower in track inspections and maintenance exacerbates the risks. The coexistence of rising unemployment and declining railway recruitment is a dangerous trend that compromises the safety of passengers.

As we delve deeper into the reasons behind this trag-

edy, a trade union leader's words echo the sentiments of many: "Blaming the loco pilot cannot be fair. The report of the CCRC proved that we were right. The railways should now focus on increasing the required infrastructure, including the installation of Kavach."

Finally, as we search for the true culprit in this case, a broader issue emerges. Despite India's low rank of 134th on the global human development index, the government is setting its sights on ambitious projects like landing a man on the moon by 2040.

This stark contrast between our aspirations and our priorities underscores the real whodunnit: a failure to prioritize safety and the well-being of citizens over flashy, high-profile projects.

In conclusion, the June 17 train accident is a grim reminder of what happens when safety takes a back seat to ambition. The true culprit is not just a system failure or a lack of infrastructure; it is the failure to get our priorities right.

Until this changes, the safety of train passengers will continue to hang in the balance, and tragedies like the one at Rangapani will, unfortunately, remain a part of our reality.

YOUR LETTERS

Shikhar Dhawan's graceful retirement
Shikhar Dhawan, India's celebrated left-handed opener, announced his retirement from international and domestic cricket, concluding a distinguished career spanning over a decade. With 10,000+ runs across formats, 24 centuries, and a key role in India's 2013 ICC Champions Trophy win, Dhawan leaves a lasting legacy. Known for his aggressive style and iconic thigh-patting celebration, Dhawan's contributions to cricket are immense. His decision to retire reflects his contentment and security as a champion. Best wishes to him for a fulfilling life ahead.
Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee, Faridabad

Kamala Harris energizes Presidential race
Kamala Harris, the Democratic candidate for U.S. President, has sparked enthusiasm with her commitment to social justice and economic equality. As an advocate for progressive policies, she promises to prioritize the needs of all Americans, gaining support across diverse demographics. Harris's focus on fair taxation, expanded healthcare, and education access resonates strongly, especially with younger voters and minorities. Her vocal stance on human rights, including issues in Jammu and Kashmir, signals her intent to address global concerns.
Yash Pal Ralhan, Jalandhar

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



Raminfo launches drone platform.
L Srinath,
Managing Director,
Raminfo Ltd.



Union Ministers Nirmala Sitharaman, S Jaishankar, Piyush Goyal and Ashwini Vaishnav during the second India-Singapore Ministerial Roundtable (ISMR), in Singapore.

India, Singapore commit to enhance co-operation

During the meeting, the leaders emphasised on ways of further enhancing co-operation between India and Singapore in emerging and futuristic areas

Press Trust Of India
SINGAPORE: India and Singapore on Monday pledged to further enhance co-operation in the emerging and futuristic areas. The Indian delegation led by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman deliberated upon six pillars identified under India-Singapore Ministerial Roundtable (ISMR). Deputy Prime Minister Gan Kim Yong led the del-

egation of Singapore during the second ISMR. "During the meeting, the leaders emphasised on ways of further enhancing co-operation between India and Singapore in emerging and futuristic areas. Both sides deliberated upon six pillars identified under ISMR, which include Digitalisation, Skill Development, Sustainability, Healthcare & Medicine, and Advanced Manufac-

NUMBER
60
● Both sides deliberated upon six pillars identified under ISMR.
● ISMR is a unique mechanism established to set a new agenda for India-Singapore bilateral relations.
turing and Connectivity," the finance ministry

said in post on X. The leaders also discussed plans for commemorating the 60th Anniversary of diplomatic relations between India and Singapore, alongside regional and global cooperation, including ASEAN & G20 developments, it said. The leaders noted that the discussions in the first round of ISMR have resulted in the successful conclusion of MoUs on healthcare, educa-

tion & skill development, digital cooperation and semiconductor ecosystem cooperation, it said. Along with Sitharaman, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal and Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnav were present for the meeting. ISMR is a unique mechanism established to set a new agenda for India-Singapore bilateral relations.

India adds record 15 GW solar capacity in Jan-Jun

NEW DELHI: India has registered record solar installations of about 15 GW during the first half of 2024 as "developers raced" to complete delayed projects, a report by Mercom Capital said. The country added 3.89 GW of solar capacity during January-June 2024, the US-based research firm said in its latest report.

"In the first half, solar installations in India reached 15 GW, surpassing all previous years records, posting an increase of 282 per cent compared to 1H 2023," the report titled 'India Solar Market Update' said. The record installations were registered as developers raced to commission the previously delayed projects, it said. As of June 2024, India's cumulative installed solar capacity stood at 87.2 GW, of which the utility-scale projects accounted for nearly 87 per cent, and rooftop solar over 13 per cent. Solar energy accounted for 19.5 per cent of India's installed power capacity and

RBI working to make India's financial system strong: Das

Press Trust Of India
Das recalled various initiatives being taken by the RBI with regard to ULI and CBDC.



RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das addresses the inaugural session of "Global Conference on DPI and Emerging Technologies", in Bengaluru, Monday.

BENGALURU: Reserve Bank Governor Shaktikanta Das on Monday said the central bank is constantly working on policies, systems, and platforms to make the country's financial sector strong, nimble and customer centric. Addressing the RBI@90 Global Conference on 'Digital Public Infrastructure and Emerging Technologies', Das recalled various initiatives being taken by the RBI with regard to Unified Lending Interface (ULI) and Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC). The Governor also said that the UPI system has the potential to evolve

FACTFILE
● Governor also said that the UPI system has the potential to evolve into a cheaper and quicker alternative to the available channels of cross-border remittances and "a beginning can be made with small value personal remittances as it can be quickly implemented".
According to the Eco-

conomic Survey tabled in Parliament in July, remittances to India, the second largest source of external financing after service exports, are projected to grow at 3.7 per cent to USD 124 billion in 2024 and at 4 per cent to reach USD 129 billion in 2025. Das said the Reserve Bank of India is looking forward to the journey towards RBI@100 with considerable optimism. "We are constantly working on devising policies,

approaches, systems and platforms that will make our financial sector stronger, nimble and customer centric," he said. Speaking on the theme of DPI and emerging technologies, he said over the last decade, the traditional banking system has undergone an unprecedented technological transformation. By all indications, this process is likely to become even more intense in the coming years, he added.

He said DPI spurs market innovation by reducing transaction costs, democratising access, maintaining competition through interoperability, and attracting private capital. Referring to the country's experience, Das said "DPI has enabled India to achieve, in less than a decade, levels of financial inclusion that would have otherwise taken several decades or more".

HUGE OPPORTUNITY |

India offers huge opportunity: Salil Parekh

Press Trust Of India
NEW DELHI India offers a "huge opportunity" for Infosys, CEO Salil Parekh said, noting that the country's "fantastic" economic trajectory has set it apart from the rest of the world. The Bengaluru-headquartered IT company has clocked "strong growth" in its India business in the first quarter of

this fiscal year, although revenue from the market is relatively small. "India is a huge opportunity. The growth that we are seeing for different types of work across Indian environment is massive, and we are very much part of making sure that we engage both with private sector companies and with government agencies where we can



support, for example, the government's vision on digital India. "So, we are helping build some

of the building blocks for that digital India going ahead," Parekh told PTI. Stating that the company had been deeply engaged with government projects, he said, "Some of the work we have done on income tax system (tax filing portal developed for Income Tax Department) is extremely well received." Infosys beat expectations with its Q1

report card this time as it reported 7 per cent rise in consolidated net profit at Rs 6,368 crore and raised its growth outlook for the full financial year. In the year-ago period, the company had clocked a profit of Rs 5,945 crore. For the current fiscal year, the company raised revenue growth guidance to 3-4 per cent from 1-3 per cent projected earlier.

BizBriefs

BEST OF THE REST

FROM SEP 1 GST taxpayers without valid bank a/c to be barred from GSTR-1

NEW DELHI: GST taxpayers who do not furnish bank account details to GST authorities will be barred from filing outward supply return GSTR-1 from September 1, GST Network (GSTN) has said in an advisory. As per GST Rule 10A, a taxpayer is required to furnish details of a valid bank account within a period of 30 days from the date of grant of registration, or before furnishing the details of outward supplies of goods or services or both in Form GSTR-1or using Invoice Furnishing Facility (IFF), whichever is earlier. "From 1st September, 2024 this rule is being enforced.

Therefore, for the tax period August-2024 onwards, the taxpayer will not be able furnish GSTR-01/IFF as the case may be, without furnishing the details of a valid bank account in their registration details on GST portal," GSTN said in an advisory dated August 23.

INDICATORS

Share MARKETS

Market	Close	%chg
Sensex	81,698.11	+0.75
Nifty	25,010.60	+0.76
Nifty, MidCap	58,931.15	+0.64
Nifty SmallCap	19,132.25	+0.28
Nifty Bank	51,148.10	+0.42

Closing rates as on August 26, 2024 at 5:30p.m. (IST)

Forex RATES

Foreign currency Vs Rupee

US Dollar	83.86 (+)
Euro	93.70 (+)
Chinese Yuan	11.77 (+)
UAE Dirham	22.83 (+)
Pakistan Rupee	0.30 (+)
Sri Lanka Rupee	0.27 (-)

On August 26, 2024

World INDICES

Stock	Value	% chg
Dow Jones (US)	41,388.69	+0.52%
FTSE 100 Index	8,327.78	+0.48%
Nikkei 225 (JPN)	38,110.22	-0.66%
CSI 300 (CHN)300:	3,324.22	-0.09%

Index at 05:30 p.m. (IST, August 26, 2024)

How the markets behaves today?

Sensex, Nifty surge on rally in US markets, foreign fund inflows

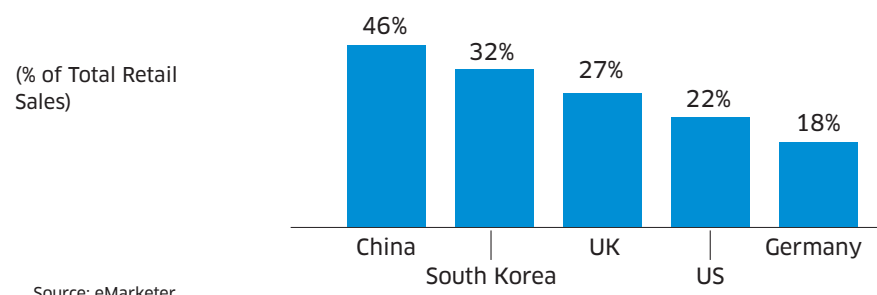


MUMBAI: Stock market benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty surged nearly 1 per cent on Monday amid renewed hopes that the US Federal Reserve will start cutting interest rates soon. Traders said foreign fund inflows and buying in frontline stocks HDFC Bank and Reliance Industries also drove the markets higher. On Friday, US Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell said the time had come to lower the main interest rate from a two-decade high. "The time has come for policy to adjust," Powell said. "The direction of travel is clear, and the timing and pace of rate cuts will depend on incoming data, the evolving outlook, and the balance of risks." The 30-share

BSE Sensex jumped 611.90 points or 0.75 per cent to settle at 81,698.11. During the day, it surged 738.06 points or 0.91 per cent to 81,824.27. The NSE Nifty soared 187.45 points or 0.76 per cent to 25,010.60. In Asian markets, Shanghai and Hong Kong settled in the positive territory while Seoul and Tokyo ended lower. European markets were trading mostly lower. The US markets ended with significant gains on Friday. "The Fed chief Powell's clear message of the beginning of the rate cutting cycle will impart further resilience to the ongoing global rally in stock markets," V K Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist at Geojit Financial Services, said.

The Day's NUMBERS

GLOBAL E-COMMERCE PENETRATION BY COUNTRY IN 2022



100-MN CUSTOMER MARK

Amazon Pay's UPI offering crosses 100-mn customer mark

NEW DELHI: Amazon Pay UPI has witnessed widespread adoption across the country with over 100 million customers now using the service. Leading use cases include mobile recharges, utility bill payments and e-commerce transactions. This one-stop payment solution provides convenience through its lightning-fast transactions (under 3.5seconds), auto-torch for low-light scanning on iPhone, constant reminders and management of bill payments, and a rewarding experience with offers from over 10,000+ online as well as multiple offline brands, amongst others.

Amazon Pay UPI has become a significant success, streamlining transactions both on the Amazon.in shopping app and across a wide range of external platforms. This seamless integration has enabled users to effortlessly manage their digital payments, making everyday transactions more convenient and secure.

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Goyal discusses ways to hike investments with top firms in Singapore

NEW DELHI: Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal discussed ways to increase investments with the global business leaders in Singapore like Temasek holdings, DBS bank, OMERS, Keppal infrastructure, and TVS Motor Company. "In the meetings, key discussions were held to explore and enhance investment opportunities between India and Singapore, focusing on mutual growth and collaboration across diverse sectors," the commerce ministry said in a statement.



OMERS is a pension fund. It added that the focus was on exploring investment opportunities in India, leveraging the country's economic growth, and fostering collaboration across various sectors.

"I would definitely say I am privileged. I have come from a middle-class family, I have a joint account with my father. I have no idea how much money is coming in and going out."

Kriti Sanon
Actress



& Glitters

CLOSE UP

Housefull 5: A franchise reborn with Jacqueline Fernandez

Actress Jacqueline Fernandez is once again back in the popular Housefull franchise and will star alongside Akshay Kumar in the upcoming sequel.

Central Chronicle News

Housefull 5' was earlier scheduled to release on the occasion of Diwali this year, but the makers have pushed its release date to June 6, 2025.

The excitement around 'Housefull 5' has surged with the recent confirmation that Jacqueline Fernandez will be joining the star-studded cast. Renowned for her impeccable comedic skills and vibrant screen presence, Jacqueline is set to appear alongside Akshay Kumar, Riteish Deshmukh, and Fardeen Khan in this highly anticipated fifth installment of the beloved comedy series. Her inclusion has sparked a wave of enthusiasm among fans, who are eagerly anticipating her on-screen chemistry with Akshay Kumar. Jacqueline Fernandez, who has delighted audiences with her performances in comedy films, is thrilled to return to the 'Housefull' franchise. According to reports, she is excited to continue her successful collaboration with producer Sajid Nadiadwala. Jacqueline's role is expected to infuse fresh energy into the film, enhancing the franchise's charm and appeal.



Jacqueline Fernandez signs on for Housefull 5; to be paired opposite Akshay Kumar



Housefull 5 release date shifted

Initially slated for a Diwali release this year, 'Housefull 5' will now premiere on June 6, 2025. Directed by Tarun Mansukhani, this install-

ment aims to uphold the franchise's tradition of high-energy comedy and entertainment, with Jacqueline Fernandez bringing a new level of excitement and humor to the screen.

| JANMASHTAMI JOY UNVEILED |

Actresses reflect on their Janmashtami celebrations

Central Chronicle News

Janmashtami, a vibrant festival of joy and devotion, celebrates the birth of Lord Krishna. As the special day draws near, actresses Sangita Ghosh, Brinda Dahal, and Siddhi Sharma share their personal traditions and festive celebrations.

Sangita Ghosh, who plays Saroj in Saajha Sindoor, said, "As a child, I was always excited for Janmashtami because we had a small silver jhula at home. We'd eagerly decorate it with flowers and place Bal Gopal on it. Every year, we hold Janmashtami puja at my house, but this time, I'm not sure about my shooting schedule for Saajha Sindoor. Interest-



ingly, there's a Janmashtami sequence in our show too, so we'll be celebrating on set, following the same traditions, and I'm really excited about that."

Brinda Dahal, who plays Vaishnavi in Chhathi Maiyya Ki Bitiya, said, "Lord Krishna means a lot to me. I always fast on Janmashtami because it's such a special day—Krishna Ji's divine birthday, which holds significance for everyone.



This Janmashtami, while I'll be shooting for Chhathi Maiyya Ki Bitiya, I'll still observe a 'nirjal' fast, worship Him, and celebrate with decorations, sweets, and joy. Whenever I face challenges, I turn to Krishna with my problems, and somehow, the answers always come to me."

Siddhi Sharma, who plays Gulki in Ishq Jabar-iya, said, "I'm a big Krishna devotee, so Janmashtami



is a special and important time for me. Every year, we celebrate our little Ladoo Gopal's birthday at home by decorating with balloons and setting up his jhula (cradle). We make a special mava milk cake, prepare lots of sweets and chocolates, and hold a devotional kirtan. My family and I observe a fast, staying on water until we break it after midnight. This year, I will be shooting for Ishq Jabar-

Actresses Sangita, Brinda, and Siddhi share their personal Janmashtami traditions while managing busy shoots.

HIGHLIGHT

● Siddhi Sharma celebrates Janmashtami by fasting, decorating Ladoo Gopal's cradle, and holding a kirtan, despite her shooting schedule.

iya, but each Janmashtami feels like a beautiful celebration of Ladoo Gopal Ji's birthday." Suman Indori will delve into the intricate dynamics between devrani and jethani (sisters-in-law) and is set to premiere on September 3 on Colors TV, with digital availability on Jio Cinema.

CineBriefs

BEST OF THE REST

Web Series

Adbhut: A Nawazuddin Siddiqui masterpiece on Sony Max

The much-anticipated Nawazuddin Siddiqui-starring film Adbhut is set to premiere on television. Siddiqui, known for his role in Gangs of Wasseypur, announced the release date via Instagram, revealing a gripping still from the movie. In the poster, Siddiqui is seen as an investigating officer, holding a magnifying glass and dressed in a coat, hinting at a thrilling mystery. The film, directed by Sabir Khan, who previously collaborated with Siddiqui on Munna Michael, is a mystery thriller set to air on Sony Max on September 15 at 8 PM. Fans can look forward to the trailer dropping tomorrow at noon.

Music

Someone Wake Me Up: Darci Lynne's latest hit



Darci Lynne Farmer, the 2017 America's Got Talent winner, is back with a fresh sound and a new single, "Someone Wake Me Up." At 19, Darci Lynne is transitioning from her beloved ventriloquism act to making waves in the music world. Her latest release is a pop anthem that reflects the struggles of finding genuine connections in a superficial world. "Someone Wake Me Up" captures the highs and lows of young love, showcasing Darci Lynne's growth since her AGT win. Known for her powerful voice and emotional depth, she's now exploring different genres and sharing her musical journey with her 1.2 million Instagram followers.



Fashion

Tamannaah Bhatia radiates in orange: A modern Radha reimagined

Tamannaah Bhatia recently wowed fans with her latest look for Karan Torani's digital campaign, Leela: The Illusion of Love. Channeling her inner Radha, Tamannaah shimmered in an exquisite orange organza saree from Torani's Leela collection. The saree, a blend of luxury and tradition, features intricate dabka work, dori embroidery, and sequin detailing, highlighted by a thick embroidered border with delicate micro scallops. Tamannaah paired the saree with a magenta-pink blouse, enhancing the festive charm.

Trending on Insta

@manushichhillar

Manushi Chhillar's enchanted childhood: A Blyton adventure

Manushi Chhillar shared on Instagram Stories a photo of herself with a book about a group of child detectives led by Peter. She captioned, "Enid Blyton was a huge part of my childhood. Most meaningful gift lately."



OIT Watch



The final laugh: A farewell to Laughter Chefs

Laughter Chefs, topping TRP charts and gaining popularity with its unique format, features celebrities, host Bharti Singh, and mentor Chef Harpal Singh Sokhi. Despite its recent extension, the show is now ending.



Big B's flirty moment on KBC 16

In a promo for Kaun Banega Crorepati Season 16, Amitabh Bachchan subtly flirted with an audience member who shouted, "We have come to see you." He responded with a witty remark, showcasing his charm.



Pachinko: A new dawn

Pachinko Season 2 on Apple TV deepens the saga of a Korean immigrant family, exploring Sunja's World War II experiences in Osaka and her grandson Solomon's business challenges in 1989 Tokyo.



The Frog: Secrets unveiled

The Frog on Netflix is a South Korean thriller about a remote forest motel run by Jeon Young-ha. Chaos ensues with strange guests, leading local police chief Yoon Bo-min to uncover dark secrets.



Bridget Jones: A new beginning

Bridget Jones returns in Mad About the Boy, with Renée Zellweger reprising her role after eight years. The fourth installment, based on Helen Fielding's novel, promises new twists and behind-the-scenes moments with Colin Firth.

Books are the plane, and the train, and the road. They are the destination, and the journey. They are home.
Anna Quindlen
 American author and journalist



Excursion

MUST-VISIT PLACES FOR BOOK LOVERS

Stepping into the pages: Literary destinations for bookworms

If you're someone who enjoys reading books a lot and want to explore the places where your favourite stories took place, then read this article to get information of the places regarding the same.



For book lovers eager to explore the worlds of their favorite stories, a journey to these literary destinations offers unforgettable experiences. Begin in Edinburgh, Scotland, where the cobblestone streets are steeped in literary magic. The Elephant House café, where J.K. Rowling penned parts of the Harry Potter series, is a must-visit. As you stroll down the Royal Mile, you'll feel the enchantment of Rowling's wizarding world at every turn. Don't miss



Victoria Street, believed to have inspired Diagon Alley. Next, immerse yourself in Mumbai, India's vibrant cultural capital. The Colaba district, home to the historic Leopold Café and the charming Bookworm bookstore, reflects the city's rich literary heritage. Mumbai's dynamic book fairs and literary festivals bring together diverse stories and ideas, showcasing its thriving narrative scene. The Mumbai Literature Festival is particularly notable for its blend of cultural richness and contemporary dialogue. From Mumbai, head to Kol-

kata, where literary history comes alive. Jorasanko Thakur Bari, the ancestral home of Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore, offers a profound glimpse into his literary legacy. The nearby College Street, with its maze of second-hand bookstores, invites bibliophiles to lose themselves among its many

treasures and immerse in the city's vibrant reading culture. Finally, make your way to New York City, a beacon for book enthusiasts. The New York Public Library, with its majestic architecture and extensive collections, is a testament to the city's literary heritage. Exploring its grand spaces reveals how New York's stories have shaped the literary world. These destinations offer a magical blend of history, culture, and literature, turning each visit into an immersive chapter of your travel adventure.

HIGHLIGHT

● Visit these places that have materialised straight from the pages of a book to satisfy your yearning to explore fictional worlds.



Experience the literature world at these places, a must for every reader.

| WILDLIFE ADVENTURE |

Gotram Ghat: A desert oasis in Rajasthan

Central Chronicle News

Tucked away in the Aravalli Range, Gotram Ghat is a serene retreat in Rajasthan, often called the "Kashmir of Rajasthan" for its lush, green beauty and refreshing climate. This hidden paradise offers a captivating contrast to the state's arid deserts with its vibrant landscapes, cool weather, and stunning natural features. The Gotram Waterfalls are a must-see, cascading gracefully over rugged cliffs and creating a breathtaking spectacle of nature's power and beauty. Nearby, Gotram Lake complements this scenery with its tranquil waters and picturesque surroundings, making it an ideal spot for a leisurely boat ride or a peaceful picnic among the lush greenery. Adventure enthusiasts will delight in the scenic hiking trails that wind through Gotram Ghat. These paths range from gentle walks to more challeng-



Gotram Ghat boasts breathtaking beauty that rivals that of the famed Himalayan region.

ing treks, providing panoramic views of the Aravalli Range and opportunities to encounter local wildlife and diverse plant life. The trails offer a chance to connect with nature and enjoy the area's natural splendor.

Beyond its natural attractions, Gotram Ghat immerses visitors in Rajasthani culture. The nearby villages offer a glimpse into traditional life with bustling markets, colorful crafts, and friendly locals who are eager to share their heritage. Sampling local Rajasthani cuisine rich curries, spicy snacks, and delectable sweets adds an extra layer of enjoyment to your visit. With its breathtaking landscapes, rich cultural experiences, and tranquil ambiance, Gotram Ghat is a perfect escape from Rajasthan's typical desert environment. It's a destination where nature and tradition blend seamlessly, offering an unforgettable and refreshing adventure.



HIGHLIGHT

● Often referred to as the 'Kashmir of Rajasthan,' Gotram Ghat boasts breathtaking beauty that rivals that of the famed Himalayan region.

Window View

INDIA'S HIDDEN GEMS: A JOURNEY THROUGH NATURAL BEAUTY



Nubra Valley

Ladakh's serene sanctuary
 Nubra Valley, nestled in the northern part of Ladakh, offers a serene escape with its unique

blend of desert landscapes and lush greenery. Known for its stunning sand dunes and the ancient Diskit Monastery, this remote valley remains a captivating destination. Visitors can explore the vibrant Nubra Festival, ride camels through the golden sands, and take in breathtaking views of the surrounding mountains. Nubra Valley's peaceful ambiance and scenic beauty make it a perfect spot for adventure and relaxation away from the usual tourist routes.



Pangong Lake

Ladakh's azure marvel
 Pangong Lake, situated at the height of 14,270 feet in Ladakh, is renowned for its mesmerizing blue waters and surrounding

mountain scenery. Known for its ever-changing hues and serene environment, this high-altitude lake is a popular destination for both relaxation and photography. Visitors can enjoy a peaceful lakeside experience, take part in boat rides, and marvel at the spectacular views of the snow-capped peaks. Pangong Lake's breathtaking vistas and tranquil setting make it a must-visit for those seeking natural beauty in Ladakh.



Tso Moriri

Ladakh's unspoiled beauty
 Tso Moriri, located in the Changthang Plateau of Ladakh, is a pristine high-altitude lake known for its stunning turquoise waters and serene surroundings. Surrounded by snow-capped

mountains and vast open plains, this remote lake offers a peaceful retreat. Visitors can explore the nearby Korzok village, enjoy wildlife spotting, and take in the breathtaking views of the lake and its pristine environment. Tso Moriri's untouched beauty and calmness provide a perfect escape for those looking to experience Ladakh's natural splendor.



Leh

Ladakh's vibrant tapestry
 Leh, the capital of Ladakh, offers a dynamic blend of cultural heritage and natural beauty. Known for its ancient monasteries,

vibrant markets, and historic landmarks like the Leh Palace, this bustling town remains the gateway to exploring Ladakh. Visitors can experience traditional Ladakhi culture, visit local monasteries, and enjoy panoramic views from the Shanti Stupa. Leh's unique charm and rich history make it an essential stop for those exploring the region's diverse offerings.



Zaskar Valley

Ladakh's untamed wilderness
 Zaskar Valley, situated in the remote reaches of Ladakh, offers an adventurous escape with its rugged landscapes and traditional Tibetan culture. Known for its dramatic

mountains and the ancient Zaskar Monastery, this isolated valley remains largely untouched by modern tourism. Visitors can embark on thrilling treks, explore ancient monasteries, and experience the unique culture of the Zaskari people. Zaskar Valley's raw beauty and cultural authenticity make it an ideal destination for adventure seekers and those yearning for a true off-the-beaten-path experience.

Sports



Very, very surprised. I'm not very often happy with a P3 but I think with today's race we can be extremely happy with the job we've done.

Charles Leclerc
Ferrari's Formula 1 driver

Uncertainty reigns supreme as US Open 2024 begins

As the 2024 US Open begins, even top players are uncertain about their performance, making this year's tournament one of the most unpredictable in recent history.

Press Trust Of India

Tommy Paul notes the mental and physical toll of surface changes but remains optimistic.

NEW YORK: The 2024 US Open is set to begin with a palpable sense of uncertainty among players, reflecting the unique challenges of this year's tennis calendar. The relentless switch between different playing surfaces—from the clay courts of the French Open and Summer Olympics to Wimbledon's grass and now the hard courts of New York—has left even top contenders unsure of their form.

Tommy Paul, who won a bronze medal in doubles at the Olympics, highlighted the physical and mental strain of these transitions. He acknowledged the toll but expressed confidence in players' ability to adjust, despite the potential for burnout from the intense Olympic schedule. "Changing surfaces, it's tough, not just on your body, but mentally... But it's part of the job, and we'll adjust," Paul noted.

Aryna Sabalenka, a two-time Australian Open champion and runner-up at last year's US Open, emphasized that preparation alone



Carlos Alcaraz of Spain returns the ball during a practice session. | Photo: PTI

HIGHLIGHT

● Sabalenka emphasizes that winning requires resilience and determination, even when not feeling at your best.

● Tiafoe's strong Cincinnati run contrasts with challenges faced by Sinner amidst recent steroid revelations.

doesn't guarantee success. She believes that winning comes down to determination and grit, especially on the days when players aren't at their best. "At the end of the day, it's all about how hard you're ready to fight for it," Sabalenka said, underscoring the mental battle players face.

Adding to the intrigue, Frances Tiafoe, who skipped the Olympics, made a strong showing at the Cincinnati Open, reaching the final before losing to Jannik Sinner. However, Sinner's recent positive steroid tests cast a shadow over his performance, contributing to the unpredictability surrounding the tournament.

As the US Open kicks off, the uncertainty looms large, making it one of the most unpredictable tournaments in recent memory.

Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

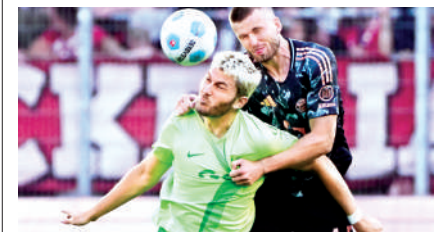
F1 RACE

Leclerc's podium finish raises spirits at Ferrari ahead of its home F1 race

ZANDVOORT: Ferrari had an unexpected boost at the Dutch Grand Prix as Charles Leclerc's hard-earned podium finish cheered the out-of-form Italian team ahead of its home race in Formula 1. Leclerc was sixth on the grid Sunday but overtook Red Bull's Sergio Perez at the start before also getting ahead of Mercedes' George Russell and the on-form McLaren of Oscar Piastri. Leclerc kept Piastri behind him to hold on for third, while his teammate Carlos Sainz Jr. surged from 10th on the grid to finish fifth. Not bad for a team which Leclerc said was targeting sixth place in a "damage limitation" exercise before planned car upgrades at the Italian Grand Prix at Monza next week. It's a well-timed morale boost for a team which started 2024 fighting for wins but had dropped out of contention. **PTI**

SOCCER

Bayern beats Wolfsburg 3-2 to start Bundesliga campaign under new coach



BERLIN: Bayern Munich's bid to wrest Bundesliga honors back from Bayer Leverkusen started with a hard-fought 3-2 win at Wolfsburg. Serge Gnabry scored the winning goal late after Bayern allowed Wolfsburg to come from behind to lead 2-1 early in the second half. Vincent Kompany made his league debut as coach, and Michael Olise started for him, but it was an old Bayern favorite who made the difference as Thomas Müller went on as a substitute for his club record-setting 474th Bundesliga appearance. **PTI**

West Indies Triumph

West Indies wins 2nd T20 to secure a series win after South Africa stumbles in run chase



TAROUBA: West Indies smashed 13 sixes in its innings to beat South Africa by 30 runs and secure the Twenty20 international series with a game to spare. West Indies scored 179-6 after being asked to bat first in the second T20, accelerating from 111-4 after 14 overs. Shai Hope hit a 22-ball 41 with two fours and four sixes. Captain Rovman Powell contributed 35 runs, also in 22 balls, with three sixes. South Africa was all out for 149 with two balls remaining despite a strong start of 57-0 after just four overs. But the chase faltered and, at 138-6, South Africa needed 42 runs off the last four overs. Opener Reeza Hendricks top-scored with an

18-ball 44 which included two of his team's six sixes before he was bowled by Romario Shepherd, who took 3-15 in four overs. Shamar Joseph returned 3-31. West Indies was unchanged from the team that also hit 13 sixes to win the opening T20 by seven wickets at the same ground last Friday. South Africa replaced fast medium left-arter Nandre Burger with Lizaad Williams, who took 3-36. The series-concluding T20 is on Tuesday, also at Tarouba. South Africa prevailed in the preceding two-match test series against West Indies, winning the second test at Providence, Guyana, after a rain-hit drawn opener at Port of Spain, Trinidad. **PTI**

Brown returns, Jonassen misses out

SYDNEY: Pacer Darcie Brown, who has recovered from her foot injury, was on Monday named in Australia's 15-member squad for the T20 World Cup even as the defending champions left out experienced spinner Jess Jonassen. Brown, who pulled out of the tour of Bangladesh in March due to a foot injury, is now fully fit and will be joined by fellow pacer Tayla Vlaeminck. "The pace duo of Tayla and Darcie is one we've been wanting to unleash for a while and is a real point of difference for us," selection chief Shawn Flegler said. The team, which will be vying for a fourth consecutive T20 title, will be led by Alyssa Healy while Tahlia McGrath will be her deputy in the tournament beginning in the UAE on October 3.

RIISING TEST CONTENDERS |

Focus on Shreyas, Surya and Sarfaraz in Buchi Babu meet

Press Trust Of India

Suryakumar, Shreyas, and Sarfaraz aim to prove their Test credentials in Buchi Babu.



Shreyas, Suryakumar and Sarfaraz. | Photo: PTI

COIMBATORE: India dasher Suryakumar Yadav will turn up for Mumbai in their Buchi Babu contest against TNCA XI, beginning here on Tuesday, with an aim to get his Test career back on track. Shreyas Iyer, also part of Mumbai's squad, too will be looking to make a statement in the pre-season event, having last played a Test in February. The star-studded Mumbai side will be captained by Sarfaraz Khan, who too will be jostling find space in a full

strength Test squad when the home season begins next month despite a promising beginning against England earlier this year. The likes of Virat Kohli, K L Rahul and Rishabh Pant, who were not available for different reasons over course of the five games against England, are expected to be available for the two Test series against Bangla-

desh beginning September 19 in Chennai. The centre of attention in the round three of the Buchi Babu match undoubtedly will be Suryakumar, who recently led India to victory in his first series as T20 skipper. Not in the team's ODI plans for the moment, the 33-year-old remains determined to play in all three formats. His sole Test appearance

FACTFILE

● Suryakumar seeks to regain Test form after excelling in T20 cricket this year.

● Shreyas Iyer faces a crucial domestic season to solidify his Test match standing.

came against Australia in February 2023. Since then, he has continued to flourish in white-ball cricket before taking up the T20 International captaincy duties for the Men in Blue. Effectively, the Buchi Babu outing will be a mere warm-up for Suryakumar and others in the mix, given they all will be part of the Duleep Trophy beginning September 5.

PHOGAT'S RESILIENT JOURNEY |

Vinesh Phogat honored, vows to continue fight

Press Trust Of India

ROHTAK : Olympic wrestler Vinesh Phogat, who was disqualified from the 50-kg final match in the recent Paris games, was honoured with a gold medal by the Sarvkhap Panchayat here.

"My fight has not ended, it has rather just begun. The fight for our daughters' hon-

My fight has not ended, it has rather just begun. The fight for our daughters' honour has just started.

Vinesh Phogat
Olympic wrestler

our has just started. We said the same thing



during our sit-in," Phogat said, addressing an event organised to felicitate her.

She was part of the agitation by wrestlers, mostly from Haryana, against the then Wrestling Federation of India chief and BJP leader Brijbhushan Sharan Singh over allegations of sexual harassment last year.

"When I could not

play in Paris, I thought I was very unfortunate but after returning to India and experiencing all the love and support here, I feel that I am very fortunate," she said.

Phogat said such a gesture will also encourage other women sportspersons that their communities are there to support them even in their lean phase.

The Day's NUMBERS

TOP WICKET-TAKERS IN ODI CRICKET (2024)

Shaheen Afridi	42
Rashid Khan	40
Mitchell Starc	38
Kuldeep Yadav	36
Trent Boult	34

Source: Olympic.org

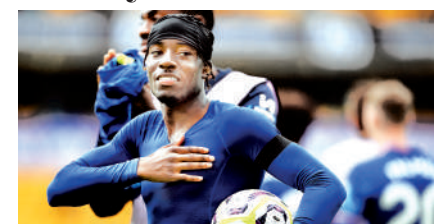
CRICKET

Himmat Singh and Mayank Rawat's star in EDR's 6-wicket win

NEW DELHI: Skipper Himmat Singh and Mayank Rawat's unbeaten 122-run partnership off 66 balls guided East Delhi Riders to a clinical six-wicket win over North Delhi Strikers in the Delhi Premier League. Simarjeet Singh's impressive 3/30 with the ball restricted North Delhi Strikers to 179/7 after a solid start. The sublime century stand between Singh (85 not out off 50) and Rawat (66 not out off 37) not only secured the win but also extended East Delhi Riders' unbeaten streak in the tournament, keeping them at the top of the points table with five wins as many matches. East Delhi Riders had a staggered start to the run chase as they were four down by the end of the eighth over with just 59 runs on the board. Singh and Rawat then took the onus on themselves, replicating the resilience they showed in their previous match. **PTI**

SOCCER

Madueke's hat trick leads Chelsea to victory over Wolves



LONDON: After being constantly booed by the home crowd for a disparaging social media post about Wolverhampton, Noni Madueke responded with a second-half hat trick to give Chelsea its first Premier League win under manager Enzo Maresca. Madueke netted three goals in a 14-minute span – all of them assisted by Cole Palmer – to spark a 6-2 win over Wolves on Sunday that at times had the same kind of chaotic feel that envelops most things at Chelsea these days. Madueke's hat trick capped a day where he had already drawn headlines for an Instagram post that used an expletive to describe "everything about this place" after Chelsea arrived in Wolverhampton. **PTI**

Sports News

India exits SAFF U20 after penalty loss to Bangladesh

India U20 men's football team was knocked out of the SAFF U20 Championship, losing 3-4 on penalties to Bangladesh after a 1-1 draw in regulation time, missing the chance for a title defense.

Press Trust Of India

Bangladesh advances to SAFF U20 final, will face hosts Nepal after India's semifinal exit.

KATHMANDU: The India U20 men's national football team was knocked out of the SAFF U20 Championship after losing 3-4 on penalties to Bangladesh in the semifinals on Monday. The match, held in Kathmandu, ended 1-1 in regulation time, with Bangladesh leading 1-0 at half-time. Bangladesh will now face hosts Nepal in the final on Wednesday.

Bangladesh took the lead in the 36th minute when Asadul Islam Sakib capitalized on a defensive error by India, volleying home a cross from Mohammed Rabby Hossen Rahul. Despite falling behind, India continued to push for an equalizer, and their persistence paid off in the 74th minute when captain Ricky Meetei Haobam calmly slotted a low shot past Bangladesh's substitute goalkeeper Mohammad Asif after receiving a well-timed pass from substitute Naoba Meitei Pangambam.

India had several chances to score earlier in the game, with Korou Singh Thingujam coming close in the fifth and 10th minutes, but Bangladesh's goalkeeper Mehdi Hasan



India U20 faces heartbreak as Bangladesh advances to SAFF U20 Championship final after a tense penalty shootout.

Srabon was up to the task. In the 61st minute, Thanglalsoun Gangte's powerful strike rattled the post, adding to India's frustrations.

As the match progressed, Bangladesh's defense grew stronger, and they managed to hold India at bay. In the penalty shootout, India's hopes were dashed when Mohammad Asif saved Thanglalsoun Gangte's shot, giving Bangladesh

HIGHLIGHT

● India's early pressure was met by strong saves from Bangladesh's goalkeeper, Mehdi Hasan Srabon.

● Bangladesh took the lead in the 36th minute, capitalizing on India's defensive error.

the upper hand. Although Pramveer, Gwngwsar Goyary, and Manjot Parmar scored for India, Asif made another crucial save, blocking Akash Turkey's final shot.

Bangladesh converted all four of their penalty attempts, securing their place in the final and eliminating the defending champions, India, from the tournament. India's early dominance and numerous attempts

on goal were not enough to overcome Bangladesh's resilient defense and effective goalkeeping, ultimately leading to a heartbreaking exit for the Indian team in the semifinals of the SAFF U20 Championship. The match highlighted the fine margins in football, where a few missed opportunities and decisive moments can turn the tide in favor of the opposition.

Manpreet Singh aims for fifth Olympic appearance

Press Trust Of India

Manpreet Singh targets a fifth Olympic appearance at LA 2028, contingent on fitness.

NEW DELHI: Veteran Indian hockey midfielder Manpreet Singh, now 32, envisions an unprecedented fifth Olympic appearance at the 2028 Los Angeles Games, provided he can maintain his fitness. Manpreet, a two-time Olympic medalist, captained the Indian team that ended a 41-year Olympic medal drought in Tokyo 2020 and was part of the squad under Harmanpreet Singh for Paris 2024.

"My target is till Los Angeles, but it all depends upon my fitness. If I can maintain my fitness and game, I will surely be there in LA," Manpreet told PTI in an exclusive interview. He emphasized, "In today's hockey, fitness is very important, so at the end, everything will boil down to my fitness." Manpreet, with 378 international caps and 44 goals, hopes to surpass the four Olympic appearances of Indian hockey greats like Udham Singh, Leslie Claudius, Dhanraj Pillai, and his recently retired contemporary, P. R. Sreejesh.



FASTFACTS

● "In today's hockey, fitness is very important, so at the end, everything will boil down to my fitness."

Reflecting on his Olympic journey, Manpreet said, "Winning back-to-back medals is something wonderful for me. I have played four Olympics. In the first two, I didn't get any medal, but in the last two, I won medals, and you can't imagine my

happiness."

He also credited a pre-Olympic camp in Switzerland with adventurer Mike Horn for strengthening the team's mental toughness, saying, "That camp taught us how to tackle adverse situations with a strong mentality."

Manpreet shared a personal highlight from Paris, "After the medal ceremony, my daughter and wife were with me on the ground, and my daughter was running around. It was a really proud feeling."

| DURAND CUP SOCCER |

Chhetri's Bengaluru FC battles Mohun Bagan in semis

Press Trust Of India

As Asia's oldest football tournament nears its conclusion, Bengaluru FC faces defending champions.



FASTFACTS

● Chhetri's leadership pivotal as Bengaluru FC aims for Durand Cup final berth.

● Mohun Bagan relies on Stewart, Manvir, and Cummings for a strong semifinal performance.

scored 10 goals but also stoutly defended their citadel, conceding just three goals.

Bengaluru FC too have shown great promise in the tournament, scoring 11 goals and conceding only two in the four games they have played.

They overcame Kerala Blasters in the quarterfinals through a Jorge Diaz goal in extra time and would be leaning heavily on national players goalkeeper Gurpreet Sandhu, Rahul Bheke Suresh Wangjam and former India skipper Chhetri.

Players from 13 countries to compete in junior badminton meet

PUNE: Abhishek Kanpala and Prakriti Bharath will lead the Indian boys and girls respectively against participants from 13 countries in the Late Sushant Chipalkatti Yonex Sunrise India Junior International Grand Prix Badminton Tournament, starting here from Tuesday. It will be organised by Poona District Metropolitan Badminton Association under the auspices Badminton Association of India at the PE Society's Modern PDMBA Sports Complex. The tournament, held in memory of the late Sushant Chipalkatti, has become a key fixture in the international junior badminton calendar. A total 280 players from 13 countries will be seen in action during this event.

| PARIS PARALYMPICS |

Prepared for any eventuality, shooter Rudransh eyes success

Press Trust Of India

Rudransh Khandelwal, 17, aims for Paralympic gold, prioritizing preparation and overcoming adversity.

NEW DELHI: Being prepared for any eventuality and remaining confident in his ability is 17-year-old pistol marksman Rudransh Khandelwal's mantra in life as he embarks on a journey to bring glory from the Paris Paralympics.

Having lost his left leg in a freak mishap when he was just eight-years-old, the teenaged Bharatpur boy never let disability come in his way as he excelled in shooting sport to become the world No.1 in 50m pistol (SH1) and is now aiming for noth-



HIGHLIGHT

● Rudransh carries spare pistol and toolkit, learned from past experiences, targeting Paralympic success.

ing less than a gold in his maiden Paralympics.

To achieve his aim, he is leaving nothing to chance, including taking a spare pistol and a toolkit for his prosthetic leg,

just in case it breaks during competition.

Seeing ace shooter Manu Bhaker struggle with a pistol malfunction during the Tokyo Olympics was a "lesson" for Rudransh, who now always carries a spare pistol for both domestic and international competitions.

"Like the weapon malfunction during competition, how to quickly get

used to the other (spare) weapon and shoot. I prepare myself for every eventuality in competition, including a delayed match, a shot getting cancelled, or any other eventuality. "So, if at all an adverse situation arises, I will be ready to handle it," said Rudransh, adding, he learnt this after seeing Manu's pistol malfunction in Tokyo.

Manu had a pistol malfunction during the 10m competitions in Tokyo which cost her a place in the final.

"Definitely, that (Manu incident) gave me that thought (to always keep a spare weapon). You might have confidence in your abilities but the weapon is only an equipment, which can malfunction anytime."

| PRANNOY'S RECOVERY BREAK |

Prannoy takes break to recover from chikungunya

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Seasoned Indian shuttler HS Prannoy on Monday said he is taking a break from the sport to allow his body to fully recover from the effects of chikungunya, which had adversely impacted his performance at the Paris Olympics.

The 32-year-old, a 2022 Thomas Cup title winner and a world and Asian Games bronze-medallist, had been laid low by a

week-long bout of the mosquito-borne viral disease that causes severe pain in the joints just ahead of the Paris Olympics.

"Unfortunately, the battle with chikungunya has taken a toll on my body, leaving me with persistent pains that make it impossible to compete at my best," Prannoy wrote on X.

"After careful consideration with my team, I've decided to withdraw from some of the upcoming



tournaments to focus on recovery. Thank you for your understanding and support during this challenging time. I'll be

back stronger," he added.

Prannoy, however, did not provide a time line for his recovery or mentioned the tournaments

he has withdrawn from. The Kerala shutler, who won the world championship bronze in 2023, had been ravaged by a spate of illnesses, including a chronic stomach disorder and a nagging back injury.

At the Paris Games, despite not being fully fit, Prannoy won both his Group matches to progress to the round of 16. He, however, went down to compatriot Lakshya Sen in the pre-quarterfinal.

"Unfortunately, the battle with chikungunya has taken a toll on my body, leaving me with persistent pains that make it impossible to compete at my best."

HS Prannoy
Indian shuttler

Dhawan joins Legends League Cricket

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Former India opener Shikhar Dhawan on Monday joined the Legends League Cricket (LLC) following his retirement from international cricket. Having announced his retirement on Saturday, the 38-year-old southpaw can now compete in T20 leagues outside the IPL, bringing his experience and skillset to various global platforms.

"My body is still

conditioned for the demands of the game, and while I'm at ease with my decision, cricket is an inseparable part of who I am, it will never go out of me. I am eager to regroup with my cricketing friends and continue to entertain my fans as we create new memories together," said Dhawan in a statement. Dhawan represented India in 34 Tests, 167 ODIs, and 68 T20s, aggregating 12,286 international runs.

World



Russian overnight attack involved over 100 missiles and about 100 drones.
Volodymyr Zelenskyy
Ukrainian President



Bangladesh's Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus with Hindu community members at the famous Dhakeshwari Temple in Dhaka.

Yunus promises to promote interfaith harmony

Yunus said he wants to build a Bangladesh where everyone can practice their faith without any fear and where no temple needs to be guarded.

Press Trust Of India
DHAKA: Bangladesh's interim government chief Muhammad Yunus on Monday met the country's Hindu community leaders and vowed to promote interfaith harmony as he hosted a reception for them coinciding with Janmashtami. The minority Hindu population has faced vandalism of their business and properties and devastation of Hindu temples in the

students' violence that ensued for days following the ouster of prime minister Sheikh Hasina, who fled to India on August 5. During the meeting, Yunus said he wants to build a Bangladesh where everyone can practice their faith without any fear and where no temple needs to be guarded. "Our responsibility is to establish the rights of every citizen. Our job is to ensure justice for every citizen," he told a

HIGHLIGHT
● Interim government is determined to protect the rights of every citizen.
● Minority Hindu population has faced vandalism of their business and properties recently.

group of Hindu leaders at the State Guest Jamuna in the capital. "There can't

be any divisions among people in our country. We are equal citizens. The interim government is determined to protect the rights of every citizen of the country," Yunus was quoted as saying by the official BSS news agency. "Bangladesh is a large family where the responsibility of the government is to protect the rights of every citizen," his office quoted him as saying on X. Bangladesh Puja Udjapan Parishad

president Bashudeb Dhar, Ramkrishna Mission of Dhaka's principal Swami Purnatmananda Maharaj, and Hindu community leaders including Kajol Debnath and Monindra Kumar Nath were present during the meeting. "We spoke with Professor Yunus for almost an hour and he said all Bangladeshis are members of a single family. We will eliminate any sense of communalism," Dhar told PTI.

Japan protests after a Chinese reconnaissance plane violated its airspace

TOKYO: Japan's government protested to Beijing that a Chinese reconnaissance plane violated its airspace on Monday and forced it to scramble fighter jets, officials said.
A Chinese Y-9 reconnaissance plane circled above Danjo Island off the southwestern coast of Japan's main southern island of Kyushu for two minutes, the Joint Staff of the Japanese Self Defence Force said, adding that officials were analysing the latest Chinese military activity. The Joint Staff said Japan scrambled fighter jets that warned the Chinese plane to exit the airspace. The Foreign Ministry said in a statement that Japanese Vice Foreign Minister Masataka Okano summoned acting Chinese Ambassador Shi Yong to strongly protest the airspace violation.

One of Gaza's last functioning hospitals is emptying out

Press Trust Of India
One of Gaza's last functioning hospitals has been emptying out in recent days as Israel has ordered the evacuation of nearby areas and signalled a possible ground operation in a town that has been largely spared throughout the war.



A woman sits on a bed in a room of the Al-Aqsa Martyrs hospital in Deir al-Balah, Gaza Strip.

FAST FACTS
● Israeli evacuation orders now cover around 84 per cent of Gaza's territory.
● MSF is considering whether to suspend wound care for the time being, while trying to maintain life-saving treatment.

10-month-old war, accusing Hamas of using them for military purposes,

allegations denied by Palestinian health officials. Israeli evacuation orders now cover around 84 per cent of Gaza's territory, according to the United Nations, which estimates that around 90 per cent of Gaza's population of 2.3 million have been forced from their homes. Many have been displaced multiple times, fleeing with what they can carry. Hundreds of thousands of people

have packed into swollen tent camps along the coast where there are few if any public services. Associated Press reporters saw people fleeing the hospital and surrounding areas on Monday, many of them on foot. Some could be seen pushing patients on stretchers or carrying sick children, while others held bags of clothes, mattresses and blankets. Four schools in the area are also being evacuated. "Where will we get medicine?" Adliyah al-Najjar said as she rested outside the hospital gate. "Where will patients like me go?" Fatimah al-Attar fought back tears as she left the hospital compound heading in the direction of the tent camps. "Our fate is to die," she said. "There is no place for us to go. There is no safe place."

WHO launches plan to stanch mpox transmission

Press Trust Of India
GENEVA: The UN health agency on Monday launched a six-month plan to help stanch outbreaks of mpox transmission, including ramping up staffing in affected countries and boosting surveillance, prevention and response strategies. The World Health Organisation said it



expects the plan from September through February next year will require USD 135 million

Germany is donating 100,000 doses of mpox vaccine to affected countries from stocks held by its military.
Steffen Hebestreit
German government spokesperson

in funding and aims to improve fair access to vaccines, notably in African countries hardest hit by the outbreak. "The mpox outbreaks in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and neighboring countries can be controlled, and can be stopped," said WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus in a statement.

Rajnath interacts with Indian diaspora in US

WASHINGTON: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh held a "wonderful" interaction with Indian community in US state of Tennessee and appreciated their contribution to society, science and economy. Singh is in US on a four-day official visit to further boost the comprehensive global strategic partnership.

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Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

UK DRUGS GANG

Drugs gang of Indian-origin men using frozen chicken as cover busted in UK

LONDON: A gang involving Indian-origin men that used frozen chicken consignments among their many covers to smuggle drugs has been busted by UK police and now its members face prison sentences ranging between 16 and two years each. Maninder Dosanjh, 39, was jailed for 16 years and eight months, and Amandeep Rishi, 42, faces imprisonment for 11 years and two months for their role in the conspiracy to supply class A banned drugs and money laundering at Birmingham Crown Court last week. West Midlands Police told the court they seized 400kg of "high-purity" cocaine as well as GBP 1.6 million in illegal cash as investigators dismantled the wholesale supply chain, which saw the 10-strong gang transporting the drugs in pallets of raw chicken. **PTI**

GERMANY KNIFE LAWS

German leader vows tougher knife laws and more deportations

SOLINGEN: German Chancellor Olaf Scholz vowed to toughen knife laws and step up deportations of rejected asylum-seekers Monday as he visited the scene of the knife attack in a suspected Islamic extremist from Syria is accused of killing three people. Scholz, speaking after he joined regional officials in laying a white flower at a makeshift memorial in the western city of Solingen, said he was "furious and angry" about the attack, in which eight people also were wounded. **PTI**

ITALY YACHT SINKS

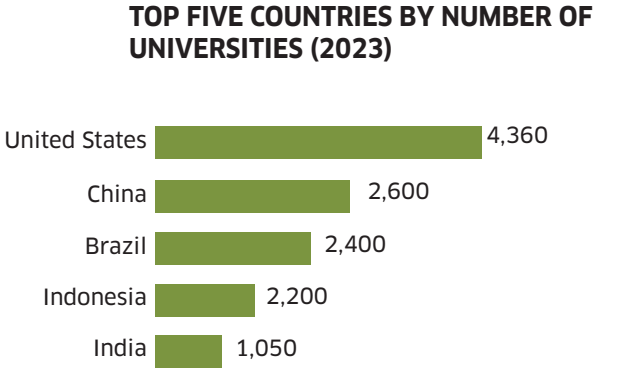
Prosecutors probe captain of superyacht that sank off Sicily, Italian media say



ROME: Prosecutors in Italy have placed under investigation the captain of a superyacht that sank during a storm off Sicily last week, killing seven people, Italian media reported Monday. James Cutfield, a 51-year old New Zealand national, is being investigated for possible manslaughter and culpable shipwreck, Italian dailies reported. Under Italian laws, being under investigation doesn't imply being guilty and doesn't necessarily

lead to criminal charges. Prosecutors in Termini Imerese didn't reply to calls to confirm the reports. On Saturday, chief prosecutor Ambrogio Cartosio confirmed an investigation had been launched but said a suspect hadn't been identified. He said his team will consider each possible element of responsibility including those of the captain, the crew, individuals in charge of supervision and the yacht's manufacturer. **PTI**

The Day's NUMBERS



NAVAL SHIP

Indian Navy's frontline warship 'Mumbai' makes first visit to Lanka

COLOMBO: The Indian Naval Ship 'Mumbai' docked at the port of Colombo on Monday on a three-day visit to Sri Lanka during which it will also engage in a Passage Exercise with a Sri Lanka Navy vessel. The Indian Navy's frontline warship was welcomed by the Sri Lanka

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