

Central Chronicle

'Focus on nutrition, safety of women, children'

Prog classified 3 schemes -- Mission Poshan 2.0, Mission Vatsalya, and Mission Shakti.

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Women and Child Development Minister Annapurna Devi has urged the states and Union Territories to leverage the schemes of the ministry to focus on the nutrition and safety of women and children.

Devi made the appeal on Saturday during a meeting with the ministers of women and child development and social welfare departments from various states as well as the administrators and lieutenant governors of Union Territories.

To ensure their effective implementation, all major programmes of the ministry have been classified under three umbrella



'Poshan Maah' to be observed in September. | Photo : PTI

FACTFILE

● Objective is to ensure that the benefits reach the grassroots level.

Contribute to overall progress of our nation

Annapurna Devi
WCD Minister

schemes -- Mission Poshan 2.0, Mission Vatsalya, and Mission Shakti. During the meeting,

Devi emphasised the importance of collec-

tive efforts and strategic planning to enhance the effectiveness of the three schemes.

She said the focus should be on the three verticals and sought regular reports from the states on them.

"Our objective is to ensure that the benefits of our efforts reach the grassroots level. It is essential to work in collaboration with the states, which will not only foster the development of individual states but also contribute to the overall progress of our nation, aligning with the prime minister's vision of a 'Developed India,'" she said.

The meeting featured deliberations on current

projects, developmental achievements and future strategies aimed at ensuring better progress for women and children across the country, according to an official statement.

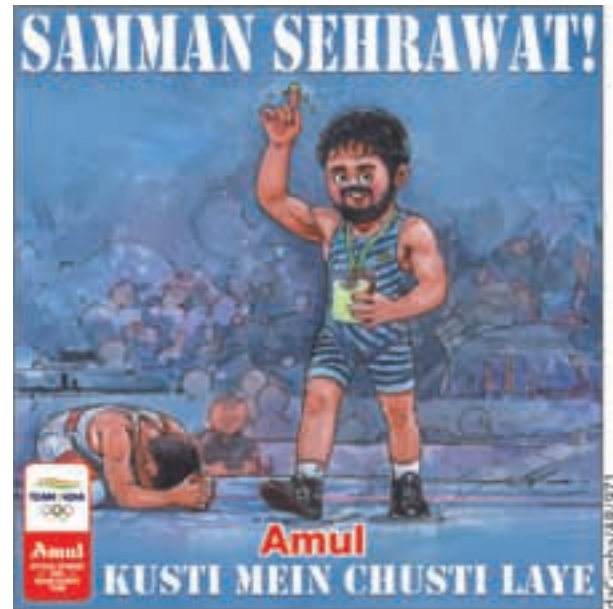
The Union minister said the states and the Union Territories should upgrade 'anganwadis' to 'Saksham Anganwadis', set up anganwadi-cum-creches, and working women's hostels 'Sakhi Niwas' in large numbers.

The Union Minister also solicited the participation of the states and Union Territories in the seventh edition of 'Poshan Maah' in September to spread awareness about behavioural practices around nutrition.

Chirag meets MPs to challenge SC verdict

NEW DELHI: Union Minister and IJP (Ram Vilas) leader Chirag Paswan is planning to convene a meeting of Scheduled Caste MPs of different parties as he works to mobilise support ahead of his party filing a review plea in the Supreme Court against its judgment allowing sub-categorisation of reservation within the community.

The Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) leader has already expressed his disagreement with the verdict and said his party will file a review petition in the apex court. Paswan, sources said, has reached out to Scheduled Caste MPs to gauge their view over the verdict, a judgment of far-reaching political impact over which major national parties have maintained silence while engaging in internal stock-taking deliberations, and may convene a formal meeting soon.



'Allegations against Adani duly probed'

MUMBAI: In its first comments following a new report by US-based short seller Hindenburg Research, capital markets regulator Sebi on Sunday said it has investigated all the allegations against the Adani group. Chairperson Madhabi Buch made relevant disclosures from time

to time and recused herself in matters involving potential conflicts of interest, the regulator said in a statement. The regulator also said that it has duly investigated the allegations made by Hindenburg against Adani, and said that last of its 26 investigations is nearing completion now.

Maratha protesters stop Sharad Pawar's convoy

Press Trust Of India

Manoj Jarange has been leading protests demanding OBC certificates for recognising all Kunbis (agriculturists) and their "sage soyre" (blood relatives) as Marathas.



NCP (SP) President Sharad Pawar and Cong leader Shinde during a rally.

FACTFILE

● Pawar took a swipe at PM over his assurance of doubling the income of farmers.

"You have been talking for a long time about supporting reservation for the Maratha community. Why don't you publicly declare your stand on this issue?" a protester asked Pawar. In a separate incident which occurred within hours after Pawar's SUV was stopped, some youths reached the venue of his rally in Barshi town and raised slogans hailing quota leader Manoj Jarange. They also showed black flags when Pawar

was delivering a speech.

Confirming the incident, a Solapur Police official said four youths raised slogans supporting Jarange at Pawar's rally. They were overpowered by security guards and police personnel and detained at the local police station. Speaking at the rally, Pawar took a swipe at Prime Minister Narendra Modi over his assurance of doubling the income of farmers, claiming farmer suicides doubled under the BJP rule.

Manoj Jarange has been leading protests demanding OBC certificates for recognising all Kunbis (agriculturists) and their "sage soyre" (blood relatives) as Marathas.

7-year-old boy drowns in waterlogged park

NEW DELHI: A seven-year-old boy drowned in a waterlogged park in New Delhi in Rohini's Sector 20, officials said on Sunday.

The incident happened on Saturday evening while the boy was playing in the park, they said.

"On Saturday, around 6.30 pm, a PCR call regarding the drowning of a child in a park in Sector 20 in Rohini was received at Aman Vihar Police Station," a senior police officer said.

According to police, preliminary investigation revealed that the child drowned in the park, which was waterlogged due to rain.

Details about the deceased was obtained, they said.

The officer said the body has been sent for post-mortem and necessary action has been taken in the matter.

Police is also scanning the CCTV camera footage to know the actual sequence of events, the officer added.

| NEET ISSUE |

'Old problems in decentralised entrance tests'

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: While the Supreme Court has asked the NTA to overhaul the way it conducts NEET, calls for a return to the old system have seen a revival even as some experts remain apprehensive about states' ability to take care of the logistics and adhere to the domicile rule.

According to the NEET domicile rule, 85 per



cent of medical seats are reserved for students who are bona fide residents of the state and have completed their class 12 from a school there. The rest 15

NUMBER

85

● NEET domicile rule, 85 pc of medical seats are reserved for bona fide residents of the state

per cent are earmarked for aspirants from other states. In the wake of the NEET fiasco, Tamil Nadu, Kar-

nataka, and West Bengal passed resolutions in their assemblies to be allowed to opt out of the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET) and conduct their own medical entrance exams.

Such a proposal also found mention in the Lok Sabha, when DMK member Rani Srikumar slammed NEET, alleging that it has shattered the dreams of many students.

PEKB MINE, SURGUJA

(PARSA EAST KANTA BASAN MINE)

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

A PROMISE FULFILLED, MILES AND MILES OF GREEN BELT CREATED

WE HAVE PLANTED MORE THAN

12,00,000

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

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

*THESE ARE REAL PICTURES OF PEKB MINE

RAJASTHAN RAJYA VIDYUT UTPADAN NIGAM LIMITED



Donating blood can save someone's life and it's a great deed.

Anurag Jha,

Additional Superintendent of Police.

Raipurians geared up to celebrate Raksha bandhan



Shops decorated with rakhis of all range for Raksha bandhan festival which falls on Monday August 19.

Nutritious Breakfast scheme launched

Over 40,000 school children to benefit with the new initiative.

Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: In a significant step towards enhancing child nutrition and education, the state government is set to launch a new initiative to provide nutritious breakfast to students in government schools before their mid-day meal. The program, initiated with the special efforts of State Commerce, Industry, and Labour Minister Lakhan Lal Devangan, is scheduled to start on Monday in the Korba Assembly and Podi Uparda block.

Minister Devangan will inaugurate the "Poshan Aahar Breakfast" scheme at a ceremony held at the Government Primary and Secondary School in NTPC Jannipali. This scheme is poised to benefit over 40,000 children in its initial phase, covering 409 primary and 141 pre-secondary schools in the Podi Uparda development block, 71 primary and 38 pre-secondary schools in the Korba development block, and 45 primary and 16 pre-secondary schools in the Katghora develop-

HIGHLIGHT

• The program, initiated with the special efforts of State Minister Lakhan Lal Devangan, is scheduled to start on Monday.

ment block. The initiative aligns with the recommendations of the new National Education Policy, which suggests providing free breakfast in addition to the mid-day meal in government or aided schools. The aim is to ensure that children receive a nutri-

ent-rich meal as soon as they reach school, which will support their mental and physical development. Last month, Minister Devangan communicated with the district administration to expedite the implementation of this scheme.

Now, with the program set to commence, it is expected that the overall well-being of school children in these regions will see a marked improvement, contributing to better academic performance and health outcomes.

Food Minister Dayal Das Baghel pays tribute to Minimata

RAIPUR: Food Minister Dayal Das Baghel today paid tribute to the first woman MP of Chhattisgarh, Mamtamayi Minimata, by garlanding her statue at the bus stand of Nagar Panchayat Navagarh in Bemetara district on her death anniversary. Food Minister Dayal Das Baghel, while addressing the program, said that Mamtamayi Minimata made special efforts to take the Satnami community forward. The society also tried to unite and uplift the economically weaker sections by promoting the youth in education, health, and every field. The Food Minister asked the people of the society to take advantage of the public welfare schemes of Chhattisgarh. A grand procession was taken out by the society from Satnam Bhawan Navagarh to the bus stand. Padma Shri Usha Barle gave a wonderful presentation of cultural program in the program. On this occasion, President of Nagar Panchayat Navagarh Manjulata Ratre, District Panchayat member Anju Baghel, President of Nagar Panchayat Maro Dhanlal Deshlahare along with many public representatives and eminent citizens of District Satnami Seva Samiti Navagarh were present.

Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

INDEPENDENCE WEEK CELEBRATIONS

Chief Minister Sai flags off tricolor rally in Rajnandgaon

RAIPUR: Chief Minister Sai participated in a vibrant tricolor rally organized at the new bus stand in Rajnandgaon on Sunday. He flagged off the rally as part of the ongoing Independence Week celebrations, which are being held from August 9th to 15th under the Amrit Mahotsav of Independence.

The rally is part of the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' program, which aims to encourage all Indian citizens to hoist the national flag at their homes. The week-long celebrations feature various patriotic events, including tricolor yatras, rallies, races, and marathons, conducted from the state to the district level. The tricolor rally in Rajnandgaon is a notable event in this series. The event was attended by several public representatives, including Assembly Speaker Dr. Raman Singh, MP Santosh Pandey, and MLA Guru Khuswant Saheb.

SAWAN CELEBRATIONS

MP Brijmohan Agrawal celebrates 'Sawan Jhula' festival with family



RAIPUR: In a cherished annual tradition, MP Brijmohan Agrawal hosted the Sawan swing festival at his residence upon returning from Delhi after the monsoon session. The event was graced by family members and old friends, who gathered with their families to enjoy the festival's traditional swings and melodious Sawan songs. During the celebration, MP Agrawal emphasized the significant religious and cultural importance of the Sawan month in Hinduism. He noted that this period is dedicated to the worship of Lord Shiva, symbolizing devotion, meditation, and a deep appreciation for nature.

143rd Birth Anniversary of Sir Sorabji N Pochkhanawala

Central Bank celebrates Birth Anniversary of Founder Sir Sorabji N Pochkhanawala



RAIPUR: The 143rd birth anniversary of Sir Sorabji N Pochkhanawala, the visionary founder of the Central Bank of India, was commemorated with a ceremony at the Zonal Office in Raipur on August 9, 2024. The event honored the remarkable contributions of Sir Pochkhanawala, whose legacy continues to inspire the bank's operations. The ceremony began with the garlanding of the Founder's photograph and the lighting of a lamp, symbolizing the enduring light of his contributions to the banking sector. Deputy Zonal Head Mr. Rajesh Kumar Singh and Assistant General Manager Ms. Rekha R

Nair addressed the gathering, motivating the staff to uphold the values and vision set forth by the Founder.

The event was marked by a sense of reverence and pride, as staff members paid tribute to the Founder's pioneering spirit. In addition to the central ceremony, the 4 Regional offices and various branches under the Raipur Zone organized similar functions with great enthusiasm. These programs included special invitations to MSME customers, who were honored by bank officials in recognition of their contributions to the local economy.

BJP attacks ex-CM over ED's revelations

RAIPUR: BJP spokesperson Amit Sahu has lambasted former CM Bhupesh Baghel and Congress state president Deepak Baij over the ED's recent expose on the liquor lobby in Chhattisgarh.

The ED revealed that Anwar Dhebar, a powerful figure in erstwhile Baghel Government, was running the liquor business with the help of top bureaucrat Tuteja. Sahu demanded that Baghel to answer as to who was controlling the excise department during his tenure?

He also questioned the role of Dhebar and others who were allegedly running the government from behind the scenes.

Sahu criticized Baghel and Baij for their "shameless" comments on the BJP government and asked them to explain their party's involvement in corruption during their rule.

No shortcut to success in life says Deputy CM Vijay Sharma

Central Chronicle News

Hard work is the only way forward, and there is no alternative to it, added Deputy CM

RAIPUR: Deputy Chief Minister Vijay Sharma emphasized the importance of hard work and dedication as the true path to success during his address at the Shaheed Chandrashekhar Azad Hostel Day, held at Pandit Ravishankar Shukla University. Speaking to a gathering of students, alumni, and faculty, Sharma underlined that there are no shortcuts to achieving success in life. "There is no shortcut to success in life, and one should never try to find one. Our destiny cannot be changed, but we can shape our future through



Deputy CM Vijay Sharma Addresses Students at Shaheed Chandrashekhar Azad Hostel Day.

FACTFILE

• Success isn't merely about achieving a goal but also about gaining proficiency in one's chosen field

dedication and honest efforts. Hard work is the only way forward, and

there is no alternative to it," Sharma stated. He further elaborated that success isn't merely about achieving a goal but also about gaining proficiency and mastery in one's chosen field. The Deputy Chief Minister, who himself stayed at the Azad Hostel during his student years, was

warmly received by the students and faculty. The event saw Sharma felicitating former students, superintendents, professors, and other employees who had excelled in their respective roles. The students of the hostel presented a memento to Sharma in recognition of his achievements.

BUSINESS CLASS SERVICE

Indigo Airlines to introduce business class service

Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: Air passengers in Chhattisgarh will soon have the option to travel in business class with Indigo Airlines. Starting November 14, Indigo will launch its business class service on flights between Delhi and Mumbai, with plans to extend this service to Raipur by late December this year or early January next year.

Kirti Vyas, Director of Vyas Travels, shared that Indigo Airlines is preparing



to introduce business class amenities in Raipur following the initial launch in major metropolitan areas. The business class will feature eight to ten reserved

seats with additional services, and the fare will be approximately two and a half to three times higher than the standard economy class fare. In addition

to the new business class service, Indigo Airlines is expanding its flight options from Raipur. A new flight

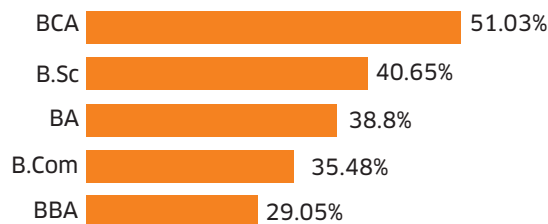
Indigo Airlines is preparing to introduce business class amenities in Raipur.

Kirti Vyas, Director of Vyas Travels.

The Day's NUMBERS

For the academic session 2024-25 in per cent

ADMISSION STATUS IN COLLEGES AFFILIATED TO RSU IN VARIOUS STREAMS



Source : Agency

LEGISLATIVE SUMMIT 2024

Dr. Mahant explores American Education System at Phillips Academy

RAIPUR: Dr. Charandas Mahant, Leader of the Opposition in the Chhattisgarh Legislative Assembly, recently participated in the Legislative Summit 2024 organized by the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) and National Legislature Conference India (NLC India) in Louisville, Kentucky, USA.

As part of the summit, Dr. Mahant visited the renowned Phillips Academy in Boston. During his visit, he engaged in discussions with the institution's Principal and Directors, delving into the intricacies of the American education system. The discussions aimed at exploring ways to enhance the education system in Chhattisgarh, leveraging insights gained from Phillips Academy's practices. Dr. Mahant was accompanied by his son, Suraj Mahant, during this informative visit.

The meetings highlighted a mutual interest in improving educational standards and exploring possibilities for implementing effective strategies from the American education system in Chhattisgarh.

NIJAAT ABHIYAN

310 students participate in Drawing-Painting competition



RAIPUR: As part of the Nijaat Abhiyan, a drug de-addiction campaign spearheaded by Senior Superintendent of Police Dr. Santosh Kumar Singh, a drawing and painting competition was held for students in the Civil Lines police station area. The event took place at Salem English Medium School and saw participation from approximately 310 students from 35 government and semi-government schools across Raipur district, spanning classes 9 to 12.

The competition was designed to engage students in the campaign against drug abuse by allowing them to express their views through art. Students depicted their commitment to a drug-free society through their drawings and paintings.

Speed up PM Awas Yojana: Dy CM Sharma

Tells officials to ensure successful implementation of govt schemes.

Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: Deputy CM Vijay Sharma chaired a meeting with CEOs of district panchayats to review the progress of various schemes. He emphasized that all eligible beneficiaries should receive the benefits of the schemes and that no one should be left out. He also directed officials to chalk out an action plan to complete the PM Awas Yojana within stipulated time-frame.

The meeting reviewed the progress of various schemes, including the PM Awas Yojana, Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MNREGA),



Deputy Chief Minister Vijay Sharma reviewed progress of various schemes at a meeting with CEOs of district panchayats.

and the Pradhan Mantri Janman Yojana.

The Deputy Chief Minister Sharma also gave instructions to provide the benefits of all major schemes including basic facilities to tribal families in tribal dominated areas under PM Janman Yojana.

He said that there will be no shortage of funds

for Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, and houses are being approved in all the Gram Panchayats.

The Deputy CM also directed officials to ensure that all gram panchayats have access to basic facilities like schools, healthcare centers, and banks.

Workers must receive their wages on time under MGNREGA

Dy CM Sharma also reviewed progress of MGNREGA and directed officials to ensure that all eligible workers receive their wages on time. He emphasized the need to increase use of technology in monitoring and implementing the schemes. The meeting also discussed other issues, including progress of the Swachh Bharat Mission, the status of pending court cases, and the implementation of the National Rural Livelihoods Mission."

BJP slams Bhupesh Baghel over ED's Liquor Lobby revelations

RAIPUR: BJP spokesperson Amit Sahu has lambasted former CM Bhupesh Baghel and Congress state president Deepak Bajj over the ED's recent expose on the liquor lobby in Chhattisgarh. The ED revealed that Anwar Dhebar, a powerful figure in erstwhile Baghel Government, was running the liquor business with the help of top bureaucrat Tuteja. Sahu demanded that Baghel answer who was controlling the excise ministry during his tenure. He also questioned the role of Dhebar and others who were allegedly running the government from behind the scenes. Sahu criticized Baghel and Bajj for their "shameless" comments on the BJP government and asked them to explain their party's involvement in corruption during their rule.

IG directs strict action against habitual offenders



RAIPUR: Police Inspector General (IG) Amresh Kumar Mishra held a review meeting with all district police officers at the IG office in Raipur on Saturday. The meeting was attended by Superintendents of Police, Additional Superintendents of Police, and three gazetted officers from each district.

During the meeting, Mishra directed the officers to prepare a plan to prevent crimes, resolve pending cases, and address complaints. He reviewed cases of serious crimes pending for over three months, unsolved cases, and property-related crimes.

Mishra instructed the officers to create a database of criminals in such cases and form a team at the range level to arrest absconding accused if needed. He also reviewed cases under the Prevention of Anti-Social Activities Act and directed officers to take appropriate action under the provisions of the Act.

The meeting emphasized the need to arrest absconding accused in chit fund crimes and make efforts to return investors' money. Additionally, Mishra directed officers to cancel the bail of accused who commit crimes again after being released on bail and take strict action against them.

Raipur MP participates in Tribal Pride Parade on World Tribal Day

RAIPUR: Raipur Parliamentarian Brijmohan Agarwal on Sunday joined a tribal pride parade in Rajendra Nagar, Raipur, to mark World Tribal Day. Addressing the gathering, Agarwal said that the diversity of the tribal community has enriched Indian culture. He highlighted the significance of their folk tales, dance, music, and festivals, which are an integral part of the country's cultural heritage. Agarwal emphasized the importance of honoring the cultural legacy and identity of tribal communities, stating it is everyone's responsibility to do so. The parade was a vibrant display of tribal culture, showcasing their unique traditions and customs.

"Bunty-Babli" caught smuggling 50 kg Ganja

RAIPUR: Police have arrested 2 individuals, Satish Agrawal and Kumari Kameshwari Goswami, for smuggling 50 kg of ganja (cannabis) from Odisha to Raipur. The accused were caught with contraband in a Swift Dzire car, which has also been seized. Total value of seized ganja and car is approximately Rs 15.50 lakh. Arrests were made under Operation Nijat, a crackdown on drug peddlers. Police received a tip-off on August 10 that a four-wheeler vehicle was transporting ganja from Mahasamund to Raipur. A police team set up a checkpoint on main road and intercepted vehicle, which had a man and a woman on board. Upon questioning, they revealed their identities as Satish and Kameshwari Goswami.

Balodabazar District Hospital receives NQAS Certificate

Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: The Balodabazar-Bhatapara District Hospital has once again received the National Quality Assurance Standard (NQAS) certificate. Chhattisgarh Health Minister Shyam Bihari Jaiswal congratulated the hospital management on this achievement.

A three-day assessment of the hospital's services was conducted by a national-level inspection team, which included Dr. Subrajyoti Rao from Bhubaneswar, Dr. Rupendra Kumar from Lucknow, and Ritu Nair from Delhi. The team inspected 15 departments of the hospital and marked them. After the assessment, the district hospital met the required standards and received

HIGHLIGHT

● Health Minister Shyam Bihari Jaiswal congratulates hospital management for continuous improvement in facilities.

the certificate.

The NQAS certificate is a quality assessment system initiated by the Union Health and Family Welfare Department to evaluate the quality of services provided in hospitals. Receiving this certificate indicates better facilities. Under NQAS, 15 departments of the district hospital, including IPD, OPD, emergency, maternity, labor, pharmacy, blood bank, radiology, lab, OT, and SNCU, were inspected in 8 areas.

NH Goel to host 'Reading Fest'

RAIPUR: A literary extravaganza, "Reading Fest", is set to take place at NH Goel from August 12 to 17. The festival aims to bring together book lovers authors, and publishers on a single platform to celebrate reading and imagination.

The event will feature various activities, including author interactions, book readings, writing workshops, and exhibitions showcasing diverse genres.

The festival will also host renowned authors and publishers including Jaya Jadwani, Amar Chitra Katha, Robin Age, Kids Age, Scholastic, and Maple Tree. The event promises to be a haven for book lovers, providing a platform to discover new authors and indulge in the joy of reading.

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"Chhattisgarh has potential to become top state if developed systematically."

Vijay Baghel
MP, Durg

Deliberations held for state's vision document

Division level programme on Amritkaal Chhattisgarh Vision @ 2047.



A guest addressing the programme at BIT Auditorium.

Central Chronicle News

FASTFACTS

● Youth, farmers, women, elderly and intellectuals share views

● Efforts to prepare an all-inclusive vision document

BHILAI: To prepare the Amritkaal Chhattisgarh Vision @ 2047 document, a division level program was organised in BIT auditorium on Sunday. State Niti Aayog Member Secretary K Subramaniam gave a presentation on Amritkaal Chhattisgarh Vision @ 2047.

MP Vijay Baghel said that Chhattisgarh has immense possibilities with ample resources and capabilities. Chhattisgarh can become the top state of the nation if developed strategically.

MLA Gajendra Yadav said that the PM has included every section of the society in the task of making India a developed nation. For the first time in history, "Amritkaal: Chhattisgarh Vision @ 2047" document is being prepared.

Social justice is at the top

K Subramaniam said that the vision document is being prepared to ensure rapid development of all spheres. The PM has a vision to make India a developed nation by 2047, in which social justice is very important. Chhattisgarh state will play an important role in realizing the vision of making India a developed nation by the year 2047.

MLA Lalit Chandrakar said that suggestions have been invited from all sections of society through the More Sapna More Vikasit Chhattisgarh portal. Divisional Commissioner Satyanarayan Rathore said that everyone's participation is necessary to

make the country a developed nation. Collector Richa Prakash Chaudhary said that in the coming 5 years, when India will become the third largest economic power in the world, Chhattisgarh will also reach new heights of development.

Biker injured in mishap

BHILAI: A speeding car hit a biker at Maroda on Saturday. The victim Monish Sahu was moving from Utai to Durg on his motorcycle number CG12 AG 0847 with a friend Yogesh Sahu. On Durg Road near Maitri Garden Chowk, a white Swift car (CG07 4395) moving at high speed took a sharp turn and dashed the bikers. After the accident, the car driver escaped towards Durg. Monish suffered injury on hands and legs while Yogesh Sahu suffered a leg injury. Police lodged an FIR under section 125(a), 281 of BNS.

Man held for boozing in public place

BHILAI: Patan Police arrested a man on charges of consuming alcohol in a public place. After consuming liquor, the person was creating ruckus in Mahamaya Chowk, Patan and causing trouble to the passersby. Police arrested the accused Amardas Bharti (30) son of Kalyan Bharti, a resident of village Chandi, Police Station Abhanpur, Raipur. He was taken to CHC Patan for medical examination where he was tested heavily drunk. Police took action against him under section 36 (c) of Excise Act.

RMC commissioner flags off rally

Central Chronicle News

BHILAI: A rally of the nation wide campaign "Har Ghar Tiranga" was taken out in the Risali Municipal Corporation area on Sunday. The rally was attended by the Risali Mayor in Council members, councillors, officers, employees and public representatives, including the corporation's brand ambassadors. Several programmes are being organised in honour of the country prior to Independence Day. The RMC commissioner Monika Verma flagged off the rally. She urged citizens to hoist the tricolour in homes on August 15 and inspire

others to do the same. She also participated in the rally which was taken

HIGHLIGHT

● Several events are being organised ahead of the Independence Day

out from the main office. MIC Anup Day, Councilor Gajendri Kothari, Mamta Sinha, Rama Sahu, Vidhi Yadav, Sheela Narkhede, Brand Ambassador Rajni Rajak, MLA representative Shailendra Shende, Raju Jaghel, Dashrath Sahu, BSF Jawans, Corporation officials and employees participated.

Swachhta Didis conduct awareness campaign

BHILAI: On the instructions of District Collector Richa Prakash Chaudhary and guidance of DMC Commissioner Lokesh Chandrakar, and under the Har Ghar Tiranga program, the team of Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Urban Livelihood Mission and the Swachhta-Didis of Durg Municipal Corporation organised rally to encourage the residents of the ward to hoist tricolour at residences on Independence Day. The rally was organised in the leadership of Health Offi-

cer Javed Ali and Muktesh Kanha. Tricolour rallies were also taken out by the women of the self-help groups in ward number 35, ward numbers 15 and 17, in ward number 31 and 33, ward number 4, ward number 53 and 54, ward number 28, ward number 47, ward number 59,60. Women groups and Swachhata Didi are going to different wards of the Municipal Corporation and running the Har Ghar Tiranga awareness campaign. A total of 22 rallies were taken out in groups.

Buddhist Samaj honours Reena Chauhan



Central Chronicle News

BHILAI: Vaishali Nagar MLA Rikesh Sen has appointed social worker Reena Chauhan as MLA representative. Overwhelmed by this appointment, members of the Buddhist Samaj organized a program in honour of Reena Chauhan. She expressed gratitude to the society and assured social upliftment and development under the leadership of MLA Rikesh Sen. There is enthusiasm among the people of the Buddhist society on the appointment of Reena Chauhan as MLA representative. Various organizations of the Buddhist Samaj welcomed and honoured Reena Chauhan. She said MLA Rikesh Sen is a public leader and

under his leadership, Vaishali Nagar Assembly constituency will touch new heights of development. The Buddhist community will not remain untouched from development. For the upliftment and development of the Samaj's people, she assured to take meaningful initiatives. Former MLA (Dongargarh) Vinod Khandekar, former President of Dr Ambedkar Bhawan Sector-6 - Narendra Khobragade, former Vice President DR Sahare, Vice President of Buddhist Welfare Committee Kosa Nagar - Ranju Khobragade, Pritesh Patil, Shailendra Bhagat, Rajkumar Ramteke, Praveen Vasnik, Ashish Chauhan, Nameshwari Sonpipare, Ravi Ganvir and others were present.

Woman arrested with cannabis

BHILAI: Police arrested a woman on charges of drug peddling. The accused is identified as Beero (65) wife of Late Karnail Singh, a resident of Camp-1, Vrinda Nagar. Acting on a tip off, police raided her house and found cannabis packets in the XUV 300 Car parked inside the house. During interrogation, she confessed to peddling cannabis. Action was taken against her under section 20(b) of NDPS Act.

Ruffian held with sharp weapon

BHILAI: Police arrested a ruffian on charges of threatening people with a sharp weapon near the country liquor shop in Transport Nagar of Mohan Nagar, Police Station limits. The accused Milind Borkar (27) son of Lalit Borkar a resident of Green Chowk Durg was taken into custody.

Mathematics & Commerce exhibition organised at DAV

Central Chronicle News

Department of Mathematics and Commerce of DAV Public School Hudco arranged the Exhibition.

BHILAI: Departments of Mathematics and Commerce, DAV Public School Hudco, organized the Mathematics and Commerce Exhibition the other day. Around 400 students from Nursery to XII came together to play an important role in the exhibition. The exhibitions were graced and blessed by RS Pandey (Education officer of Krishna Public Schools and Coordinator CBSE, Bhilai Zone), Madam VS Kalpana (Director cum Principal, Indu IT School, Bhilai) and Prashant Kumar (Regional Officer,



The exhibits at the Mathematics and Commerce exhibition.

FASTFACTS

● Around 400 students from Nursery to XII came together to play an important role in the exhibition

● PPT was prepared by class IX and XI students showcasing the importance of Maths in day to day life

CG, Zone A). They appreciated the hard work and contribution of children and teachers.

In the Mathematics Exhibition Primary and Pre-Primary students presented activities, static, working and live models on various topics like shape, money, Pythagoras Theorem, Euclid's Geometry and many more. The Middle and the Higher wing added exhibits on Algebra,

Number System, Geometry, Trigonometry, Statistics, Probability and so on. The highlight of Mathematics exhibition was the PPT prepared by class IX and XI students showcasing the importance of Maths in our day to day life and the live models of Aryabhata, Shakuntala Devi etc.

Commerce department commemorated their exhibition to Commerce Day. The theme for the exhibition was 'Communité' where the students of Commerce stream displayed models both static and working on topics like Commerce world, Levels of Management, Role of Public, Private and global Enterprise, SEBI, Foreign Trade, GST, Types of Insurance and so on. The career counselling sessions and the games presented by the department were the focal point of the exhibition.

MODELS AND EXHIBITS |

Annual Exhibition organised at DPS Bhilai

Central Chronicle News

BHILAI: Delhi Public School, Bhilai, held its Annual Exhibition 2024 the other day. The inauguration of the exhibition was done by the chief guest Pawan Kumar, chairman, SES, Bhilai. Other guests were Smt and Shri Prabir Kumar Sarkar, Pro-Vice Chairman, SMC, DPS, Bhilai; DN Karan, Member, SMC, DPS, Bhilai; Jitendra Shukla, IPS, SP Durg, Smt & Shri



Prashant Thakur, SSP Jagdalpur Distt, Jayati Sengupta and Renu Vashishta. The chief guest appreciated and motivated the students and congratulated the school

family on such wonderful displays. The other guests also applauded the efforts made by the students and their mentors. The departments of biology, physics, chem-

"I congratulate the school family for such wonderful displays and the efforts made by the students and their mentors."

Pawan Kumar
Chairman, SES and ED (HR) BSP
istry, home science, computer science and others arrested the visi-

tors' imagination with the exhibits such as microbial bioremediation, water level indicator, an earthquake detector, the paper industry, decorated jute bags, PowerPoint presentation on advertisement psychology etc. The Atal Tinkering Laboratory (ATL) enchanted the visitors with its exhibits such as a 1.50Climate clock, UAV medicine delivery, an RC boat for cleaning rivers, different types of robots, and a laser security alarm.

Gajendra dedicates garden at Sundar Nagar

Central Chronicle News

BHILAI: MLA Gajendra Yadav and Mayor DheerakBakliwal inaugurated a garden at Sundar Nagar, Borsi. Children will now get a safe place to play and the elderly will get a suitable place to spend time in the colony itself. MLA Yadav planted saplings with local citizens to increase greenery in the campus.

MLA Gajendra Yadav was the chief guest in the program organized by



Jagrut Sahu Samaj. Saplings were planted under the "Ek Ped Maa ke Naam" campaign in Sundar Nagar Borsi. Yadav spoke about plantation, nature and mythological importance of trees. He explained why Neem trees are essential for protection from diseases and mango leaves are needed in worship.

NEWSLINE

POLICE ACTION

215 traffic violators fined



BHILAI: On the instructions of SP Jitendra Shukla and under the leadership of DSP Satish Thakur and DSP SandanandVid-yaraj, traffic police are taking action against over speeding, drunk driving, illegal film on window glasses, no-parking, etc. The Interceptor Vehicle is being used against violators. 16 heavy vehicles and car drivers were found over speeding in the speed radar machine on National Highway. Action was taken under Motor Vehicle Act for over speeding and action was also taken against one car moving with illegal black film. The licenses of the drivers were sent to the Transport Department for suspension. In the coming days, the traffic police will take action on the national highways and main roads of the Township.

ATTEMPT TO MURDER

Ruffian held for stabbing teenager

BHILAI: A ruffian stabbed a teenager with a knife in Ruabandha Basti. Police arrested the accused Paras Mandal alias Bittu under section 109, 296, 333 of BNS. A total of 16 cases are registered against him. He had stabbed Durgesh Joshi of Ruabandha after Durgesh asked his brother Manglu Joshi to stay away from the habitual offender Paras Mandal. The accused Paras Mandal forcibly entered his house and abused Durgesh and his mother and sister. Durgesh suffered injury on left arm and left chest.

ARREST

Three arrested for theft

BHILAI: Police arrested three persons including a juvenile on charges of stealing construction material from the construction site of an SLRM Centre behind the Bhilai Municipal Corporation office in Bhilai. The victim contractor Ankush Agrawal had complained that a SLRM center was being constructed at the back portion of the BMC premises. He had dumped construction material at this site which was stolen by unknown thieves. Police investigated the matter and rounded up three ruffians. Later they confessed to committing the crime.

BIKE LIFTING

Scooter lifted from pan kiosk

BHILAI: A scooter parked near a pan kiosk was stolen by unknown thieves. The victim Shubham Sen is a resident of Laxmi Green City Risali and had gone to Sector 9 on his Honda scooter bearing registration number CG 07 AX 0321. He parked the vehicle near Ganesh Paan Shop in Sector 09 and went with my friend in his car to purchase medicine. On returning back, he found that the scooter was missing. Police lodged an FIR against unknown thieves under section 303(2) of BNS.

N-E-W-S



It is unfortunate that the revolutionary character of India's freedom struggle was often played down. However it is good that now it is being highlighted.

Hariivansh
Dy Chairman, Rajya Sabha

Preparation for Ganesh Chaturthi festival in Mumbai



Devotees carry a Lord Ganesh idol for the Ganesh Chaturthi festival, in Mumbai on Sunday. PTI

UP bypolls: BSP to contest in all 10 assembly seats : Mayawati

Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) chief Mayawati has announced that her party will field candidates in all the 10 assembly seats in Uttar Pradesh where bypolls are going to be held.

Press Trust Of India

LUCKNOW: Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) chief Mayawati on Sunday announced that her party will field candidates in all the 10 assembly seats in Uttar Pradesh where bypolls are going to be held.

The Election Commission is yet to declare the schedule for the by-elections to Karhal, Milkipur, Katehari, Kundarki, Ghaziabad, Khair, Meerapur, Phulpur, Majhawan and Sisamau assembly seats.

In a statement, released after a meeting

of the BSP's state unit district chiefs, office bearers and functionaries, the party said Mayawati reviewed the preparations for the upcoming assembly bypolls.

"Ten assembly constituencies have fallen vacant after the Lok Sabha elections. No official announcement of the date has been made so far but activities pertaining to this are increasing continuously, especially the ruling party, BJP, and its government have made it an issue of prestige, due to which the

HIGHLIGHT

● The Election Commission is yet to declare the schedule for the by-elections to Karhal, Milkipur, Katehari, Kundarki, Ghaziabad and Sisamau assembly seats.

● By-elections were necessitated for nine seats as the MLAs were elected to the Lok Sabha. The Sisamau seat fell vacant due to the disqualification SP leader Irfan Solanki.

interest of the people in the bypolls has also

increased," it said.

"The BSP will field its candidate in all these assembly constituencies, where by-elections will take place, and will contest the bypolls with full might," the statement said.

By-elections were necessitated for nine seats as the MLAs were elected to the Lok Sabha. The Sisamau seat fell vacant due to the disqualification SP leader Irfan Solanki as MLA after he was sentenced to jail in a criminal case.

Mounting an attack on the BJP, Mayawati said, "There is tremen-

dous anger among the common public as the BJP government at the Centre and in the state has not only failed in stopping rising poverty, unemployment, price rise and backwardness but has also not paid enough attention towards this."

"Hence, to divert the attention of the people from these issues, they are resorting to destructive bulldozer politics (vidhvansak bulldozer rajniti), and are continuously hatching conspiracies to create new casteist and communal violence or dispute," she said.

Woman, son killed in roof collapse incident in UP's Jalaun

JALAUN: A woman and her seven-year-old son died and two others were injured after the roof of their house collapsed in Koch area here on Sunday, police said.

The incident took place in Mahaluba village around 5.30 am, Mohini (32), her son Debu, daughter Aditi (10) and husband Akhilesh (35) were asleep and the roof collapsed trapping the family under its debris, they said.

The police reached the spot after getting information from the villagers. They rushed the injured to Koch Primary Health Center, where doctors declared Mohini and Debu dead, Superintendent of Police (SP) Devesh Kumar said.

The roof of the old house collapsed due to rain, he said.

JPC imperative to probe 'scandal' of SEBI : Kharge

Press Trust Of India

In the wake of US short-seller Hindenburg's allegations against SEBI chairperson Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge said a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) inquiry is imperative.

NEW DELHI: In the wake of US short-seller Hindenburg Research's allegations against SEBI chairperson Madhabi Buch, Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge said a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) inquiry is imperative to probe this "massive scandal".

He alleged that until



The Governor participated in a function at Ranchi. PTI.

a JPC inquiry probes the issue, concerns persist that Prime Minister Narendra Modi will continue to "shield his ally, compromising India's Constitutional institutions, painstakingly built over seven decades".

The Congress said the government must act immediately to eliminate all conflicts of interest in

the regulator's investigation of the Adani Group and reiterated its demand for a joint parliamentary committee probe into the matter.

In a post on X, Kharge said, "SEBI had previously cleared Adani, a close associate of PM Modi, before the Supreme Court following the January 2023 Hinden-

FACTFILE

● The Congress said the government must act immediately to eliminate all conflicts of interest in the regulator's investigation of the Adani Group.

burg Report revelations. However, new allegations have surfaced regarding a quid-pro-quo involving the SEBI chief."

The small and medium investors belonging to the middle class who invest their hard-earned money in the stock market need to be protected, as they believe in the SEBI, he said. A JPC inquiry is imperative to investigate this "massive scandal", Kharge said.

PAWAR CLAIMS SUICIDES HAVE DOUBLED

'Assurance of doubling farmers' income false'

Press Trust Of India

Addressing a rally at Barshi town in Maharashtra's Solapur district, Pawar claimed farmers were not getting adequate prices for their produce and had become debt-ridden.

SOLAPUR: president Sharad Pawar on Sunday

took a swipe at Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his assurance of doubling the income of farmers, claiming the BJP rule had, in fact, witnessed the doubling of farmer suicides.

Addressing a rally at Barshi town in Maharashtra's Solapur district, Pawar claimed farmers were not getting adequate prices for their

"The prime minister had promised to double the income of farmers, but instead, farmer suicides have doubled."

Sharad Pawar
President, NCP (SP)
produce and had become debt-ridden.



"The prime minister had promised to double the income of farmers, but instead, farmer suicides have doubled," he

charged. The NCP (SP) chief said the need of the hour is to change the government in the state and install a regime that protects the interests of farmers, youth and women. "The BJP governments at the Centre and the state haven't used their power to reduce the hardships of farmers and create employment opportunities for the youth.

Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

MISHAP

Panic over fire rumour, 6 hospitalised after jumping from train in UP

SHAHJAHANPUR: Six passengers were hospitalised after they jumped out of a moving train in panic near Uttar Pradesh's Bilpur on Sunday following rumours of a fire, Government Railway Police (GRP) officials said.

Earlier, Northern Railway spokesperson Kultar Singh had said that "12 passengers have been injured".

The incident took place in a general coach of the Howrah-Amritsar Mail in the morning near Bilpur station, which falls under the Moradabad division, he said.

GRP station in-charge Rehan Khan told PTI that when the train reached Bilpur station in Bareilly, a rumour spread that the train has caught fire. Someone pulled the emergency chain to stop the train and some passengers started jumping from the moving train, he said. PTI

HOMAGE

Tributes paid to Khudiram Bose at Muzaffarpur Central Jail

MUZAFFARPUR/PATNA: A large number of people gathered outside the Muzaffarpur Central Jail on Sunday to pay tributes to freedom fighter Khudiram Bose, who was hanged in the prison on this day in 1908. Bose was the young-

est freedom fighter to have been hanged during the British Raj. Bose was sentenced to death for the attempted assassination of a

British judge, Magistrate Douglas Kingsford, the then magistrate of Muzaffarpur, by lobbing bombs at a carriage he and his associate Prafulla Chaki suspected the British judge was travelling in. The incident led to the death of two British women. PTI



TIGERS TO BE TRANSLOCATED FROM MP

NTCA approves translocation of tigers from MP to Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan and Odisha



BHOPAL: The National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) has approved the translocation of some tigers from Madhya Pradesh to Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan and Odisha, an official said on Sunday.

According to wildlife experts, the proposed exercise will help improve the gene pool of tigers in other states.

As per the tiger census of 2022, Madhya Pradesh is home to the highest number of 785 big cats.

"The NTCA's technical committee has given its nod for the transfer. The Madhya Pradesh government has

sought to know the places from where the tigers translocated to the three states. The translocation work will begin following the state government's approval," Subharanjan Sen, MP wildlife principal chief conservator of forest (PCCF), told PTI.

The three states have sought three tigers and a tigress each, he said.

During a programme to mark International Tiger Day last month, Chief Minister Mohan Yadav said some big cats from reserves would be shifted to national parks and sanctuaries in the state, and some would be translocated to other states. PTI

VISIT

J-K LG visits Mata Vaishno Devi shrine; inaugurates new 'Yagyashala'

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Lt Governor Manoj Sinha on Sunday paid obeisance at Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine atop Trikuta hills in Reasi district and also inaugurated and new 'Yagyashala' facility at the main bhawan, an official said. Sinha, who is also chairman of the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, prayed for peace, prosperity and progress of Jammu and Kashmir during his visit to the shrine, the official spokesperson said.

He said the Yag-



yashala, an integral part of the religious landscape, has been meticulously designed and constructed to enhance spiritual practices at the bhawan. "It will serve the religious needs of devotees and address pilgrims keen to experi-

ence and participate in the religious rituals," the spokesperson said.

He said the newly constructed Yagyashala, situated near the old bathing ghat below the Atka area at main bhawan, comprises five 'Hawan Kunds' spread across 1,600 square feet.

This expansive design enables a three-fold increase in capacity, allowing 10 groups of pilgrims to perform 'Hawan Poojan' concurrently, up from the previous limit of three groups, he said. PTI

4 held for stealing 29 mobile phones

THANE: Police have arrested four members of a gang for allegedly stealing 29 mobile phones valued at Rs 8.13 lakh from a shop in Maharashtra's Thane district, an official said on Sunday. The theft took place in the early hours of July 28 at the shop located near a bank at Sai Residency in Bhiwandi area.

NTPC Limited
(A Govt. of India Enterprise)

Public Notice

General public is hereby informed that the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India, New Delhi has accorded Environmental Clearance vide File No. J-13012/02/2019-IA.(T) dated 06.08.2024 for expansion of NTPC Limited's coal based Sipat Super Thermal Power Project from existing capacity 2980 MW (Stage-I, 3 x 660 MW + Stage-II, 2 x 500 MW) to 3780 MW by addition of 800 MW (Stage-III, 1 x 800 MW), located at Village- Sipat, Tehsil- Sipat, District- Bilaspur (CG).

A copy of the Environmental Clearance is available with Chhattisgarh Environment Conservation Board and can also be seen on the website of Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (<https://parivesh.nic.in/>).

This environmental clearance has been accorded under the provisions of EIA Notification, 2006 and as amended thereof.

BUSINESS UNIT HEAD
SIPAT SUPER THERMAL POWER STATION
TEHSIL: SIPAT, DISTRICT: BILASPUR, CHHATTISGARH-495555
Leading the Power Sector

The Bus drivers and conductors have been instructed to wear uniforms with name plates, while the bus conductors were given necessary instructions regarding reserving seats for women

Trilok Bansal
SP, Khairagarh



Chhattisgarh

Indoor stadium to come up in Nevra, says Verma

This stadium will provide facilities for all types of sports.

Central Chronicle News

This stadium will provide facilities for all types of sports. The residents of Tilda-Nevra. The athletes have expressed their gratitude to the Minister of Sports for giving this facility to the players.



Minister of Sports Tankaram Verma.

FACTFILE

● ITI in Sakri will be transformed into a model ITI at a cost of Rs 20 crore.

● In the first phase of the plan, a three-year proposal worth Rs 484 cr has been approved for 160 ITIs across the state.

Thanks to the efforts of regional MLA and Cabinet Minister Tankaram Verma, the renovation work to transform the ITI in Sakri, an industrial hub in Balodabazar, into a model ITI will soon commence under the state plan to upgrade ITIs.

In the first phase, facilities for computer hardware and network maintenance, electrician training, fitter training, diesel mechanic, welder training, new building construction, guard room construction, and motor car parking will be developed.

Cabinet Minister Tankaram Verma has called this a significant achievement for the region. He stated that under the Central Government's plan to convert ITIs into model ITIs, a scheme has been prepared to upgrade ITIs across the state. As part of this, the ITI here has been granted the status of a model ITI.

In the first phase of the plan, a three-year pro-

posal worth 484 crores has been approved for 160 ITIs across the state. Out of this, 20 crores 13 lakhs 65 thousand rupees have been sanctioned for the Government ITI in Balodabazar.

The first phase includes an allocation of 1 crore 5 lakhs for computer hardware and network maintenance, 75 lakhs for electricians, 46 lakhs for fitter training, 44 lakhs for diesel mechanic, 53 lakhs for welder training, 3 crores 44 lakhs 59 thousand for new building construction, 7 lakhs 42 thousand for guard room construction, 1 crore 25 lakhs 28 thousand for motor car parking, 11 crores 75 lakhs 56 thousand for staff quarters construction, and 34 lakhs 80 thousand for boundary wall and main gate construction.

The athletes of the Tilda region expressed their gratitude to Tankaram Verma, while BJP District General Secretary Anil Agarwal remarked that continuous development has been happening in the region since the formation of the BJP government.

Committee gives memo to the Municipal Chairman

KHAIRAGARH: The aware youth of the Muslim community associated with the cemetery committee have submitted applications for various demands in the public problem resolution camp organized in ward number 17 Dauchaura. The committee members submitted an application to the Municipal Council Khairagarh Chairman Girja Nandkumar Chandrakar in the public problem resolution camp demanding bore mining, pipeline, boundary wall, shed construction and CC road repair in the Idgah premises and other necessary construction works in the cemetery located in Dauchaura.

Har Ghar Tiranga prog begins

RAJNANDGAON: There is enthusiasm and happiness among the general public under the Har Ghar Tiranga program across the district. Participation of citizens is being seen on a large scale in urban and rural areas. Women are also happily joining this campaign. This message of the tricolor in every house is reaching every where.

Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

PROGRAMME

Minister Shyam Bihari Jaiswal will participate in Tiranga Yatra

MANENDRAGARH: On the call of Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Bharatiya Janata Party has started preparations on a war footing for the Tiranga Yatra program before Independence Day. Before Independence Day, from 11th August to 13th August, Tiranga Yatra is to be organized in all the districts and mandals. This Tiranga Yatra is being organized under the nationwide program to commemorate Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, whose aim is to awaken the spirit of patriotism among all the citizens. In the same sequence, a grand Tiranga Yatra is to be organized in Kharganwa district ground of MCB district on 11th August from 10 am, which is to go till Gajmarwa Para Tractor Showroom located in Kharganwa. Health Minister Shyam Bihari Jaiswal will be present in the Tiranga Yatra and as per the instructions of BJP District President Anil Kesharwani, state officials residing in the district, will be present.

FESTIVAL

Teej festival celebrated by Marwari Yuva Manch Jagriti Shakha



JANJGIR: Like every year, this year also, under Nari Chetna, the festival of Teej was celebrated with great pomp by the branch in Agrasen Bhawan Janjgir by Marwari Yuva Manch Jagriti branch Naila Janjgir and Sindhara was done for the newly married daughters and daughters-in-law. On this occasion, swings were installed by the branch and spicy dishes were arranged and all these competitions were conducted. In which the branch mainly organized welcome dance, children's dance, mother and daughter dance, Sawan Sundari Hauji, in which the women of the society participated enthusiastically and played their part in making the program successful.

parents give suggestions

Cluster level parent teacher mega meeting concludes in High School Megha



MAGARLOD: As per the instructions of the School Education Department, Chhattisgarh Government, a cluster level parent-teacher meeting was organized on 6th August to establish better communication with parents in primary, pre-secondary, high school and higher secondary schools and to make them aware of the progress of children and to assess the future prospects of children and to make joint result-oriented efforts by coordinating with parents. Joint Director

School Education Department Mr. Rakesh Kumar Pandey attended the cluster level mega parent teacher meeting program in Government Higher Secondary School Megha as the chief guest. Here he participated in the parent teacher meeting and interacted with the parents and got to know their experiences. While discussing with the parents, he said that keep discussing with them to regularly check the activities and level of studies of your children.

Abhay of the city gets PhD degree in Cyber Law

DONGARGAON: It is a matter of great pride for the city residents that a promising youth of the city, Abhay Kumar Tiwari, has successfully completed research work in Cyber Law and obtained a PhD degree with hard work. Let us tell you that Abhay, son of senior advocate of the city Balraj Tiwari and senior BJP worker Aparna Tiwari, has successfully completed research work in Cyber Law and obtained a doctorate degree under the supervision of Dr. Priyaro Assistant Professor School of Studies in Law Pandit Ravishankar Shukla University Raipur Chhattisgarh. Let us tell you that Abhay has been a brilliant student since the beginning. He has also received gold medals in BA, LLB and LLM. Not only this, on the basis of his ability, he has also put forward his points in an interview on Doordarshan.

SP holds meeting of police officers for crime control

Central Chronicle News

SP Trilok Bansal instructed to resolve cases related to pending challan, death, missing persons. Necessary instructions were given to take immediate action on cases like kidnapping and rape.

KHAIRAGARH: SP Trilok Bansal held an important meeting of police officers under the district to reduce the graph of crimes in the district and to control crime. In the meeting held on Saturday in Khairagarh Superintendent of Police office, SP trilok Bansal discussed the current incidents keeping in view



SP Trilok Bansal held a meeting on traffic issues.

the current law. During this, all the station in-charges were asked to take out pending crimes and complaints in the police stations keeping in mind the new law regarding crime control and also special instructions were given to do iRAD portal and videography in road accident cases.

Measures to stop thefts happening in villages and cities, instructions were given to the officers/employees posted in all police stations/posts to

do continuous patrolling in the cities.

Better policing needs to be done at the intersections to control road accidents, the SP said. Furthermore, necessary instructions were given to control uncontrolled vehicles and to follow traffic rules. Reserve Inspector K Dev Raju, Police Station Incharge Khairagarh Inspector Jitendra Banjare, Police Station Incharge Bakarkatta Rajesh Devdas, Police Station Incharge Thelkadi Ambrish

FACTFILE

● Better policing needs to be done at the intersections to control road accidents, the SP said. Necessary instructions were also given to control movement of vehicles and to follow traffic rules.

Sharma, Police Station Incharge Mohgaon Alok Sahu, Cyber Cell Incharge Inspector Anil Sharma, Inspector Shivshankar Gendle, Bhimsen Yadav, Mordhwaj Deshmukh, Dharmendra Vaishnav, Mrs. Savita Verma, ML Bhandekar, Sub Inspector Ramchandra Sao, Sub Inspector Suresh Patel, Tadesh Singh, Head Constable Pradeep Janghel and other officers and employees were present in the meeting.

PENDING CASES TO BE SOLVED SOON

NARESH RAJWADE CLAIMS

Teachers' rationalization will affect education

Central Chronicle News

RAMANUJNAGAR: Zila Panchayat Surajpur Vice President Naresh Rajwade has strongly opposed the directive issued for rationalization of teachers in the state. He has said that this directive of the government will take the level of education down badly. The state of Chhattisgarh has always been conscious about edu-

cation and to raise the level of education, the previous Congress government opened Swami Atmanand Vidyalayas and this scheme was successful on a large scale.

Due to this, even the poor children of villages could get education in English medium, but since the change of power in Chhattisgarh and the formation of BJP government, the government is leaving no stone



turned in lowering the level of education.

At present, rationalization of teachers and

“When a teacher will always be involved in other works, then how will the quality come in education by relying on few teachers only.”

Naresh Rajwade
Vice President,
Zila Panchayat

schools has to be done and in the guidelines issued for this, only 2

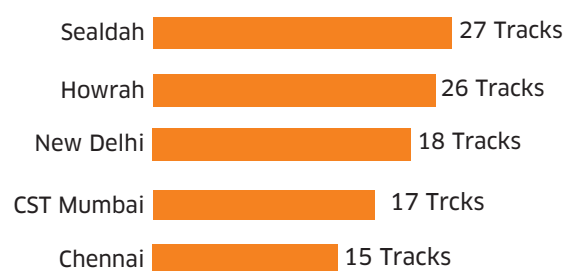
people will be posted in the primary school, considering the head teacher as a teacher for 60 children.

Now where there are five classes and 60 children and non-academic work is done by the head teacher and teachers daily, in such a situation one teacher will always be involved in other work, then how will quality come in education by relying on one teacher.

The Day's NUMBERS

Sealdah is the biggest railway station of India with 27 tracks.

RAILWAY STATION WITH MAXIMUM TRACKS IN INDIA



Source: #Reinvent

INSPECTION

Traffic police inspect passenger buses in a camp at bus stand

KHAIRAGARH: Under the guidance of SP Trilok Bansal and under the guidance of ASP Neha Pandey and SDOP Lalchand Mohle, under Samarth Abhiyan, traffic police set up camp at the new bus stand of the city and inspected passenger buses. During this, physical inspection of 50 buses along with documents was done, while keeping in mind the convenience and safety of the passengers in the buses, the availability/non-availability of fire extinguisher, passenger fare list, first aid box was checked.

During the inspection, the drivers and conductors of the buses were instructed to wear uniforms with name plates, while the bus conductors were given necessary instructions regarding reserving seats for women and disabled people during the journey and their safety. Drivers were instructed to drive the vehicle only after checking all mechanical parts, brakes etc. before driving the bus.

CAMPAIGN

Tiranga Yatra taken out in Pandariya to inspire youth and children



PANDARIYA: As per the instructions of the state government, Tiranga Yatra is to be organized in all the schools before 15th August. In the same sequence, Tiranga Yatra was organized by all the teachers in the Nagar Palika under the leadership of Block Education Officer Pandariya GP Banerjee on Saturday in the city. In which BEO GP Banerjee, Tulsi Kashyap, Chairman Permanent Education Committee District Panchayat, Senior Citizen Kuldeep Chhabra, Navalkishore Pandey, Block Resource Coordinator Arjun Chandravanshi, Vinod Goswami distributed the tricolor by going door to door and requested to hoist the tricolor flag in their respective houses from 9th August to 15th August.

Pingua pushes for faster development

Bilaspur's development accelerates with new electric buses, enhanced crime control, and social welfare initiatives.

Central Chronicle News

BILASPUR: Bilaspur is set to receive 50 electric buses by the end of the year, as revealed during a recent review meeting led by Additional Chief Secretary Home and Jail Department and Secretary-in-charge of the district, Manoj Kumar Pingua. The meeting, held at the district office, focused on assessing the progress of various development projects and initiatives in the region. Pingua emphasized the need for each department to expedite their work to meet targets, particularly in addressing seasonal diseases and improving agricultural outcomes.

During the review, the police department was urged to take swift action against narcotics, drugs, illegal liquor, gambling, and betting, which were identified as the roots of many crimes. The ongoing Chetna Abhiyan for community policing was praised for its effectiveness. SP Rajnesh Singh provided updates on crime control measures, road accident prevention, and traffic management.

In the agriculture and irrigation sectors, it was reported that 93 percent of Kharif sowing has been completed, with the remaining work to be finished by August 15.



Secretary-in-charge Manoj Kumar Pingua reviewed the progress of development works.

FASTFACTS

- Bilaspur's transport to improve with 50 electric buses arriving by year-end.
- Key sectors like agriculture and animal husbandry receive focused attention in development review.

The review also highlighted the Har Ghar Tiranga Abhiyan, where 2 lakh tricolors are being produced by women's groups for distribution in villages. In the Municipal Corporation, it was

Pingua reviews healthcare progress

During a review meeting, Additional Chief Secretary Manoj Kumar Pingua examined the ongoing works at SIMS, Multi Specialty Hospital, and the State Cancer Institute. He directed each department to identify and report two or three notable achievements for future evaluation. Collector Avnish Sharan expressed his gratitude to Pingua and assured that government schemes would be expedited, with a commitment to fully implement the instructions given during the meeting. Senior officials, including DFO Satyadev Sharma, Municipal Corporation Commissioner Amit Kumar, and District Panchayat CEO Ram Prasad Chauhan, were also present at the meeting.

noted that the Pradhan Mantri Swanidhi Yojana has met its initial target, with further goals set for completion. The city is set to receive 35 large and 15 small electric buses,

enhancing Bilaspur's traffic infrastructure. Additionally, the status of the Pradhan Mantri Janman Yojana for special backward tribes like Baiga and Birhors was discussed.

Khushi triumphs against all odds

KHAIRAGARH: Khushi, a student from a government school in Pipariya, has achieved remarkable success by securing a spot in Prayas Residential School. Despite studying in a dilapidated school building with limited teachers and poor conditions, Khushi excelled through self-study without any coaching. She previously appeared in the NMSE examination, where she was the only student from her school to be selected, earning a scholarship of one thousand rupees per month. Khushi, the daughter of a middle-class family, secured the second position not only in the district but also in the state, making her family, teachers, and school proud.

Champa's 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign promotes unity



Central Chronicle News

HIGHLIGHT

JANJGIR CHAMPA: The Champa Municipality is actively running the "Har Ghar Tiranga" campaign, encouraging citizens to hoist the tricolor flag in every household. This initiative, led by Municipality CMO Bhola Singh and District Administration IAS Durga Prasad, began with a flag-hoisting event at Parshuram Chowk, where officials, employees, and citizens participated. The campaign, continuing until August 14, aims to instill a deep sense of patri-

● Champa's 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign aims to instill patriotism by hoisting the tricolor in every household.

tism and respect for the country among all Indians. The Assistant Collector emphasized the significance of this initiative, noting that while Independence Day is celebrated annually, the "Har Ghar Tiranga" campaign seeks to enhance the spirit of patriotism and national unity on a broader scale.

Red Cross Society meeting

KHAIRAGARH: The Red Cross Society's first meeting, chaired by Collector Chandrakant Verma, will be held on Tuesday, 13th August at 1 pm in the Collectorate's meeting hall. Key district officials, including the Superintendent of Police, CMHO, and various department heads, along with notable convenors from local charitable organizations, will attend to discuss important district health initiatives.

Villagers accuse panchayat official of nepotism

PANDARIA: Villagers from Sanwatpur have filed a complaint with Janpad Panchayat Pandaria, alleging that the village's Employment Assistant, Sahodra Bai, is illegally benefiting her family members. According to the complaint, Sahodra Bai, a resident of the village, has added the names of her relatives—Mohit Ram, Moji Ram, Nilesh, and Shivkumar—to the muster roll of various Panchayat

projects, despite them not participating in the work. The villagers, including Shobharam, Govind Pandey, and others, claim these relatives are receiving payments without performing any duties. They argue this is a clear violation of the law and have requested an investigation, urging immediate action against Sahodra Bai for her alleged misuse of authority and financial misconduct.

NEWSLINE

Tricolor Rally

Chhuikhadan's Tricolor rally celebrations



KHAIRAGARH: As part of the Har Ghar Tiranga Abhiyan, the district will see the tricolor hoisted at every house during Independence Week, which runs until August 15th. Various programs, guided by Collector Chandrakant Verma, are being organized to inspire patriotism and respect for the national flag. In Chhuikhadan, a spontaneous tricolor rally was taken out by public representatives, social workers, and Nagar Panchayat employees. Upcoming events include a Tiranga Yatra on August 12th, cycle and bike rallies on August 13th, a Tiranga race on August 14th, and a cultural program on the same day. Martyr families will be honored on August 15th.

Tribal Unity

World Tribal Day Celebrated in Pairy



DONGARGAON: On August 9th, the village of Pairy (Arjuni) celebrated World Tribal Day with enthusiasm. The event began with a Kalash Yatra from the village square, where tribals, dressed in traditional Chhattisgarh attire, danced and toured the village, promoting a message of unity. Key attendees included Odarbandha Mahasabha Tribal President Madan Netam and Dongargaon MLA Daleshwar Sahu. The celebration was organized by the Adivasi Dhruv God Samaj and Adivasi Youth Association Area Village-Pairy, along with representatives from 12 surrounding villages.

Health Checkup

Health tests conducted at Megha school



MAGARLOD: A comprehensive health test was conducted for students at Government Higher Secondary School Megha under the National Child Health Program Chirayu, organized by the Health Department with the assistance of Red Cross Counselor Avadh Ram Sahu. The tests included assessments of weight, head circumference, height, skin, stomach, nervous system, anemia, adolescent health, and sickle cell disease. Necessary medications were provided to the students based on the results. A total of 298 students were examined.

Youth drowns in Amner river tragedy



Central Chronicle News

A 20-year-old youth, Piyush Arya, tragically drowned in the Amner river at Kukrapat while on a picnic with friends.

KHAIRGARH: A tragic incident occurred on Saturday afternoon when 20-year-old Piyush Arya, a resident of Civil Line, drowned in the Amner river at Kukrapat while on a picnic with four friends. Piyush, the nephew of well-known Khairagarh businessman Vikas Arya, had arrived at the popular tourist spot on the Lanji main

road with his friends in the morning. Despite warnings from the Kukrapat temple priest, who advised them not to venture into the deep waters, Piyush entered the river around 2:30 pm and was quickly pulled under by the current.

His friends made desperate attempts to save him and called for help, but Piyush disappeared beneath the water. The Gatapar Jungle Police Station was informed, and an SDRF team was dispatched to the scene. Divers are still searching for Piyush's body as his family, neighbors, and friends anxiously wait at the site.

Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan

KHAIRAGADH: Under the Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, various de-addiction activities will take place on August 12 across the district. These include oaths, competitions, seminars, workshops, human chains, rallies, and street plays in schools, colleges, and public institutions.

Congress minority leader resigns

KHAIRAGADH: Harjeet Singh, Congress Minority District President, has resigned from his position, citing personal reasons. He submitted his resignation to the State President of the Congress Minority Department, Amin Memon. In his resignation letter, Singh expressed his inability to fulfill the duties of his post.

NCC cadets lead 'Har Ghar Tiranga' initiative in Rajim

Central Chronicle News

NCC cadets from SAGES Rajim led a 'Har Ghar Tiranga' initiative, promoting patriotism and unity.

RAJIM: The NCC cadets of Government Rambishal Pandey Excellent English Medium School in Rajim organized a grand 'Har Ghar Tiranga' program as part of the Independence Week celebrations under Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav. The initiative, held from 09 to 15 August 2024, encourages every Indian citizen to hoist the national flag at their homes, fostering a deep sense of patriotism and respect for the Tricolor.

In line with the Culture Department's instructions, schools across the region are actively involving teachers, students, NCC, and NSS cadets, as



Students in the tricolor program.

FASTFACTS

- NCC cadets organized a Tiranga Yatra, oath-taking ceremony, and tree planting to honor the Tricolor.

well as parents and public representatives, to make the program a success.

Under the guidance of NCC officer Sagar Sharma, the cadets and students of the school organized a Tiranga Yatra and took a Tricolor oath. The event began with the cadets taking the oath in the school premises, followed by the Tiranga Yatra through the city, where they chanted

the slogan "Tiranga Jhanda Amar Rahe". The rally reached Nagar Panchayat Bhawan, where Chief Municipal Officer Ashok Salame and Tehsildar Rajim Ajay Chandravan-shi addressed the cadets, emphasizing nation-building and respect for the national flag.

SHIV KATHA REVERBERATES |

Devotees gather for Shiv Katha in Rajivlochan temple

Central Chronicle News

RAJIM: The nine-day Shraavan Jhula festival is ongoing at Shri Rajivlochan temple, where a large number of devotees are gathering daily to listen to Shiv Katha by Pandit Varun Tiwari of Jenjra. Today, he narrated the story of Sati Moh, detailing how Lord Shiv and Mother Sati, after listening to a story from Kumbhaj Rishi, encountered Lord Ram and Lakshman in



the forest. Shiv Ji recognized and bowed to Lord Ram, but due to a misunderstanding, Sati doubted Ram's divinity and saw him as a mere

human. This grave mistake led to Sati's eventual abandonment by Lord Shiv. During the discourse, Pandit Tiwari also cau-

Excessive use of mobile is harmful to health.

Varun Tiwari Pandit

tioned the audience about the overuse of mobile phones. He emphasized, "Use mobile only as much as required. Any object should be used according to its utility; excess causes

harm." He highlighted the negative impact of excessive mobile usage, particularly among teenagers who waste hours on games like Free Fire. He urged the listeners to use devices wisely and focus on hard work to achieve success.

Pandit Tiwari also stressed the importance of planting trees for environmental protection, reminding everyone that a healthy life is impossible without trees.

Filthy conditions in Health Center

Central Chronicle News

RAJIM: The men's washroom at the city's community health center is in a deplorable state, with filth and dirt visibly accumulating. The wash basin is clogged, and the tiles beneath the pipe are stained with saffron-colored residue. The urinals are filled with dirt, making it unbearable for patients and their relatives to use without holding their noses. Despite significant funds allocated

by the state government for cleanliness, the condition remains appalling. Recently, the center received a sonography machine, inaugurated by Rajim MLA Rohit Sahu and other representatives. However, during the event, some officials were shocked to discover the filthy state of the washroom. This negligence reflects poorly on the city, especially as Rajim is a religious destination attracting visitors from across the country and abroad.



BJP govt tries to weaken fight for reservation.

Akhilesh Yadav
SP president

Independence Day preparations get underway



An elderly woman uses a spinning wheel to prepare tricolour yarn for Independence Day celebrations, in Nadia district.

NDA eyes majority in Rajya Sabha after bypolls

In the upper house with the current effective strength of 229, the BJP has 87 MPs and with its allies the number is 105.

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The BJP-led NDA is expected to achieve a clear majority in Rajya Sabha after bye-elections for 12 seats scheduled next month, which would help the party get the nod for key legislations such as the Waqf (Amendment) Bill.

In the upper house with the current effective strength of 229, the BJP has 87 MPs and with its allies the number is 105. Six nominated members, who usually cast their vote with the government, take the strength of the NDA to 111, four short of the half-way mark of

115. The Congress has 26 members in the Upper House and its allies add another 58, taking the opposition alliance numbers to 84. Among the key fence-sitters are the YSR Congress Party with 11 members and BJD with eight members.

Elections to the 12 vacant Rajya Sabha seats in nine states will be held on September 3. The Election Commission has announced 12 separate elections for each of the seats, handing over a clear advantage to the ruling party in the state.

The BJP and its allies are expected to win 11 of the 12 seats in the elec-

HIGHLIGHT

• Cong has 26 members in the RS and its allies add another 58, taking the Oppn alliance numbers to 84.

• Elections to the 12 vacant Rajya Sabha seats in nine states will be held on September 3.

tions, which will take the NDA past the half-way mark to 122 seats in the 245-member house.

Four seats from Jammu and Kashmir in the Upper House are vacant as the Union Territory is yet to get its first legislative

assembly. This reduces the effective strength of the Rajya Sabha to 241.

Ten Rajya Sabha seats fell vacant as the sitting members, including Union ministers Piyush Goyal, Sarbananda Sonowal, and Jyotiraditya Scindia, were elected to Lok Sabha. Bypolls are also being held for two seats in Telangana and Odisha. K Keshava Rao from Telangana resigned recently from the House after quitting the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) to join the Congress while MP Mamata Mohanta resigned from her Rajya Sabha seat and primary

membership of the party. She has joined the BJP.

Besides Goyal, Sonowal and Scindia, the other Rajya Sabha members who won the parliamentary polls and became members of Lok Sabha are Kamakhya Prasad Tasa (BJP), Misha Bharti (RJD), Vivek Thakur (BJP), Deepender Singh Hooda (Congress), Udayanraje Bhosle (BJP), K C Venugopal (Congress) and Biplob Kumar Deb (BJP). The BJP's allies in the Upper House include AIADMK, JD(U), NCP, JD(S), RPI(A), Shiv Sena, NCP, RLD, NPP, PMK, Tamil Manila Congress, UPPL.

Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

MISHAP

Two pilots injured as trainer aircraft crashes in MP's Guna

GUNA (MP): Two pilots were injured after a trainer aircraft belonging to a private aviation academy crashed at an airstrip in Madhya Pradesh's Guna district on Sunday, police said.

The two-seater Cessna 152 plane crashed at around 1.30 pm, possibly due to engine failure, after remaining airborne for 40 minutes, Guna Cantt police station in-charge Dileep Rajoria said. Two pilots on board the plane suffered injuries but were out of danger and have been admitted to a hospital here, he said.

The plane arrived here a few days ago for testing and maintenance, the official said.

The injured pilots, V Chandra Thakur and Nagesh Kumar, were from Hyderabad, he said, adding that aviation officials will carry out a detailed probe. **PTI**

CLAIM

Uddhav left 'saffron', public won't forgive him: Maha BJP head



MUMBAI: Maharashtra BJP head Chandrashekhar Bawankule on Sunday said people will not forgive Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray, claiming he left "bhagwa" (saffron) and distanced himself from the legacy of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj. Bawankule's remarks came a day after Thackeray while addressing Sena (UBT) workers in Thane accused Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde of "bowing" before Delhi. **PTI**

Minister alleges Oppn of false notions

Meghwal accuses opposition of creating confusion over SC 'observation' on creamy layer



NEW DELHI: Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal has accused the opposition of creating confusion among people over the Supreme Court "observation" on creamy layer among SCs and STs, and asserted that the Constitution given by B R Ambedkar has no provision of a creamy layer.

In an interview to PTI Videos, he said the the BJP-led NDA government will follow Ambedkar's Constitution and will continue the reservation system for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes as provided in it.

Meghwal noted that though the opposition is aware that the top court had only made an "observation" on

creamy layer, it is trying to create confusion among people.

On Saturday, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge had said that the idea of denying reservation to SCs and STs on account of the creamy layer concept is "condemnable"

He also said the government should have brought a legislation in Parliament to nullify the part of the recent Supreme Court judgement that talks about the issue. Meghwal underlined that the top court has said that if the states want, they can do sub-classification. But SC has not made any decision on creamy layer. It is an observation, he asserted. **PTI**

Minister reviews Bhogapuram airport proj

NEW DELHI: Civil Aviation Minister K Rammoohan Naidu on Sunday reviewed the progress of work for the Bhogapuram airport in Andhra Pradesh which is expected to be operational by June 2026. The review covered key aspects of the airport's development, including the terminal building, runway construction, apron and approach roads, a release said. Around 36 pc of the work for the airport project, which is expected to boost connectivity as well as economic development of the Uttarandhra region, has been completed. During the review meeting on Sunday, Naidu asked the officials to complete the works fast to make the airport operational by June 2026.

HEALTH CHALLENGES |

Infertility pressing public health challenge: IVF founder

Press Trust Of India

Dr Ajay Murdia and underscored the need to educate people and destigmatise infertility so that those affected by it can seek help easily.

NEW DELHI: Infertility is quietly but steadily becoming one of the most pressing public health challenges in India, said fertility specialist Dr Ajay Murdia and underscored the need to educate people and destigmatise infertility so that those affected by it can seek help easily. The founder and chairman of Indira IVF, one of India's largest fertility chains, said combating infertility



Fertility specialist Dr Ajay Murdia.

FACTFILE

• Fertility rate is 1.6 in India's urban areas and 2.1 in rural parts.

requires a collective societal effort.

While awareness campaigns and educational

ing access to quality medical care. By fostering collaboration among individuals, healthcare professionals and organizations, society can significantly reduce the stigma surrounding infertility and provide essential support to affected families. "This unified approach is vital in creating a supportive environment for those facing fertility challenges and ultimately achieving freedom from the burden of infertility," he said.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), India's infertility rates reflect a broader global trend, with about 17.5 per cent of the adult population worldwide affected by infertility, Dr Mudira said.



Never expressed desire to contest elections.
Shaurya Doval
BJP leader

PTI editors at the agency's headquarters here, Doval, who is a member of the BJP's Uttarakhnd state

executive committee, said he has never asked the party for a ticket to contest polls. "When I came in this game, I did not come with a politics view. I came back to India in 2009 to set up India Foundation. I was told to go to Uttarakhand in 2018-19 by the party, so ultimately it is party's call...you cannot take these decisions," he said.

OPINION |

Returned to India with 'idea of service': Doval

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: BJP leader Shaurya Doval has said he has never expressed desire to contest elections but is open to the idea if the party decides to field him.

The banker-turned-political thinker said he came back to India from the UK in 2009 to set up his organisation India

Foundation and with the "idea of service".

Asked whether he has not got a chance in electoral politics as his father Ajit Doval is the National Security Advisor, he, in a lighter vein, said that "it could be because of my father but obviously I haven't got a ticket, and that is why I am not fighting elections".

In an interaction with

RECOGNITION CRPF DIG Central Sector Sunil Kumar feted by Union Minister

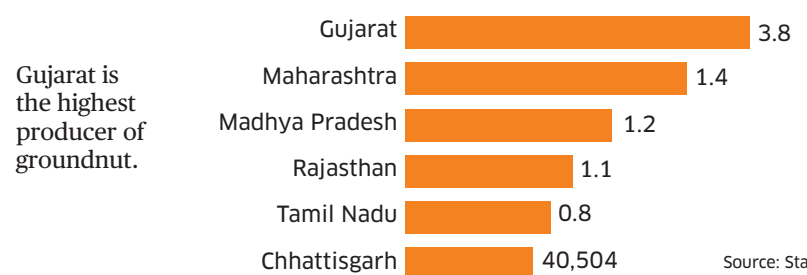


NEW DELHI: CRPF DIG Central Sector Sunil Kumar received recognition from Dr. Jitendra Singh, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology, Earth Science, and Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office, at the prestigious Jacaranda Hall, India Habitat Centre, Delhi. This acknowledgment celebrates his 20-year dedication to enhancing internal security and uplifting marginalized communities.

The occasion was further dignified by the release of a coffee table book, 'Pioneers of India,' by the Minister, in which Sunil Kumar also featured. **PTI**

The Day's NUMBERS

STATE-WISE PRODUCTION OF GROUNDNUT (IN MILLION TONNE)



PEACE TALKS

'Next round of Assam-Mizoram border talks by January'

GUWAHATI: Assam Minister Atul Bora said on Sunday that the next round of discussions to resolve the state's border dispute with Mizoram will be held in Guwahati in January next year. Bora, the border protection and development minister, said both the state governments wanted a solution to the decades-old dispute to ensure permanent peace and security for those residing near the inter-state boundary on both sides. The minister was talking to reporters here after returning from Aizawl, where he had led a delegation from Assam, which engaged in talks to resolve the boundary dispute with a team of the Mizoram government, led by its Home Minister K Sapdanga, last week. "The border talks remained stalled due to the assembly elections in Mizoram last year. Now, we are on track again. A ministerial group of Mizoram will visit Guwahati for the next round of talks by January. We have extended our invitation to them," Bora said. **PTI**

Diamantaire comes to rescue of distress industry workers

50,000 workers have become jobless this year, and others salary cut by around 30 pc.

Press Trust Of India

SURAT: Amid a downturn in Surat's diamond industry, a city-based diamantaire has come forward to help families of workers struggling to pay their children's school fees, prompting industry representatives calling for more such initiatives.

About 90 per cent of the world's rough diamonds are cut and polished in Surat by around 10 lakh workers employed in over 2,500 units. Due to factors like the Russia-Ukraine war and weak demand from China, a key market, leading to oversupply, around 50,000 workers have become jobless this year, and those employed have seen their salary cut by around 30 per cent, said Bhavesh Tank, vice president of the Surat Diamond Workers Union.

In calls to a helpline launched for distressed workers, they talked of contemplating self-harm due to the financial crunch, while many requested help to support the education of their children, Tank said.

Chairman of Surat-based Dharmanandan Diamonds Lalji Patel has offered Rs 15,000 each to 40 students, and cheques to their needy families were distributed at an



A view of Surat's diamond industry. | Photo: PTI

event in the city on Sunday. Patel said there is an atmosphere of depression in the diamond industry. To ensure that the education of the children of recession-hit diamond workers is not affected, his firm offered them financial assistance.

"Due to the slowdown, both diamond merchants and workers are suffering financial losses. Dharmanandan Diamonds has decided to pay students' fees. If other diamond companies also come forward and take such initiatives, the problems faced by the workers will be alleviated," Patel said.

Diamond Workers Union pays Rs 15,000 as school fees of children

HIGHLIGHT

Chinese traders have stopped buying natural diamonds, which has worsened the situation.

Around 10 lakh workers employed in over 2,500 units.

seeking help in paying their children's school and college fees, it said.

After surveying the financial status of the

families seeking financial assistance, 40 students were given cheques of Rs 15,000 each for school and college fees, it said.

Dinesh Navadia, chairman of the government-sponsored Indian Diamond Institute, said that the biggest reason behind the slowdown in the industry is the Russia-Ukraine war. Chinese traders have stopped buying natural diamonds, which has worsened the situation, he said.

11 Bangladeshis held while infiltrating into India

Press Trust Of India

BSF is in regular touch with its counterpart BGB to sort out mutual issues.

NEW DELHI: Eleven Bangladeshi nationals have been apprehended while trying to infiltrate into India through the international border in West Bengal, Tripura and Meghalaya, the Border Security Force (BSF) said on Sunday.

They are being questioned and will be handed over to the respective state police for further legal action, a BSF spokesperson said.

He also said the BSF was in regular touch with its counterpart Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) to sort out mutual issues, especially about the prevention of atrocities on Indian nationals and people from minority communities in Bangladesh.

Last week, the Union Home Ministry formed a committee under the BSF additional director general (ADG) (Eastern Command) to look into the safety and security issues being faced by minorities in Bangladesh following the fall of the Sheikh Hasina government.

The BSF is the designated armed force to guard the 4,096-km-long India-Bangladesh border that runs the five east-

ern states of West Bengal (2,217 km), Tripura (856 km), Meghalaya (443 km), Assam (262 km) and Mizoram (318 km). The force has been on a "high alert" all along this front since the fall of the Hasina government and amid the turmoil in the neighbouring country.

FASTFACTS

BSF guards the 4,096-km-long India-Bangladesh border.

Two infiltrators were nabbed from WB and Tripura borders while seven were apprehended from Meghalaya border.

The border guards have thwarted a number of infiltration attempts and sent back thousands of Bangladeshi people over the last few days with the help of the BGB at many points along the Bangladesh frontier.

The South Bengal Frontier of the force headquartered in Kolkata said in a statement that its Eastern Command ADG Ravi Gandhi chaired an operational conference on Saturday to review the security along the border "amid the current unrest in Bangladesh" and the upcoming Independence Day on August 15.

NEWSLINE

BHUBANESWAR

'Improve supply of potatoes'



Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi on Sunday spoke to his West Bengal counterpart Mamata Banerjee and requested her to improve potato supply.

During a telephonic conversation, Majhi said the supply of potatoes to Odisha had improved after their meeting in New Delhi, but now the situation deteriorated again.

The CM urged his West Bengal counterpart Mamata Banerjee to intervene in the matter and resolve the problem, the Chief Minister's Office (CMO) said in a statement.

"Banerjee has assured him of appropriate steps to resolve the issue," it said. The Odisha CM dialled Banerjee after the West Bengal Police allegedly installed CCTV cameras in border villages to check unauthorised transportation of potatoes to Odisha.

SONBHADRA

Two wagons of goods train derail

Two wagons of a goods train derailed here in the Shaktinagar area on Sunday, police said. No one was injured in the incident, which took place at around 11.30 am, they added.

The train was carrying coal from Northern Coalfield Limited (NCL) in Khadia to a power plant in Anpara, officials said.

Teams of railway officials and NCL employees are present at the spot.

The track where the train got derailed is a private railway line of the power plant, according to police.

GWALIOR

'Oppn must apologise to VP'



Union Minister for Communications Jyotiraditya Scindia on Sunday demanded that the Opposition apologise to Raja Sabha Chairman and Vice President Jagdish Dhankhar, referring to a spat between the chair and Samajwadi Party MP Jaya Bachchan.

Dhankhar and Jaya Bachchan on Friday locked horns after the actor-politician accused him of speaking to her in the Upper House in an unacceptable tone inviting an angry retort that he can't be schooled. The vice president also said even a celebrity has to follow the House decorum. The Opposition had then walked out calling the matter "disrespect to democracy and Constitution".

Bridge partially washed away by heavy rains

Press Trust Of India

The ADC has appealed to the people not to pass through the bridge till the completion of the repair work.

JAMMU: A bridge connecting Mandi tehsil with the National Highway was partially washed away by heavy rains in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district, forcing authorities to suspend traffic, officials said on Sunday.

The repair work on the damaged portion of the Drungali Nala bridge has begun and every effort will be made to complete the repairs before the upcoming Chhadi Yatra festival, Additional Deputy Commissioner Tahir Mustafa Malik said.

Malik, who along with Officer-in-charge, GREF,

M K Sharma visited the site to assess the situation, said the Chhadi Yatra is a significant religious event, and the restoration of the bridge is crucial to facilitate the movement of devotees.

The ADC has appealed to the people not to pass through the bridge till the completion of the repair work.

"As long as the bridge is being repaired, everyone should go through the adjacent Bandichechian bridge only," he said. Heavy rains lashed several parts of the Jammu region overnight, resulting in a rise in the level of water bodies.

According to the Meteorological Department, the Kathua district recorded 77 mm of rainfall, Jammu 71 mm and Samba 59.6 mm during the last 24 hours, ending 5.30 pm.

Woman murdered over dowry

MUZAFFARNAGAR: A 35-year-old woman was allegedly killed for dowry by her husband in Uttar Pradesh's Shamli district, police said on Sunday.

The victim has been identified as Nargis, they said. The incident took place in the Masura village of Jhinjhana area on Sunday when Israel allegedly slit his wife's throat over dowry in his house. According to the complaint lodged by the victim's father Tahir, the accused was demanding a bike in dowry. This led to heated arguments with his wife, following which he slit her throat, Tahir said. Tahir said that after a quarrel with her husband earlier, his daughter came to reside with them but a week ago her husband took her back promising to not harass her.

The victim is survived by a six-month-old daughter, the police added.

Minister flags off 'Aarogya doctor on wheels' ambulance

| DOORSTEP MEDICAL SERVICES |

Press Trust Of India

The initiative is aimed at providing healthcare services to people of far-flung villages at their doorsteps free of cost.

JAMMU: Union Minister Jitendra Singh on Sunday flagged off 'Aarogya doctors on wheels' ambulance to provide doorstep medical services in remote areas of Jammu and Kashmir's Udhampur district.

The initiative is aimed at providing healthcare services to people of far-flung villages at their doorsteps free of cost, Singh, the minister of state in the Prime Minister's office, said.

Participating in an



Aarogya doctor on wheels' ambulance. | Photo: PTI

FASTFACTS

DAY-NRLM, is the world's largest initiative to improve the livelihoods of the poor.

Govt is focussed on consolidating the gains of the last 10 years to transform the rural landscape.

exhibition on National Rural Livelihood Mission

(NRLM) in his home constituency Udhampur, the minister explained the working of the mobile ambulance and said the entire exercise of patient examination and providing a prescription is accomplished in about 45 minutes, which may in normal course of action, take days if the patient has to be physically examined at a hospital.

"A patient can now narrate his medical prob-

lem through his native language and the 'Doctor on wheels' responds to the patient in the same language", he said.

Describing the novel initiative as a healthcare start-up which should be promoted at a mass scale, he pitched for more CSR contributions for further growth and sustenance of this experiment so that more and more people benefit from it.

'Collective team work needed to overcome challenges'

Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI: Arindam Goswami took over as Chairman of WIRC,ICMAI after being unanimously elected for this post at an election meeting in Mumbai. After assuming charge he spoke about his priorities and works to be accomplished during his tenure.

Highlights of interview:

1. What are your thoughts for materializing as WIRC Chairman?

I feel challenges will be always there and through collective team work and passion to turn the challenges into

opportunities makes a difference between a leader and a comer. The Institute is now needs in which we need to cater proper services to members, students, Government and other stakeholders. The quality of service creates the difference in positioning our Institute in the eyes of all the stakeholders.

2. Please elucidate the areas which a Cost and Management Accountant can work in the present regime.

CMAs are the management accountants who are the strategic decision makers for



Arindam Goswami

enabling an effective atmosphere for a business to flourish and prosper. We have the mandate to do Cost Audit, Internal Audit, Legal Representation, Valuer, Insolvency Professional, Inventory Valuer and other regula-

tory services in BFSI, Sustainability and Taxation domains.

3. The syllabus of CMA has changed recently what do you think how the India Inc. is accepting the CMA passouts and your thought process for further growth and development.

CMA syllabus is drafted as per the new education policy of the Government of India and we are happy to share that the Institute's placement has taken a fillip with more participation of India Inc. in our placement services.

4. Kindly state in mechanism in which you

want to interact with the Industry for the growth of the profession.

WIRC organizes multiple events like Regional Cost Convention, Practitioners Meet, Tax Conference where we invite top leaders for their participation in form of delegates and speakers for the event. We hope to continue our activities in these areas so that relevant programmes are undertaken for enhancing the knowledge resource of the members.

5. Kindly state the opportunities the WIRC, ICMAI is initiating under your leadership and the

timelines for achieving such an objective.

We have a road map and an action plan and we will discuss at length with my team to plan further so that there is a continuity of our activity and we are hopeful that many activities which were in the work in progress will fructify and materialize.

6. You were the Raipur Chapter Chairman, PD Committee Chairman of WIRC, ICMAI and co-opted member of Taxation Committee. The learning process functioning the roles may be stated and how it will help you being the Chairman, WIRC.

I am thankful that I started from a small chapter from Chattisgarh and hope that small steps are required for a big activity. I have learned the functioning of the Institute and have coordinated a lot of activities from a Chapter representative and I feel that with challenges comes opportunities and whatever role has been empowered to me has been done with full honest intention and I devoted wholeheartedly for the growth of the profession. I am very proud to be a CMA and till my last breath will serve my mother profession.



QUOTE FROM THE QUOTABLE

"Nothing is impossible, the word itself says, 'I'm possible!'"

[Audrey Hepburn]

Comment

Chasing medals in the quest to turn athletes into illusory stars

OUR VIEW |

Waqf Bill: Necessary reform or religious overreach?

The introduction of the Waqf (Amendment) Bill in the Lok Sabha, followed by its referral to a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC), has ignited a vigorous debate, highlighting the political and social tensions inherent in religious reforms in India. The bill proposes substantial changes aimed at reforming the management of Waqf properties, a move that the Government claims is necessary to correct inefficiencies and misuse under the current law. Supporters of the bill argue that these amendments will enhance transparency, broaden representation within Waqf Boards, and ensure that the income from Waqf properties better serves the Muslim community. The proposed reforms include provisions for improved judicial oversight and the creation of new boards to manage properties of different Muslim sects, which proponents believe will modernize religious administration. However, the bill has not been without controversy. Critics see these amendments as politically charged and potentially infringing on religious freedoms. The inclusion of non-Muslims in Waqf Boards, a departure from traditional practices, has raised concerns about the erosion of autonomy for religious institutions. Additionally, the timing of the bill—coinciding with upcoming state elections—has fueled accusations that the Government is using this legislation as a tool to sway voter sentiment, particularly to appease a specific segment of the electorate. These fears are not unfounded, as the politicization of religious reforms can deepen communal divides rather than promote inclusivity. Yet, those in favor argue that updating outdated laws is essential for the effective governance of Waqf properties, and that such reforms should be seen as a step towards enhancing the efficiency and accountability of religious administration. As the JPC begins its examination, the bill's broader implications will be closely scrutinized. The outcome will not only determine the future of Waqf management but also set a precedent for how India navigates the delicate balance between religious freedoms and the need for administrative reforms in its diverse society.

GUEST VIEW |

Youth-driven digital innovation: Shaping a sustainable future

Digitalization offers vast opportunities for sustainable development, with technologies like mobile devices, digital services, and AI playing critical roles in advancing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). These innovations not only improve decision-making but also have the potential to save up to USD 55 trillion in costs. Young people are at the forefront of this digital transformation, with 75% of individuals aged 15 to 24 online in 2022, driving tech adoption despite challenges. International Youth Day, celebrated on August 12, highlights the global issues facing youth and their significant contributions. By honoring their achievements and advocating for their needs, the day fosters policy changes and social initiatives that enhance young lives, promoting a more inclusive world. This year's theme focuses on digital transformation, showcasing how youth are leading the adoption of new technologies and shaping a sustainable future. The 2024 International Youth Day emphasizes the vital role young people play in using digital innovation to advance the SDGs. By supporting youth-led initiatives and fostering an environment of creativity, we can ensure that today's digital efforts drive future progress.



Dr. Krishna Kumar Vepakomma

Japan, the only world champion country competing with all nations in the 2024 Olympics, stands as a beacon of light for all of us today. A 14-year-old Japanese youth is bringing home a gold medal, while we, a nation of 140 crore people, are caught up in a race to take political credit for a single medal. Every player's victory is a sacrifice for the country, but it's crucial to acknowledge where we stand on the medal list. In countries where college and school students win Olympic medals, they are taught focus, responsibility, and expertise from childhood.

This has been the pattern in every Olympics to date. What can I say now? In this country, which craves every medal, when our star players venture into politics after achieving success, it leaves a bitter taste. Look at the condition of our country: we yearn for medals in the Olympics, and when someone wins, we shower them with money for political gain, yet we fail to provide adequate facilities for the players who are still practicing. There is hardly any other country like India.

It's no wonder that successful individuals are leaving the country today.

In our country, merit is often linked to birth in a particular caste. Even a ninth-grade dropout can be found distributing certificates of merit based on caste. Despite being a nation of over 140 crore people, we have been longing for a gold medal in world-class games like the Olympics since our independence in 1947. There is no reservation in the Olympics to stop the so-called "contractors of merit." Gentlemen, the obsession with caste-based merit is a collective defamation of our country and the root of countless inefficiencies. Searching for greatness in castes is not a sign of deserving but of incompetence.

This obsession with caste-based greatness is more dangerous than leprosy. While leprosy attacks the body, caste-based superiority directly attacks the mind. People don't even realize when they become addicted to hatred, finding pride in being criminals. A player represents the entire country, so why do

slogans of a particular caste dominate? This is where we lose.

When will we improve? Emma McKeon, the only athlete from Australia, a country small in population, won four gold and three bronze medals at the Tokyo Olympics 2021. No one in Australia even asked about her, because this achievement doesn't hold the same meaning for the people, government, or political leaders there. Meanwhile, we, 140 crore Indians, go crazy over just one medal. Our Prime Minister, Chief Ministers, and all the minor leaders are making a living off it. Hiding behind this medal, the contractors of caste and religion roam around, hissing like poisonous snakes.

In this country, we salute the rising sun. Life here goes on without dignity, pride, or prestige. Even today, Chinese goods are purchased here. No one dares to boycott film stars who go to Turkey to shoot. Foreign looters are worshipped here. Living under foreign invaders, we have become accustomed to dying slowly and painfully. That is why we do not know how to raise our

voices against the government. We have learned the art of living by considering whatever happens as God's will. Without enmity or a killer instinct, we cannot distinguish between well-wishers and haters. In the name of credibility, we always prioritize caste, class, religion, family, village, state, region, community, business, and personal benefits above the interest of the country.

If players win, they receive crores, but those who sacrifice their lives for the protection of the country, without caring for their families, receive just one medal.

I'm not comparing medals to money—they are priceless—but who is responsible for the families, children, and parents of those who have sacrificed for the country? The truth is, today everything revolves around money.

Life cannot be lived on emotions and feelings alone. It is also true that both players and soldiers enhance the pride of the country. Then why such injustice towards them? The system needs to reconsider. Let the players remain players. Do not turn them into war heroes.



Priyanka Saurabh

Research Scholar in Political Science, Poet, Independent Journalist and Columnist.

Views are personal.

Social media algorithms are shrouded in secrecy

Social media's algorithmic secrecy is under scrutiny as researchers and the Australian government seek transparency to better understand its societal impact and ensure platform accountability. by Daniel Angus



Illustrating the complexity and secrecy of social media algorithms while highlighting the importance of research and transparency.

Over the past 20 years, social media has transformed how we communicate, share information, and form social connections. A federal parliamentary committee is currently grappling with these changes, aiming to determine appropriate actions.

Social media platforms, where we spend significant time, are powered by algorithms that exercise substantial control over the content each user sees. However, researchers have limited knowledge of how these algorithms work and how users experience them.

This lack of knowledge stems from social media companies closely guarding information about their algorithms and operations. Recently, my colleagues and I announced a new national infrastructure project to uncover these secrets.

Our project, the Australian Internet Observatory, will investigate how social media users interact and the content on their feeds. Additionally, the federal government can help by mandating tech companies to provide more transparency about their operations.

Understanding the impact of social media requires insight into its inner workings. This involves observing the content shared by users and the algorithms that con-

trol content visibility and recommendations. It also necessitates examining user interactions with these platforms in everyday settings.

Social media is personal and increasingly ephemeral, with content differing for each user and quickly disappearing from feeds. This variability makes it challenging to draw general conclusions about user experiences and the broader impact on society.

Despite this need for transparency, social media companies refuse to let the public examine their operations, often citing privacy concerns and competitive interests. While these concerns are valid, they are frequently

used to limit data access unjustly.

Consequently, my colleagues and I have had to be creative in gaining insights into social media. We use methods such as scraping public data, platform audits, and other forensic approaches, though these methods are limited and carry legal risks.

In the absence of direct platform data access, we are employing other methods, such as data donation, to understand social media operations. Data donation allows people to voluntarily share specific parts of their social media experience for independent study under strict ethical guidelines. This

approach respects user privacy while providing invaluable insights.

Two data donation projects have already enhanced our understanding of internet search and targeted advertising in Australia. Over the next four years, we will expand the scope of data donation through the Australian Internet Observatory. This research infrastructure will collect and analyze data from users of platforms like Facebook, TikTok, and YouTube.

This project will illuminate how people interact on social media platforms, what content they see, and how it is distributed. This increased visibility will improve our knowledge of the algorithms

that power social media and their societal impact.

For instance, since its launch in 2021, the Australian Ad Observatory has collected nearly 800,000 Facebook ad donations from over 2,100 Australians. This extensive data has uncovered illegal gambling ads and tracked scam ads, informing inquiries into unhealthy food advertising and "greenwashing."

Moreover, this work has provided insights into the algorithmic targeting process itself. The Australian Internet Observatory aims to deepen our understanding of such processes across many platforms. We will soon invite the public to donate data from their social media accounts to aid our research.

The Australian government has tried to regulate various aspects of the internet and social media. The Online Safety Act and proposed legislation targeting misinformation and disinformation reflect the government's concern over digital platforms' influence.

However, these regulatory efforts have flaws. They often proceed without a comprehensive understanding of online activities and interactions. Without this knowledge, regulations risk being either too broad, impacting legitimate expression, or too narrow, failing to address the root causes of online harms.

YOUR LETTERS

Humanity transcends all boundaries

"We are very happy with the silver; the one who got gold is also our child, and the one who got silver is also our child. There is no difference between Neeraj and Nadeem. We got gold and silver. There is no difference for us," thus spake Saroj Devi, the gallant-hearted mother of Neeraj Chopra. Indeed, what a tight slap in the faces of the merchants of hatred who divide ultimate humanity through petty boundaries of nation, religion, and race. Her words remind us that true greatness lies in unity and compassion, transcending all artificial barriers.

Kajal Chatterjee, Kolkata

Safeguarding India's elephants

Elephants, India's National Heritage Animal since 2010, face increasing threats, with over 500 unnatural deaths in five years. Major causes include electrocution, poisoning, and train collisions. Protecting these majestic creatures requires proper track signals, loco pilot sensitisation, and maintaining elephant corridors. Modern solutions like overpasses, underpasses, and solar-powered fences are essential. Shrinking habitats intensify human-animal conflicts. Ensuring secure, sustainable environments for elephants is crucial, especially as World Elephant Day approaches.

Dr Ganapathi Bhat, Akola

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

Business



Vaishnav sanctioned Rs 15,000 cr railway projects in Odisha.
Mohan Charan Majhi,
Odisha Chief Minister.

Brother International printer launch in New Delhi



Brother International (India) Managing Director Alok Nigam (left) during the company's printer launch, in New Delhi.

Hindenburg attacking Sebi's credibility: Buchs

Buchs said their investment in a fund promoted by IIFL Wealth Management was as Singapore-based private citizens, and made two years before Madhabi joined Sebi.

Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI: US-based short seller Hindenburg Research is attempting to attack Sebi's credibility and indulging in character assassination of its chairperson, Sebi chief Madhabi Puri Buch and her husband Dhaval said on Sunday. In a detailed statement issued on Sunday evening in response to allegations made by Hindenburg, the Buchs

said their investment in a fund promoted by IIFL Wealth Management was as Singapore-based private citizens, and made two years before Madhabi joined Sebi as a whole-time member. They said Dhaval, a senior advisor at Blackstone since 2019, is not associated with the real estate side of the private equity major. The statement also said that Madhabi's 2 consulting companies immediately

NUMBER

2

• Hindenburg has been served a show cause notice for a variety of violations in India.

• Madhabi's 2 consulting cos immediately became "dormant" on her appointment at Sebi.

became "dormant" on her appointment at Sebi

in 2017 as a whole-time member. "Hindenburg has been served a show cause notice for a variety of violations in India. It is unfortunate that instead of replying to the Show Cause Notice, they have chosen to attack the credibility of the SEBI and attempt character assassination of the SEBI Chairperson," the statement said. In a statement shared right after the short seller came up with

its latest report, Buchs termed the allegations as "baseless".

Hindenburg Research alleged that it suspects SEBI's unwillingness to act against Adani group may be because Madhabi Buch had stakes in offshore funds linked to the conglomerate. Wealth management entity 360 ONE on Sunday said its IPE-Plus Fund 1 did not make any investments in Adani Group shares.

HDFC Bank implements PMFBY for farmers

MUMBAI: HDFC Bank implements Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) for farmers, India's leading private sector general insurance company, HDFC Iriga General Insurance Company, has been approved by the Government of Chhattisgarh for the Kharif, 2024 season.

Farmers of Balod, Balodabazar, Balrampur, Bilaspur, Dantewada, Durg, Gauraha-Pendra-Marwahi, Manendragarh-Chirmiri-Bharatpur, Mungeli, Raipur, Surguja and Sukma districts to implement Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana for non-loanee farmers. In these districts, this scheme will be implemented for the following crops notified under the scheme by the Government of Chhattisgarh, for which the last dates have also been given according to the crops.

LIC to invest around Rs 1.30 lakh crore in stock market

Press Trust Of India

Market value of LIC's investment in stocks of various companies stood at around Rs 15 lakh crore at the end of June.

NEW DELHI: Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) MD and CEO Siddhartha Mohanty has said that the corporation is looking to make fresh investments of around Rs 1.30 lakh crore in equities during the current financial year. During April-June FY25, the insurance behemoth made an investment of about Rs 38,000 crore in shares as against Rs 23,300 crore in the same period a year ago. LIC earned a profit of Rs 15,500 crore from its investments in equity markets during the first quarter. The profit



Siddhartha Mohanty, Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) MD and CEO.

FACTFILE

• LIC earned a profit of Rs 15,500 crore from its investments in equity markets

from its investment was higher by 13.5 per cent quarter-on-quarter. "We are surely looking at the markets and price movements...we are looking to invest a good amount at least whatever we had invested in last finan-

cial year. LIC made an investment of around Rs 1.32 lakh crore in FY'24," he said. Market value of LIC's investment in stocks of various companies stood at around Rs 15 lakh crore at the end of June, he said.

LIC has exposure in 282 companies through investment in their shares as of June 30, 2024. The Assets Under Management (AUM) increased to Rs 53,58,781

crore as at June-end as compared to Rs 46,11,067 crore at the end of same quarter previous year, registering an increase of 16.22 per cent. Total investment grew by Rs 7,30,662 crore, from Rs 42,44,852 crore in March 2023 to Rs 49,75,514 crore as on March 31, 2024. Total equity investment portfolio constitute Rs 12,39,740 crore as against Rs 8,39,662 crore in 2022-23, whereas other investments constitute Rs 37,35,774 crore as against Rs 34,05,190 crore in 2022-23.

For June quarter 2024, LIC reported 10 per cent increase in net profit to Rs 10,461 crore as against Rs 9,544 crore in the year-ago period. Total income increased to Rs 2,10,910 crore during the latest June quarter as against Rs 1,88,749 crore in the year-ago period.

LATEST ALLEGATIONS |

Adani Group terms Hindenburg allegations malicious

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Adani Group on Sunday termed US short-seller Hindenburg Research's latest allegations as malicious and manipulative of select public information, saying it has no commercial relationship with SEBI chairperson or her husband. "The latest allegations by Hindenburg

are malicious, mischievous and manipulative selections of publicly available information to arrive at pre-determined conclusions for personal profiteering with wanton disregard for facts and the law. "We completely reject these allegations against the Adani Group which are a recycling of discredited claims that have been thoroughly



investigated, proven to be baseless and already dismissed by the Hon'ble

Supreme Court in January 2024," the group said in a filing. Hindenburg on Saturday stated that SEBI head Madhabi Puri Buch and her husband invested in offshore entities that were allegedly part of a fund structure managed by India Infoline and in which Vinod Adani, Gautam Adani's brother, also had investments. These investments report-

edly date back to 2015, well before Madhabi's appointment as a whole-time member of SEBI in 2017 and the subsequent elevation as chairperson in March 2022. It said Bermuda-based Global Opportunities Fund, which allegedly was used by entities connected to Adani Group to trade in shares of group companies, had sub-funds.

BizBriefs

BEST OF THE REST

NEW OFFERS

Lenovo announces 'Back to College' offers, big savings on Notebooks, Desktops

BANGALORE: Lenovo, the global technology powerhouse, is excited to announce its exclusive "Back-to-College" (BTC) offers, valid until August 18, 2024. These offers are designed to provide students with the best technology solutions at unbeatable prices. In line with Lenovo's vision of providing Smarter Technology For All, the brand is offering a variety of discounts on laptops and accessories to meet the demand for premium devices among students. A recent survey conducted by Lenovo among younger audiences revealed that college students have a strong affinity for music and require a comprehensive gaming device ecosystem, including monitors, headsets, and mice, for an enhanced gaming experience. Lenovo has curated its seasonal offers around these insights, introducing special deals across their product range. These offers aim to provide a superior experience for a broader pool of students.

NUTRITIOUS BISCUITS

ITC Sunfeast launches nutritious biscuits for kids 'Super Egg & Milk'



MUMBAI: ITC Sunfeast, known for bringing new and innovative experiences to consumers, today hosted a one-of-a-kind conference between hen and cows. A lively discussion took place between their representatives, where they humorously highlighted the challenges of making milk and eggs more appealing to children while emphasizing their contributions to providing good nutrition. Following their conversation, a larger panel discussion was held, featuring eminent personalities from various fields. Mr. Madan Mohan Maiti, Chairman, National Egg Coordination Committee (NECC) West Bengal, Dr. Dulal Chandra Sen, Vice-Chairman, IDA East Zone, Dr. Ananya Bhowmik, Clinical Nutritionist and Lifestyle Consultant, celebrity mom Koneenica Banerjee, Archana Sinha, Co-Founder and CEO of Nourishing Schools.

How the market will behave this week?

Macroeconomic data, global trends, Q1 earnings to drive market sentiments this week: Analysts



NEW DELHI: Macroeconomic data announcements, the last batch of Q1 earnings and global trends are the major factors that would influence trading sentiments in the equity market in a holiday-shortened week ahead, analysts said. Besides, trading activity of foreign investors would also be a crucial factor in dictating movement in the market. Equity markets would remain closed on Thursday for Independence Day. "This week, all focus will be on the global markets as we can see the extension of weakness after a long period of stability. The Indian equity market could also witness some bit of levelling off this week as investors process recent gains and

contend with high prices. Geopolitical tensions are also escalating, but markets are not reacting significantly, which is reflected in the declining crude oil prices," said Pravesh Gour, Senior Technical Analyst, Swastika Investmart Ltd. On the domestic front, the last batch of Q1 earnings will drive stock-specific movements.

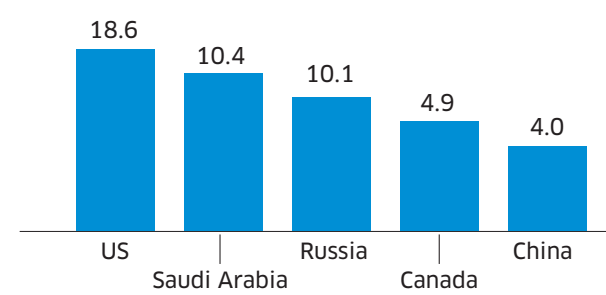
Hero MotoCorp, Hindalco are some of the big corporate earnings this week, he added. "Additionally, institutional flows will play a crucial role in market dynamics," Gour said. Vodafone Idea, NMDc, IRCTC, SJVN and PC Jeweller would also announce their quarterly earnings during the week.

The Day's NUMBERS

(in Million Barrels Per Day)

Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA)

TOP GLOBAL OIL PRODUCERS IN 2022



NEW LAUNCH

Eno launches new 3-in-1 variant to provide relief from 3 ailments

MUMBAI: India's No. 1 OTC Antacid, Eno by Heliion (erstwhile GlaxoSmith-Kline Consumer Healthcare) launches new 3-in-1 variant with the power of Eno and goodness of real Cumin, Ajwain and Black Salt for fast and effective relief from acidity.

These new variants contain the goodness of trusted natural ingredients along with the power of Eno to provide relief from 3 ailments - Acidity, Gas and Indigestion. Talking about the new launch, actor Kalidas Jayaram said, "Celebratory occasions, especially grand weddings in South India, are very special.

Everything from the beautiful decorations to the blessing programs, especially the food programs are very grand. Dishes of different tastes are prepared here. No one can control themselves after seeing the spicy tamarind rice, soft Mysore Pak, Bisi Bele Bath. Acidity can also occur after eating so much.

AERO-LOUNGE SEATS

MG Windsor to offer segment's first aero-lounge seat



MUMBAI: India's soon to be launched Crossover Utility Vehicle (CUV) - MG Windsor is offering the segment's first Aero-Lounge seats. These special seats are a unique blend of luxury and comfort, which will give an excellent travel experience to the occupants. The most special feature of MG Windsor is its Aero-Lounge seats that recline up to 135 degrees. These seats have been designed in a very special way to provide a feeling of luxury and comfort. Its recline angle has been designed with great care.

"Each time when it feels like I can't get up and go do the Work, I push harder. Coz what else have I got other than my strength, my spirit and my Willpower. So, what's your excuse?"

Hina Khan
Actress



& Glitters

OIT Watch



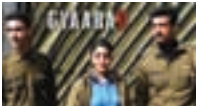
Bijlani's fun moments with Khel Khel Mein cast

"Laughter Chefs Unlimited Entertainment" will feature the cast of Khel Khel Mein, including Akshay Kumar, Arjun Bijlani shared Instagram photos with Kumar, Vaani Kapoor, and Pragya Jaiswal, capturing candid moments from the set.



Chandu Champion now streaming on Prime Video

Directed by Kabir Khan, the sports drama Chandu Champion stars Kartika Aaryan as Murlikant Petkar, India's first Paralympic gold medalist. After its June theatrical release, it started streaming on Prime Video from August 9.



Gyaarah Gyaarah now streaming on ZEE

The crime drama Gyaarah Gyaarah, starring Raghav Juyal, Kritika Kamra, and Dhairya Karwa, is directed by Umesh Bist. An adaptation of the Korean show Signal, it premiered on ZEE5 on August 9.



Celebrate cadet brotherhood in Naam Namak Nishan

The trailer for Naam-Namak Nishan, starring Varun Sood and Danish Sood, highlights the journey of cadets at the Officers Training Academy. The series, celebrating friendship and the armed forces, premieres on Amazon miniTV August 14.



Maura Tierney joins Law & Order as new lieutenant

In Law & Order Season 24, Maura Tierney joins the cast as a new lieutenant, replacing Camryn Manheim. The acclaimed actress's addition is expected to bring fresh dynamics to the NBC procedural.

CLOSE UP

Farhan Akhtar explains why Ranveer Singh is the perfect fit for Don 3

Farhan Akhtar recently spilled the beans about casting Ranveer Singh in the lead role of the upcoming film Don 3. Scroll down to read what Farhan said.

Central Chronicle News

The director believes that the actor's versatility and ability to seamlessly transition between different characters make him an ideal fit for the complex and multifaceted role of Don.

The announcement of Don 3 has fans buzzing with excitement, marking the third installment in Farhan Akhtar's popular Don franchise. This time, Ranveer Singh steps into the lead role, replacing Shah Rukh Khan, who starred in Don (2006) and Don 2 (2011). Farhan Akhtar, the director, shared his insights into this significant casting choice during a recent podcast with YouTuber Raj Shamani. Akhtar revealed that casting Ranveer was a deliberate choice to introduce a "next-generation actor" into the franchise. He praised Ranveer as "charming," "mischievous," and "energetic," noting that the role in Don 3 presents a unique challenge for the actor. According to Akhtar, Ranveer has largely portrayed "loud characters" in his career, with exceptions like Lootera.



Farhan Akhtar reveals why he chose Ranveer Singh to take forward Don 3



Farhan discusses Don 3 changes

Farhan also addressed why Shah Rukh Khan isn't part of the trilogy's final chapter. He explained that creative differences prevented them from achieving the right synergy for the script, leading both to decide to move in separate directions.

Filming for Don 3 is slated to begin in 2025. The film will also feature Kiara Advani and promises to bring a fresh era to the iconic franchise. Farhan Akhtar, known for Dil Chahta Hai and Lakshya, continues to shape his diverse career as both a director and producer.

| FROM DREAMS TO DESPAIR TO NEW LIFE |

Megha Barseenge addresses the plight of abandoned brides in India

Central Chronicle News

Megha Barseenge brings attention to the tragic issue of abandoned brides in India, where more than 40,000 women have had their dreams shattered by husbands who promised love but delivered betrayal. The new show on COLORS, produced by Parin Multimedia, tells the compelling story of Megha, a newlywed bride abandoned by her NRI husband, Manoj. Megha, played by Neha Rana, is left to pick up the pieces of her life after this devastating betrayal. Determined to restore her family's honor and



seek justice, she finds an unexpected ally in Arjun, an IAS officer portrayed by Neil Bhatt, who is on a mission to expose fraud-

ulent grooms like Manoj. Set in the bustling city of Amritsar, Megha Barseenge portrays Megha's journey from a

Megha Barseenge: A powerful tale of resilience as an abandoned bride fights for justice.

HIGHLIGHT

● "Megha Barseenge sheds light on abandoned brides in India, spotlighting betrayal, resilience, and justice."

joyous bride to a resilient woman who challenges societal norms and fights for her rights. The show captures the emotional rollercoaster Megha endures, from the excitement of marriage to the heartbreak of abandonment, and finally, to her courageous pursuit of justice.

CineBriefs

BEST OF THE REST

Bollywood

Tune in for Yodha's tv debut with Sidharth Malhotra

Sidharth Malhotra is eagerly awaiting the television debut of his film Yodha, premiering on August 11 on Colors Cineplex. The movie, which also stars Disha Patani and Raashii Khanna, revolves around a hijacked plane and a passenger who becomes a hero to save others. Malhotra, portraying Arun Katyal, describes the film as a labor of love, brimming with action and emotional depth. Co-star Raashii Khanna shares her excitement, hoping the TV audience will connect with the film's intense moments. Directed by Sagar Ambre and Pushkar Ojha, Yodha promises suspense, drama, and thrilling sequences for viewers to enjoy.

Web Series

Priyanka Chopra shows new look for Citadel season 2

Priyanka Chopra Jonas is gearing up for Citadel Season 2, and she's already making waves with a new look. The actress recently showcased her honey-hued eye color on Instagram, teasing fans with a video from her car. She captioned it: "Citadel prep! Here we go...!" The upcoming season, set to continue the thrilling spy saga, has Joe Russo directing all episodes. Meanwhile, Priyanka is busy filming The Bluff in Australia, a swashbuckler drama where she plays a former pirate. Despite the rainy weather, she shared a behind-the-scenes glimpse of the shoot, capturing the resilient spirit on set.

The Bollywood hot pair

Deepika and Ranveer's customized gift boxes go viral



Deepika Padukone and Ranveer Singh are eagerly awaiting their first child, set to arrive in September 2024. As anticipation builds, a viral photo of their customized gift boxes has surfaced, sparking speculation about their contents. The couple is believed to be preparing these hampers for friends and family, possibly to reveal

the baby's gender. Deepika, in her final trimester, continues to enjoy outings, recently seen at a Mumbai restaurant in a vibrant green floral dress. The gift boxes' purpose remains unclear whether for a baby shower or an announcement but fans are excitedly waiting for the couple's joyous news.

Fashion

Triptii Dimri's lilac sharara set is the perfect minimalist choice

Triptii Dimri recently turned heads at an event for the re-release of Laila Majnu, wearing a breathtaking lilac sharara set. The outfit, perfect for those embracing minimalism this wedding season, featured a dupatta adorned with golden motifs that complemented the sharara's borders.



Trending on Insta



@malaikaaroraofficial

Malaika shared glimpse of her Paris vacation

Malaika Arora, on vacation in Paris, shared Instagram Stories featuring her visit to Napoleon's tomb at Les Invalides. Highlights included a portrait of Jesus from the Dome and a museum sword.

@bhumipednekar

Pednekar sisters enjoy auto-rickshaw ride in Jaipur

Bhumi Pednekar and her sister Samiksha are enjoying Jaipur, sharing their adventure via Instagram. Bhumi posted a video of their auto-rickshaw ride and cows on the road, plus a photo of Ram Bagh Palace.



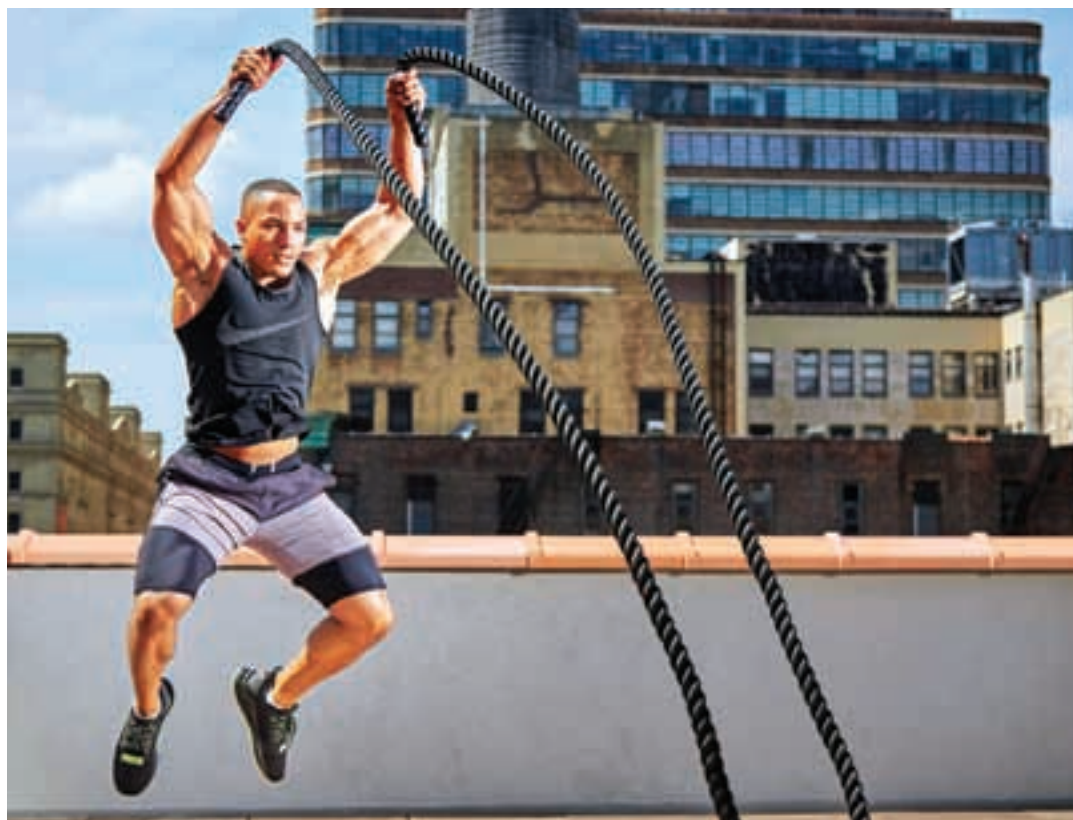


Wellness

ATHLETE'S RISK: SUDDEN WEIGHT LOSS

The Hidden Dangers of Quick Weight Loss in Sports

Weight is a crucial factor to make sure larger and bulkier athletes do not get a natural advantage over smaller ones and the competition remains fair.



The Hidden Dangers of Quick Weight Loss in Sports



HIGHLIGHT

● Athletes tend to restrict their food and fluid intake before weigh-ins and combine that with activities that induce sweating such as training or using a sauna.

reduce weight, dehydration severely impacts physical performance and increases the risk of heat-related illnesses, kidney problems, and electrolyte imbalances. These risks highlight why maintaining proper hydration is essential for optimal athletic performance.

Intense exercise regimens aimed at burning calories can also be harmful if not managed properly. Overtraining can lead to fatigue, muscle strain, and a higher susceptibility to injuries, undermining an athlete's ability to compete effectively. Phogat's disqualification serves as a crucial reminder of the dangers of extreme weight loss methods. It underscores the need for a balanced, health-focused approach to weight management, emphasizing the importance of sustainable practices and overall well-being in athletic training and competition.



Reconsider white butter for health benefits

If you've cut white butter from your diet, it might be time to rethink your choice. Often demonized for its fat content, white butter can actually be a nutritious addition to your meals when enjoyed in moderation. Packed with essential fatty acids and vitamins A, D, E, and K, it supports healthy skin, strong bones, and better nutrient absorption. Unlike many processed alternatives, white butter offers a natural source of healthy fats. So, rather than banishing it completely, consider reintroducing it in small amounts. Your taste buds and body might thank you for the boost in flavor and nutrients!



GOOD LIVING

Your home: Classic charm with a back to basics decor approach



Embracing a "back to basics" approach in home decor can rejuvenate your living space with timeless charm. This style focuses on simplicity, natural materials, and classic design elements. Think warm wooden furniture, cozy textiles like linen and wool, and muted color palettes that create a soothing atmosphere. Minimalist decorations and functional furnishings highlight quality over quantity, fostering a clutter-free environment. By prioritizing enduring pieces and sustainable materials, you not only enhance the aesthetic but also promote a more eco-friendly home.

| SELF-SILENCING |

The alarming rise of type 2 diabetes in Indian kids

Central Chronicle News

The connection between obesity and type 2 diabetes is a growing concern affecting our children's health. The rise in childhood obesity has contributed to an alarming increase in diabetes diagnoses among young individuals.

consume more processed, high-calorie foods and sugary beverages, while spending excessive time on screens and engaging in minimal physical activity. This combination of poor diet and sedentary habits leads to weight gain, which in turn increases the risk of developing Type 2 diabetes. The impact is significant. Children with Type 2 diabetes face severe health issues such as heart disease, kidney damage, and vision problems, which affect their overall quality of life. The emotional and financial burden on families is heavy, and the strain on the healthcare system grows as more resources are needed to manage the condition. A comprehensive approach is needed to tackle this grow-



Young faces confronting a rising health challenge

ing crisis. Schools should incorporate health and nutrition education into their curriculums, emphasizing the benefits of a balanced diet and regular exercise. Parents also play a crucial role; by setting positive examples and fostering healthy habits at home, they can help steer their children towards better lifestyle choices

HealthTips

HEALTHY AND DELICIOUS RECIPES FOR COMPLETE PROTEIN INTAKE

Mixed Vegetable Curry

Mixed Vegetable Curry

Mixed vegetables (carrots, peas, potatoes, beans), onion, tomato, garlic, ginger, turmeric, cumin seeds, coriander powder, salt, oil.

Instructions

Heat oil in a pan and sauté chopped onions, garlic, and ginger until golden. Add chopped tomatoes, turmeric, cumin seeds, and coriander powder, and cook until tomatoes are soft. Add chopped vegetables and salt, then pour in water and simmer until vegetables are tender. Serve with steamed rice or whole wheat roti.



Palak Paneer

Ingredients

Fresh spinach leaves (palak), paneer cubes, onion, tomato, garlic, ginger, cumin seeds, turmeric, coriander powder, salt, oil.

Instructions

Blanch spinach leaves and blend into a smooth paste. Heat oil in a pan and sauté chopped onions, garlic, and ginger until golden. Add chopped tomatoes, cumin seeds, turmeric, coriander powder, and salt, and cook until tomatoes are soft. Stir in the spinach paste and cook for a few minutes. Add paneer cubes and cook until heated through. Serve with whole wheat roti or rice.



Chana Masala

Ingredients

Chickpeas, onion, tomato, garlic, ginger, cumin seeds, coriander powder, turmeric, chili powder, salt, oil.

Instructions

Heat oil in a pan and sauté chopped onions, garlic, and ginger until golden. Add chopped tomatoes, cumin seeds, coriander powder, turmeric, chili powder, and salt, and cook until tomatoes are soft. Add cooked chickpeas and water, and simmer for 10 minutes. Serve with brown rice or whole wheat roti.



Vegetable Biryani

Ingredients

Basmati rice, mixed vegetables (carrots, peas, beans), onion, tomato, garlic, ginger, biryani spices, cumin seeds, salt, oil.

Instructions

Heat oil in a pan and sauté chopped onions, garlic, and ginger until golden. Add chopped tomatoes and biryani spices, and cook until tomatoes are soft. Stir in mixed vegetables and cook until tender. Add rinsed basmati rice and water, and cook until rice is fluffy and vegetables are well mixed. Serve with plain yogurt.



Rajma

Ingredients

Kidney beans, onion, tomato, garlic, ginger, cumin seeds, coriander powder, turmeric, chili powder, salt, oil.

Instructions

Heat oil in a pan and sauté chopped onions, garlic, and ginger until golden. Add chopped tomatoes, cumin seeds, coriander powder, turmeric, chili powder, and salt, and cook until tomatoes are soft. Add cooked kidney beans and water, and simmer for 10 minutes. Serve with steamed rice.



Vegetable Upma

Ingredients

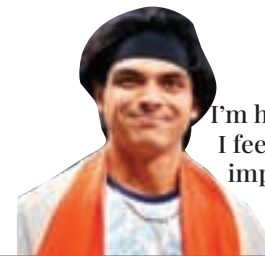
Semolina (rava), mixed vegetables (peas, carrots, beans), mustard seeds, curry leaves, green chilies, turmeric, salt, oil.

Instructions

Heat oil in a pan and add mustard seeds, curry leaves, and chopped green chilies. Sauté mixed vegetables until slightly tender. Stir in semolina and turmeric, and cook until the semolina is lightly toasted. Add water and salt, and cook until the mixture is well combined and the vegetables are cooked. Serve warm.



Sports



I'm happy with my strength, but I feel that if my throwing angle improves, I can throw better.

Neeraj Chopra
Javelin thrower

India has talent to find a replacement for me: Sreejesh

Sreejesh believes early pressure training is crucial for young Indian athletes' success.

Press Trust Of India

PR Sreejesh retires from hockey, confident India will find a worthy replacement.

PARIS: PR Sreejesh, the legendary goalkeeper of Indian hockey, recently announced his retirement after nearly two decades of exemplary service, during which he became known as the backbone of India's defense. The 36-year-old was instrumental in India's journey to securing a bronze medal at the Paris Olympics, including a critical 2-1 victory against Spain. Reflecting on his retirement, Sreejesh expressed confidence in India's ability to find a capable successor. "There won't be a vacuum. Someone will come in my place, for sure. All the sports are like that. Sachin Tendulkar was there and now there is Virat Kohli, and someone will take his place tomorrow. So, Sreejesh was there yesterday, but someone else will come and take his place tomorrow," he said.

Despite his confidence in the future of Indian hockey, Sreejesh admitted that stepping away from the game leaves him with uncertainty about what comes next. Having dedicated his life to hockey since 2002, he finds it challenging to



There is someone will take his place my place tomorrow. | Photo: PTI

HIGHLIGHT

● Sreejesh reflects on his two-decade hockey career and uncertain future.

imagine life outside the sport. The camaraderie with teammates, the shared joy of victories, and even the heartbreak of losses are elements of

his life that he will deeply miss.

Sreejesh has been offered a mentoring role with the Indian junior hockey team, but he remains undecided, preferring to consult with his family before making a commitment. Reflecting on India's performance at the Olympics, he acknowledged the

disappointment of losing to Germany in the semifinals but emphasized the importance of returning with a medal.

He also stressed the significance of preparing young athletes to handle the pressure of high-stakes tournaments like the Olympics. Sreejesh highlighted the potential

impact of the revived Hockey India League, viewing it as a critical platform for nurturing young talent and giving them exposure to international competition.

As Sreejesh embarks on the next chapter of his life, his contributions to Indian hockey will continue to inspire future generations.

Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

TORONTO TENNIS

Anisimova upsets 2nd-seeded Aryna Sabalenka to reach Toronto semis

TORONTO: Amanda Anisimova upset second-seeded Aryna Sabalenka 6-2, 6-2 to reach the National Bank Open semifinals, her first victory over a top-10 player in nearly two years. One of five U.S. quarterfinalists, the 22-year-old Anisimova took a mental-health break from tennis last year. She has two WTA Tour titles – in 2019 in Bogota and 2022 in Melbourne. "She's an amazing player, so it's always really tough playing against her," Anisimova said about Sabalenka, the Australian Open winner the last two years. Anisimova improved to 5-2 against Sabalenka after losing the previous two matchups. "I played her earlier this year at the Australian Open when she was on fire," Anisimova said. "I went in with a little bit of a different game plan, and I was really happy with how I was able to execute that today." **PTI**

PARIS GAMES

Boxer Lin Yu-ting wins gold, concludes Olympics filled with scrutiny



PARIS: Lin Yu-ting fought to remain poised and calm throughout the Paris Olympics boxing tournament, even when it seemed like most of the chattering world was maligning her, misrepresenting her and questioning the very nature of her being. The flyweight shut off her social media, kept up her training and focused on earning one proficient victory after another. But when she heard Taiwan's anthem while standing on the top podium at Roland Garros with a gold medal around her neck, Lin suddenly broke down in cathartic sobs. **PTI**

China's 300th Gold

China grab 300th Olympic gold medal with women's team victory in table tennis



PARIS: China won the women's team event in table tennis at the Paris Games on Saturday for the country's 300th gold medal in Olympic history.

China beat Japan 3-0 in the final for its fifth consecutive gold in the women's team event, a feat that the men had also achieved on Friday.

"Each of us went all out today and played every position well," No. 1-ranked Sun Yingsha said.

South Korea took the bronze with a

3-0 win over Germany, its first medal in the team event since the Beijing Games in 2008. China is the dominant force in table tennis, sweeping the five Olympic gold medals in Paris, with the other victories coming in the men's and women's singles tournaments and in the mixed doubles event. China has won 37 of the 42 gold medals awarded in table tennis since the sport was added to the Olympic program at Seoul in 1988. **PTI**

South Africa grab 154-run lead against West Indies

PORT OF SPAIN: South Africa put itself in position to play for a win after grabbing a 154-run lead in the first test against West Indies after a shortened fourth day but will need some help from the weather to avoid a draw. After rain washed out the first six hours of play Saturday, South Africa bowled out the hosts for 233 to grab a first-innings lead of 124 and then added 30 runs before stumps. West Indies resumed on 145-4 but gave up the last six wickets for just 60 runs to give the tourists hope of pushing for a victory – if the rain stays away on the final day. That included a run of four wickets for 19 runs as Jason Holder, Joshua Da Silva, Kavem Hodge and Gudakesh Motie all fell in quick succession to put West Indies on 192-8.

| BINDRA'S OLYMPIC LEGACY |

Abhinav Bindra honored with Olympic Order for Excellence

Press Trust Of India

Abhinav Bindra awarded Olympic Order for his distinguished contributions to the Olympic Movement.

PARIS: Indian shooting icon Abhinav Bindra was awarded the prestigious Olympic Order in recognition of his "distinguished contribution" to the Olympic movement.

Bindra, who became India's first-ever Olympic individual gold medalist in the 2008 Beijing Games with is top finish in 10m air rifle event, was conferred with the honour by the International Olympic Committee during its 142nd Session here on Saturday.



India's Olympic gold-medallist shooter Abhinav Bindra during an olympic ceremony. | Photo: PTI

"When I was a young boy, it was these Olympic rings, which gave meaning to my life," Bindra said. "And it was a privi-

lege to be able to pursue my Olympic dream for over two decades. Post my athletic career, it has been a great passion of

FACTFILE

● Bindra became India's first Olympic gold medalist in 2008, inspiring future generations.

● The Olympic Order recognizes Bindra's ongoing dedication to promoting the Olympic values globally.

mine to try and contribute back to the Olympic Movement. It has been a privilege and an honour," he added.

The 41-year-old, who is also the vice chair of the IOC Athletes' Commission, said the award will inspire him to continue to work even harder and keep contributing to the Olympic Movement.

| MARTA'S FINAL FAREWELL |

Marta's final Olympic quest falls short of gold

Press Trust Of India

I gave everything for my country, but the elusive Olympic gold remains out of reach.

Marta
Brazil footballer



flag-bearer for the women's game – a 1-0 defeat to the United States in the Olympic final consigning her to silver once again.

It will have been an all-too familiar feeling for the six-time world player of the year. The U.S. has proved a frequent roadblock to her international ambitions. Add Paris 2024 to Athens 2004 and Beijing 2008. On all three

occasions Marta and Brazil were beaten to gold by the Americans. Three silvers are the pinnacle of her achievements in international soccer, along with a runner-up medal at the 2007 World Cup. For all her brilliance – scoring a record 119 goals for her country – she never managed to deliver a major international title.

MONTREAL TENNIS

Rublev beats defending champion Sinner to reach Montreal semifinals

MONTREAL: Fifth-seeded Andrey Rublev outlasted top-seeded defending champion Jannik Sinner 6-3, 1-6, 6-2 to reach the semifinals in the rain-delayed National Bank Open. Rublev beat Brandon Nakashima 6-2, 6-2 earlier on Saturday, while Sinner also was playing his second match of the day after topping beat Alejandro Tabilo 6-4, 6-3 in the afternoon. Rain washed out play Thursday night and all of Friday as remnants of Tropical Storm Debby rolled through, putting the event set to end Monday behind schedule. Sinner missed the Olympics because of tonsillitis after a quarterfinal loss at Wimbledon. In January, the Italian star won the Australian Open final for his first Grand Slam title. In the late match, Kei Nishikori faced Matteo Arnaldi for a semifinal spot opposite Rublev, the 26-year-old Russian with victories this year in Madrid and Hong Kong. The other two quarterfinals were pushed back to Sunday. **PTI**

GOLF

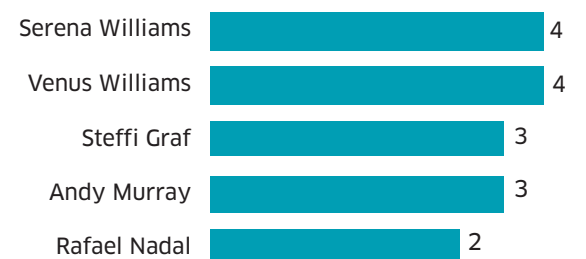
Aditi vows to be back after finishing T-29; Lydia wins gold



PARIS: Aditi Ashok did not come anywhere close to a medal as she did three years back in Tokyo, but the 26-year-old displayed her best game on the final day of the Olympic women's golf competition, firing seven birdies to finish tied-29th here on Saturday. Aditi, who had finished fourth at the Tokyo Olympics, shot a 4-under 68 in the 60-player field at the challenging Le Golf National. With rounds of 72-71-79-68 over four days, Aditi tallied 2-over 290, which was a far cry from the 15-under she carded in Tokyo. Diksha Dagar had another forgettable day after the 80 in the third round as she shot 78 to finish with a total of 13-over 301. **PTI**

The Day's NUMBERS

TOP 5 OLYMPIC MEDALISTS IN TENNIS



Source: Olympic.org



India's Olympic saga: Glory and heartbreak

India's performance at the Paris Olympics was a mix of triumph and heartbreak. While athletes like Manu Bhaker and Neeraj Chopra shined, others faced near misses, leaving the nation with a bittersweet experience.

Press Trust Of India

India's Olympic journey in Paris: Moments of glory overshadowed by heartbreaks and near misses.

PARIS: The soul-crushing disqualification of Vinesh Phogat scuttled what could have been the greatest comeback at the biggest stage, a silver medal felt like an under-achievement, a surprise double from shooter Manu Bhaker provided both joy and hope and six fourth-place finishes caused a lingering pain - India experienced a weal and woe show at the Paris Games.

A double-digit medal tally seemed over ambitious in the beginning but near misses have triggered thoughts of 'what if'.

What if shuttler Lakshya Sen had not suffered an inexplicable meltdown in the bronze play-off, what if archer Deepika Kumari had not fluffed that one shot against Korea in the quarter-final and what if Mirabai Chhanu had lifted just one more kilogram?

No one expected that Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty will leave the Porte de Chapelle Arena without a medal in their necks. No one had also expected that unheralded Swapnil Kusale would end the wait for a skeet medal. Six medals from a 117-strong

contingent is not ideal but India had its moments of joy, hope, frustration, and heartache. India could not match Tokyo tally of seven medals. Had six fourth-place finishes turned into medals, a double-digit tally was possible.

Hockey's big joy

There were question marks over the men's hockey team's ability to deliver a second consecutive medal at Olympics. The team could not better the colour of medal won in Tokyo but the way it beat Australia, fought against Belgium and soaked the pressure against Germany and Britain, it speaks volumes of how this bunch, led by Harmanpreet Singh, has toughened

HIGHLIGHT

● **Vinesh Phogat's disqualification ended her Olympic dream, leaving an unhealable scar on her career.**

● **Neeraj Chopra's silver in javelin felt like a defeat, overshadowed by Pakistan's Arshad Nadeem.**

mentally. They entered the competition like an underdog but played like champions, avowing that the national game's glory days are back. The stage was perfect for the much-loved warhorse PR Sreejesh to walk into sunset, having played a crucial role in the revival of



Paris Olympics bronze medal-winning Indian hockey team's goalkeeper PR Sreejesh poses for photos near the Eiffel Tower, in Paris, France.

the game that was struggling to regain its identity before the Tokyo bronze. Sreejesh was not the only one to end his India career, Paris Games was the last Olympics for tennis player Rohan Bopanna and TT

player Sharath Kamal. There is a possibility that legendary shuttler PV Sindhu may not be competing at 2028 Olympics. **Boxers disappoint, Aman salvages wrestling campaign** None of the boxers

could make the medal round but the defeat of Nishant Dev will rankle the most. Nikhat Zareen, another contender, also left in tears. Aman Sehrawat, though, ensured that contact sport would deliver

Vinesh's soul-scarring Paris Games

Fate was kind enough for Sreejesh to have a befitting farewell, but wrestler Vinesh Phogat leaves the stage after receiving an unhealable scar on her soul. One can suffer a meek defeat and a brave defeat after an intense fight but in her case, she lost despite winning. It was not a question of ability, or of skill, it was a technicality that robbed her of a medal. If there is one Indian woman wrestler who deserved an Olympic medal it was Vinesh, who had already stamped her authority with a consistent title and medal winning run over the year. Neither the tumultuous build-up, nor invincible Yui Susaki could spoil her comeback but her own 100kg bodyweight would. She announced retirement from the sport after the incident and is awaiting a decision on her appeal against the disqualification.



Shooters finally deliver

Led by young Manu Bhaker, the shooters' performance was the saving grace for India as three of the six medals came from shooting. It will not be an exaggeration to say that the 22-year-old Bhaker salvaged India's pride with her unprecedented twin-medal show. She joined forces with Sarabjot Singh to win one more bronze in mixed team 10m air pistol event.



Neeraj's silver: Dreams dashed

Neeraj fuelled India's hopes for one more gold when he topped the qualification with his season-best effort of 89.45m. Neeraj was primed for title defence despite a niggling adductor issue. However, Pakistan's Arshad Nadeem came up with a staggering 92.97m throw that literally killed the competition. Neeraj could not find a throw better than 89.34m.



a medal. The lone Indian male wrestler in the squad lived up to expectations. If he could replace Ravi Dahiya in the competitive 57kg category, it was for a reason and he proved. Wrestling delivered a medal for the fifth consecutive time. The most disappointing was Antim

Panghal and Anshu Malik. Their fitness was always under doubt and their performances showed they were not prepared for the big challenge. **History, promise for future** Paddlers Manika Batra and Sreeja Akula exceeded expectations by

making the quarterfinals in the individual event for the first time. Lakshya Sen may have missed out on a bronze in badminton and wrestler Reetika Hooda could not make the medal round but they showed they have in them the ability to excel at the big stage.

LOS ANGELES OLYMPICS |

Ponting welcomes cricket's return to Olympics 2028

Press Trust Of India

Ricky Ponting celebrates cricket's return to the Olympics in 2028, highlighting its global potential.

DUBAI: Former Australian cricket captain Ricky Ponting is enthusiastic about cricket's return to the Olympics in the 2028 Los Angeles Games. The sport will make its Olympic comeback after 128 years, last featured in 1900 when Great Britain won gold. Ponting sees this as a significant positive for cricket, especially in expanding its reach to new audiences, particularly in the United States.

Ponting noted that the inclusion of cricket in the Olympics has been a long-discussed goal and



Ricky Ponting with Rishabh Pant | Photo: PTI

HIGHLIGHT

● **Ponting emphasizes the Olympic Games as a major opportunity to introduce cricket to new audiences.**

is thrilled it's finally happening. He believes the global exposure from the Olympics could help grow the sport at the grassroots level in the US and

beyond. However, Ponting also pointed out the challenges ahead, such as ensuring proper facilities and infrastructure, particularly given the issues seen during the T20 World Cup in the US. He is also excited about the potential to mentor the Australian team at the Olympics, though he acknowledges strong competition for the role.

Sifan Hassan wins women's marathon

PARIS: Sifan Hassan traded elbows with Tigst Assefa with 150 meters left in the women's marathon, then passed her along the railing to win the race for her third distance medal of the Paris Games on Sunday. Hassan finished in an Olympic record time of 2 hours, 22 minutes, 55 seconds. She also won bronze in the 5,000 and 10,000. She ran more than 62 kilometres. In Tokyo, Hassan won the 5,000 and 10,000 and finished third in the 1,500. Assefa got silver, and Kenya's Hellen Obiri took the bronze. Breaking tradition, the women's Olympic marathon was held on the final day instead of the men's race. Hassan, an Ethiopian-born racer who runs for the Netherlands, used the same tactic in the hilly, 26.2-mile course as on the oval.

'It's a dream to compete with international stars in India'

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Neeraj Chopra expresses his dream to compete against international stars on Indian soil.

NEW DELHI: Star javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra recently shared his dream of competing against top international athletes in India. After securing a silver medal at the Paris Olympics with a throw of 89.45m, finishing behind Pakistan's Arshad Nadeem, who set an Olympic record with 92.97m, Chopra hopes to bring high-profile javelin competitions to India. Competing alongside athletes like Anderson Peters, Julian Webber, Jakub Vadlejch, and Julius Yego, Chopra now looks



Neeraj Chopra with Pakistan's Arshad Nadeem (C), Bronze medalist Grenada's Anderson Peters. | Photo: PTI

forward to showcasing such talent on home ground.

"It's a dream of mine to compete with other international stars in India. Hopefully, there will be an international competition soon in India and I can do that," Chopra said during an

interactive session with fans organized by Olympics.com.

Despite his success, Chopra remains focused on refining his technique. "I hope to improve upon a couple of areas, especially the line of the javelin. You know, the correct angle of throwing so

HIGHLIGHT

● **Neeraj Chopra aims to improve his javelin technique for more powerful throws.**

● **Chopra's mother, a simple rural woman, shared heartfelt messages on social media.**

that I get more power in my throw."

He also reflected on his physical challenges during the Paris Games. "The body conditions (of his) were tough. But when Arshad made that throw...I was able to hit my season's best."

Chopra's mother, a simple rural woman, shared heartfelt messages on social media, speaking from her heart.

RESILIENCE THROUGH UNITY |

Rohidas: Thankful for team support during red card incident

Press Trust Of India

PARIS: Amit Rohidas, the Indian men's hockey team's defensive stalwart, recently reflected on the emotional rollercoaster he experienced after receiving a red card during the quarter-final match against Great Britain at the Paris Olympics. The incident, which occurred in the 17th minute when Rohidas' swinging stick inadvertently struck a British forward, resulted in India playing with 10

men for the remainder of the match and led to his suspension for the crucial semi-final against Germany.

Despite the setback, the Indian team rallied together, securing a record-extending 13th Olympic hockey medal with a bronze. Rohidas expressed immense gratitude for his teammates, who never made him feel ostracized or sidelined during this challenging time. "The whole country and my teammates were



with me. Emotionally, they never let me feel like an outsider," Rohidas said.

Reflecting on the incident, Rohidas acknowledged the referee's decision as part of the game, emphasizing that it wasn't intentional. He praised goalkeeper PR Sreejesh's heroic performance, which helped India overcome the numerical disadvantage and secure a place in the semi-finals. Although India narrowly lost to Germany, Rohidas took pride in the team's

resilience, particularly their historic victory over Australia.

As the team moves forward without veteran goalkeeper Sreejesh, who retired after the tournament, Rohidas remains optimistic about the future. He emphasized the collective leadership within the team, where every player contributes to the decision-making process, underscoring the unity and strength that have become hallmarks of Indian hockey.

Jordan Chiles to return Olympic bronze medal

Press Trust Of India

PARIS: American gymnast Jordan Chiles must return the bronze medal she won in the Paris Olympics floor exercise after sport's highest court said her score was judged improperly, the International Olympic Committee confirmed Sunday.

The IOC announced early Sunday it was re-allocating the bronze from Monday's women's floor final to Romanian Ana Barbosu after the International Gymnastics Feder-

ation (FIG) said Saturday night it would respect the court's decision and elevate Barbosu to third.

The decision came less than 24 hours after the Court of Arbitration for Sport voided a scoring appeal made by Team USA coach Cecile Landi during the competition that had vaulted Chiles onto the podium.

CAS ruled Saturday that the on-floor appeal by Landi to have 0.1 added to Chiles' score came outside the 1-minute window allowed by the FIG.



Maldives key partner for India in Indian Ocean region

S Jaishankar
External Affairs
Minister, India



Displaced Palestinians make their way as they flee Hamad City following an Israeli evacuation order, amid Israel-Hamas conflict, in Khan Younis in the southern Gaza Strip. | Photo: PTI

Israel broadens evacuation orders after strike on Gaza

Israel has repeatedly ordered mass evacuations as its troops have returned to heavily destroyed areas where they had previously battled Palestinian militants.

Press Trust Of India

DEIR AL-BALAH: The Israeli military ordered more evacuations in southern Gaza early Sunday after a deadly airstrike on a school-turned-shelter in the north killed at least 80 Palestinians, according to local health authorities. Israel said it targeted a militant command post, killing 19 fighters.

Israel has repeatedly ordered mass evacuations as its troops have returned to heavily destroyed areas where they had previously battled Palestinian militants. The vast majority

of Gaza's population of 2.3 million people have been displaced by the 10-month-old war, often multiple times.

Hundreds of thousands have crammed into squalid tent camps with few public services or sought shelter in schools like the one struck on Saturday. Palestinians say nowhere in the besieged territory feels safe.

The latest evacuation orders apply to areas in Khan Younis, including part of an Israeli-declared humanitarian zone from which the military said rockets had been fired. Israel accuses Hamas and other militants of hid-

HIGHLIGHT

- Hundreds of thousands have crammed into squalid tent camps with few public services or sought shelter in schools like the one struck on Saturday.

- Khan Younis, Gaza's second-largest city, suffered widespread destruction during an air and ground offensive earlier this year.

ing among civilians and launching attacks from residential areas.

Khan Younis, Gaza's second-largest city,

suffered widespread destruction during an air and ground offensive earlier this year. Tens of thousands fled again last week after an earlier evacuation order. Hundreds of families carrying their belongings in their arms left their homes and shelters early Sunday, seeking elusive refuge.

"We don't know where to go," said Amal Abu Yahia, a mother of three, who had returned to Khan Younis in June to shelter in their severely damaged home. "This is my fourth displacement," said the 42-year-old widow, whose husband was killed when

an Israeli airstrike hit their neighbours' house in March. She said they went to Muwasi, a sprawling tent camp along the coast, but could not find any space.

Ramadan Issa, a father of five in his 50s, fled Khan Younis with 17 members of his extended family, joining hundreds of people walking toward central Gaza early Sunday. "Every time we settle in one place and build tents for women and children, the occupation comes and bombs the area," he said, referring to Israel. "This situation is unbearable."

Gaza's Health Ministry

B'desh govt warns media shutdown for misleading news

DHAKA: Bangladesh's interim government on Sunday issued a stern warning to media organisations, stating that they will be shut down if they publish or broadcast false or misleading news, in a move aimed at curbing the spread of misinformation.

"A nation falters when the media does not uphold the truth," the interim government's Home Affairs Adviser, Brigadier General (ret'd) M Sakhawat Hossain, said during his visit to injured policemen at Rajarbagh Central Police Hospital.

India, Nepal discuss ways to strengthen bilateral ties

Press Trust Of India

Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri on Sunday met with Nepal's top leadership and discussed ways to provide an impetus to various sectors of bilateral cooperation.

KATHMANDU: Misri, who is here on a two-day visit at the invitation of his Nepalese counterpart Sewa Lamsal, paid a courtesy call on President Ramchandra Paudel at the president's office Sheetalniwas in Kathmandu.

"While conveying



Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri meets Prime Minister of Nepal Khadga Prasad Sharma Oli, in Kathmandu, Nepal.

greetings of the Indian leadership, he discussed ways to further strengthen India-Nepal ties across all sectors," the Indian Embassy in Nepal said in a post on X.

Misri also called on Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli at his office at Singhdurbar.

"Foreign Secretary reaffirmed India & Nepal's civilizational, close and

FASTFACTS

- Foreign Secretary reaffirmed India & Nepal's civilizational, close and multifaceted relationship & discussed ways to provide an impetus to various sectors of bilateral cooperation.

multifaceted relationship & discussed ways to provide an impetus to various sectors of bilateral cooperation," the mission said in another post. Foreign Secretary Sewa Lamsal was also present on the occasion.

Schoolchildren to be trained in spotting fake news after UK riots

LONDON: Schoolchildren will be taught how to spot extremist content and fake news online under proposed changes to the curriculum in the wake of far-right riots across UK cities fuelled by misinformation on social media.

UK Education Secretary Bridget Phillipson told "The Daily Telegraph" on Sunday that she is launching a review of the curriculum in both primary and secondary schools to embed critical thinking across multiple subjects and arm children against "putrid conspiracy theories". It means schoolchildren may

analyse articles in English lessons to help learn how to weed out fabricated clickbait from accurate reporting. "It's more important than ever that we give young people the knowledge and skills to be able to challenge what they see online," Phillipson told the newspaper.

"That's why our curriculum review will develop plans to embed critical skills in lessons to arm our children against the disinformation, fake news and putrid conspiracy theories awash on social media," she said. "Our renewed curriculum will always put

high and rising standards in core subjects first - that's non-negotiable.

8 dead after landfill site collapses

KAMPALA: At least eight people are dead after a landfill collapsed in the capital, according to authorities in Uganda's capital. At least 14 others were injured when the Kiteezi landfill, which serves as a waste disposal site for much of Kampala, collapsed late Friday.

Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

PAK MINORITIES

Pak's top civil and military leadership vow to protect rights of minorities

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's top civil and military leadership on Sunday vowed to protect the rights and religious freedoms of minorities, urging all segments of the society to work for promoting interfaith harmony, the spirit of love, tolerance, brotherhood and unity.

In 2009, Pakistan declared August 11 as the National Minorities Day to honour the historic speech made by its founder M A Jinnah who on August 11, 1947, promised to protect their rights. President Asif Ali Zardari in his message said that minorities in Pakistan enjoy all political, economic and social rights which have been guaranteed by the Constitution, according to state-run Radio Pakistan.

"We reaffirm our commitment to the promise made by Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, on 11th August 1947, to the country's minorities to protect their rights and religious freedoms," Zardari said, adding the government was taking several steps for the political, social and economic empowerment of minorities. **PTI**

RUSSIA UKRAINE WAR

Zelenskyy indirectly confirms daring military incursion onto Russian soil



KYIV: Days after Ukraine began a surprise military incursion into Russia's Kursk border region, Zelenskyy broke the government's silence on it late Saturday by indirectly acknowledging ongoing military actions to "push the war out into the aggressor's territory" in his nightly address.

Overnight into Sunday, a Russian drone and missile barrage on Kyiv killed two people including a 4-year-old boy. In Russia, Kursk's regional governor said that a Ukrainian missile shot down by Russian air defences fell on a residential building, wounding 13 people. **PTI**

Maryland house levelled after apparent blast

BEL AIR (US): Firefighters in Maryland were searching for possible victims on Sunday after a house apparently exploded in a town northeast of Baltimore.

The Harford County Fire and EMS posted on Facebook that there was no ongoing threat to the public from the apparent blast that levelled a home in Bel Air, about 30 miles (48 kilometers) northeast of Baltimore.

A photo posted by county officials showed a number of firefighters around the rubble of one home with another damaged home in the background. Charred pieces of wood were heaped on the property, and insulation and splintered wood spilled out into the street. It was not immediately clear if there were injuries.

RUSSIA UKRAINE WAR

2 killed in Russian attacks on Kyiv region, including 4-year old boy

KYIV: Two people were killed, including a four-year old boy, in a Russian drone and missile barrage on the Kyiv region overnight into Sunday, while in Russia the regional governor of Kursk said 13 people were wounded when a Ukrainian missile shot down by Russian air defences fell on a residential building.

The bodies of a 35-year old man and his son were found under rubble after fragments of missiles fell on a residential area in Kyiv's suburban Brovary district, according to Ukraine's State Emergency Service. Another three people in the district were also injured in the attack. The attacks come as Ukraine's surprise military incursion into Russia's Kursk border region enters its sixth day. The border raid, which was indirectly acknowledged by Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy for the first time on Saturday, is unprecedented for its use of Ukrainian military units on Russian soil. The exact aims of the operation remain unclear and Ukrainian military officials have adopted a policy of secrecy, presumably to ensure its success. **PTI**

