



BRIEF



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi rides a scooter with a food delivery man, in Bengaluru, Sunday.

Chat

Bengaluru: Keeping in view the hardship of delivery persons, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Sunday reiterated his party's promise to set up a Gig Workers' Welfare Board in Karnataka with a corpus fund of Rs 3,000 crore and minimum hourly wages for them. Gandhi spoke about the promise once again during an interaction with gig workers and delivery persons of various companies here in poll-bound Karnataka.

Body

Medinaga: The body of a 35-year-old India Reserve Battalion (IRB) jawan was recovered from the veranda of a high school in Jharkhand's Palamu district on Sunday morning, police said. The jawan, identified as Mandeep Kumar Gupta, was a resident of Purvadih village under the Chainpur Police Station limits and was posted at Banalat in Gumla district, a senior officer said.

Major exercise

Chandigarh: The Army will be conducting a major exercise in western Punjab this month to validate the offensive capability of its formations, according to a statement issued here on Sunday. "The exercise is planned to validate offensive capability of formations post rebalancing, test efficacy of latest inductions, upgraded weapons and equipment; and also test the enhanced force ratios accrued of forces on the entire Western Front as part of the proactive strategy," it said.

Stabbed

New Delhi: Two brothers were arrested and a juvenile was apprehended for allegedly stabbing a man to death in outer Delhi's Mangolpuri area on Sunday, police said. The accused have been identified as Jatin (20) and Mohit (19), they said, adding the incident happened in the early hours of the day. Police said a scuffle broke out between victim Jitender (28) and four others following which they stabbed him.

Merge

Shillong: The People's Democratic Front (PDF), along with its two MLAs, has merged with the ruling National People's Party in Meghalaya, increasing its tally to 28 in the 60-member assembly. The merger came a few days ahead of the May 10 Sohiong assembly bypoll. All rank and file of the PDF, led by party president Gavin Myllem and working president Banteidor Lyngdoh, joined the ruling NPP on Saturday evening.

Weather
High 37 Low 27

ED ALLEGATIONS

'Rs 2,000-cr liquor scam in Chh'garh

Names IAS officer Tuteja as kingpin

Raipur, May 07:

The Enforcement Directorate has alleged that Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer Anil Tuteja was the "kingpin" of an illegal liquor syndicate in Chhattisgarh along with liquor businessman Anwar Dhebar and the corruption money was also used for electioneering.

The ED said its investigation also revealed that from 2019 to 2022, the sale of "unaccounted illicit" liquor was almost 30-40 per cent of the total liquor sale in the state.

In its application filed in a special court in Raipur on Saturday seeking remand of liquor businessman Anwar Dhebar, the ED said there was a massive liquor trade scam in Chhattisgarh by a syndicate comprising high-level state government officials, private persons and political executives that gener-



ated corruption money of more than Rs 2,000 crore.

Anwar is the elder brother of Congress leader and Raipur Mayor Aijaz Dhebar. Tuteja, a 2003 batch IAS officer, is currently posted as the joint secretary in state's industry and commerce department.

The ED arrested Anwar Dhebar on Saturday. The special Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) court subsequently sent him in four-day custody of the ED.

The agency filed a case last year against Tuteja and others to investigate

ED FINDINGS.....

In its application filed in a special court in Raipur on Saturday seeking remand of liquor businessman Anwar Dhebar, the ED said there was a massive liquor trade scam in Chhattisgarh by a syndicate comprising high-level state government officials, private persons and political executives that generated corruption money of more than Rs 2,000 crore. A criminal syndicate was operating in Chhattisgarh which was making illegal bribe collections by controlling the high-level management of key state departments, particularly the excise department (that deals in liquor), and state public sector undertakings (PSUs), the ED claimed.

the matter under the PMLA on the basis of prosecution complaint (charge sheet) filed by the Income Tax Department in a Delhi court against Tuteja and others, it said.

A criminal syndicate was operating in Chhattisgarh which was making illegal bribe collections by controlling the high-level management of key state departments, particularly the excise department (that deals in liquor), and state public sector undertakings (PSUs), the ED claimed.

"The syndicate comprised of high-level state

government officials, private persons and political executives of the state government. Tuteja was managing the affairs and was the kingpin of this illegal syndicate along with Anwar," it alleged.

"Huge amount of corruption was happening in the excise department and hundreds of crores of cash was being collected from every possible point of access in a distributed hierarchical manner. The syndicate, after keeping its cut, passed on the final loot for the benefit of political executives and for electioneering..." it said.

Anwar was the main collection agent and front man of this syndicate. There is specific digital evidence depicting delivery of Rs 14.41 crore by Anwar to Tuteja, the ED claimed.

The agency's application said the syndicate collected illegal money in three different ways from the sale of liquor in Chhattisgarh.

These included illegal commission charged from liquor suppliers for accounted its sale in the state, sale of off-the-record unaccounted country liquor (popular in Chhattisgarh) from state run shops and annual commission paid to allow distillers to operate in the state, it said.

The excise policy in the state was amended in 2017 and the Chhattisgarh State Marketing Corporation Limited (CSMCL) was thus created with the responsibility to retail liquor in the state through its stores.

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Two Maoists killed in exchange of fire with police

On Telangana-Chhattisgarh border

Hyderabad, May 07 (PTI): Two Maoists were killed after an exchange of fire with the police in a forest area of Bhadrachalam district of Telangana bordering Chhattisgarh on Sunday, police said. According to the police, based on reliable information that one action team of the banned outfit CPI (Maoist) was moving in Puttapadu forests with a view to at-

tack police, special police parties took up combing in the area, when the ultras fired on police personnel. There was an exchange of fire between cops and the Maoists, after which police conducted searches in the area during which the bodies of two of the ultras were found from the scene, the police said. One of the deceased was identified as Cherala LOS (local organisation squad) commander Rajesh while the identity of the other was being ascertained, the police added.

'Centre ready for talks on Manipur unrest'

Hyderabad, May 07 (PTI): Requesting the warring groups in Manipur to maintain peace, Union Minister for Development of North Eastern Region G Kishan Reddy on Sunday said the Central government was ready for talks and settle the issue.



Naga and Kuki tribes who are inhabitants of the hill districts, over the demand of the former for Scheduled Tribe status. Life started limping back to normalcy under the watchful eyes of army drones and helicopters deployed for aerial reconnaissance as curfew was relaxed on Sunday in parts of Manipur.

Stating that the Centre was not adamant when it came to people's welfare, Reddy said that it even withdrew three Farm Laws when agriculturists demanded the repeal of the controversial regulations. Riots broke out in Manipur between the Meitei community, which mainly live in Imphal Valley, and the

Committee gives May 21 deadline

WRESTLERS UNREST

New Delhi, May 07 (PTI): The 31-member committee that is advising the protesting wrestlers on Sunday said if WFI chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh is not arrested by May 21, it will take a "significant decision", even as Vinesh Phogat insisted that their protest has not been hijacked by farmers. Bhartiya Kisan Union (BKU) spokesperson Rakesh Tikait, Khap Maham 24 chief Mehar Singh and Sankyu Kisma Morcha's (non-political) Baldev Singh Sirsa joined the wrestlers on the dias and addressed the media. "Many leaders from Khap panchayat and SKM



Wrestler Vinesh Phogat along with farmer leaders Mehar Singh and Baldev Singh Sirsa speaks with the media during wrestlers' protest at Jantar Mantar, in New Delhi, Sunday.

attended the meeting today. We decided that members from every khap will come to the protest site every day. They will stay here during the day and return by the

evening," Tikait said before a huge gathering. "The wrestlers' committee will take care of the protest and we will support the wrestlers from outside. We have sched-

Wait for probe report: WFI Chief

Gonda: With the Samyukta Kisan Morcha extending support to the wrestlers' protest against him, Wrestling Federation of India chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh has urged farmer leaders not to make the "mistake" and instead wait for the outcome of the probe into the allegations of sexual harassment made by the grapplers.

For arrest of Brij Bhushan

lem, the entire nation stands behind them." There has been a heavy deployment of Rapid Action Force (RAF) at the protest site with many khap leaders and farmers joining the aggrieved farmers, clad in dhoti-kurtas, and numbering in hundreds were seen at the protest site on Sunday as a 'Mahapanchayat' discussed the next move on behalf of the wrestlers. The scenes were similar to the farmers' protest that continued for 13 months until the government repealed the law.

RUN FOR SHELTER



Women with their kids look for a shelter during heavy rain in Nagpur, Sunday.

Four Naxalites held, three minors detained

Dantewada, May 07: Four Naxalites have been arrested and three teenage boys detained for their alleged role in triggering an IED blast that killed 10 District Reserve Guard (DRG) jawans and a driver in Dantewada district of Chhattisgarh on April 26, a police officer said on Sunday. The four Naxalites are identified as Budhra Madvi, Jitendra Muchaki, Hidma Madkam, and Hidma Madvi- all militia members of the Malanger Area Committee under the Darbha division of the banned CPI (Maoist), he said. Madvi, Muchaki and Hidma Madkam were

nabbed on Friday while Hidma Madvi was held on Sunday. Three teenage boys aged between 15 and 17 years have been detained for their alleged involvement in the incident, the officer said, adding the detained trio was active as "Bal Sangham" members. A court remanded the four Naxalites to jail while the minors were sent to a juvenile home, he added. Further investigation is underway. In the biggest strike on security forces in Chhattisgarh in the last two years, Naxalites on April 26 blew up a vehicle carrying jawans in Dantewada district using an IED, leaving ten police personnel and a civilian driver dead.

PM IN LAST CAMPAIGN RALLY 'Cong talking about 'separating' K'taka from India'

Nanjangud (K'taka), May 07 (PTI): In a blistering attack on the Congress during his last campaign rally ahead of the May 10 Assembly polls, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday accused the party of openly advocating for "separating" Karnataka from India. He alleged that the "disease" of the "tukde-tukde gang" had reached the Congress's top level. "When it comes to working against India's interests, Congress's 'royal family' will be at the forefront. I want to speak about a serious issue here, I want to say it as there is a lot of pain in



PM Narendra Modi during a roadshow ahead of Karnataka Assembly elections, in Bengaluru, Sunday.

my heart. This country can never forgive such a game. This family, to influence the politics in the country, is encouraging foreign forces to interfere," Modi claimed. Addressing the public meeting here in Mysuru district, he accused Congress leaders of se-

cretly meeting foreign diplomats who hate India, repeatedly indulging in activities that insult India's sovereignty and said they were not ashamed of it. Stating that in this Karnataka election, Congress's 'shahi parivar' had gone a step ahead "breaking all the limits and crushing the feelings of the country", Modi said, "not only Karnataka, I want to tell this to the entire country with lot of pain that in this election Congress's 'shahi parivar' yesterday came to Karnataka and said that they want to protect the "sovereignty" of Karnataka.

GEHLOT'S SENSATIONAL REVELATION 'Raje, 2 other BJP leaders helped save my govt'

During 2020 rebellion by Cong MLAs

Dholpur (Rajasthan), May 07 (PTI): Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot on Sunday claimed Vasundhara Raje and two other BJP leaders had helped save his government during the 2020 revolt by his party MLAs. He also took potshots at the rebel Congress MLAs saying they should return the money they had taken from the BJP so that they can carry out their duty without any pressure. Gehlot's then deputy Sachin Pilot and 18 other Congress MLAs had revolted against his leadership

Raje denies.....

A few days ago, Raje had rejected allegations of collusion with Gehlot as lie, saying milk and lemon juice never mix. Meghwal and MLA Shobharani Kushwah. "Union ministers Amit Shah, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat and Dharmendra Pradhan conspired together to topple my government. They distributed money in Rajasthan and they are not taking the money back now. I am surprised why they are not demanding the money back from them (the MLAs)," he claimed.

'BJP got vote in name of religion and came to power'

Bengaluru, May 07 (PTI): With just three days to go for the Karnataka assembly elections, senior Congress leader and Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel came down heavily on the BJP on Sunday, saying it got votes in the name of religion and came to power. "The BJP does not have a vision. While unemployment and inflation are at their peak, its leaders are busy talking about religion. They got votes in the name of religion and came to power," he charged. Baghel was in Karnataka to campaign for his party's candidates. He also took a swipe at the BJP over alleged corruption under its rule in Karnataka. Accusing former deputy chief minister K S Eshwarappa of corruption, Baghel said, "Since Eshwarappa



ji was caught and the matter became public. People have decided that this is a 40 per cent commission government and they have to remove it.... This is public money that the BJP is stealing...." The Congress has accused the BJP dispensation in Karnataka of engaging in rampant corruption and "taking 40 per cent commission in all kinds of work done by the government".

Notorious thieves of neighbouring states arrested

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, May 07: With the arrest of two notorious thieves, police claimed to have solved five cases of thefts which occurred in different police station areas of the district. The accused conducted recce by roaming around on bicycle and finding out the locked houses. Cops managed to reach the vicinity of their hideout by following the CCTV footage.

Police recovered cash Rs 12000, silver coins, pieces of gold jewellery and the bicycle used in the incident. It was a joint action of Anti Crime and Cyber Unit Durg, Police Station Supela and Police Station Padmanabhpur.

Taking a serious note over the frequent theft incidents, Superintendent of Police Dr Abhishek Pallava had directed his subordinates to trace the

thieves and ensure maximum recovery of the stolen booty.

Under the guidance of Additional Superintendent of Police (City) Sanjay Dhruv, City Superintendent of Police (Bhilai Nagar) Nikhil Rakhecha (IPS), C i t y Superintendent of Police (Durg) Vaibhav Ramanlal Banker (IPS) and Deputy Superintendent of Police (Crime) Rajeev Sharma, a joint team of ACCU, PS Supela and PS Padmanabhpur was constituted. Inspector Santosh Mishra (I/c ACCU), SHO Supela Inspector Durgesh Sharma and SHO Padmanabhpur Inspector Rajeev Tiwari led the joint team.

The team started moni-



toring the suspects and efforts were made to find out the people involved in thefts by interrogating habitual criminals and criminals released from jail. The network of informers was also activated. CCTV cameras of the places near the crime scenes were examined.

The team found some suspects in the footage

after which the pics and short videos of the suspects were shared on social media to find out the details of the suspects.

Police examined the CCTV footage of Adarsh Nagar area where a major theft occurred recently. Police chased the suspects with the help of footage from different areas and reached a bicycle repair

shop in Power House where the two suspects had left a bicycle for repair.

After leaving the bicycle, the suspects had walked into a densely populated area near Link Road. Police laid a trap near this repair shop as the suspects were likely to visit the shop again to collect their bicycle.

The cops patiently wait-

ed for the suspects for the entire day and finally succeeded in arresting them on the next day near the bicycle repair shop.

The suspects were identified as Syed Ahmed a resident of Bhopal and Mohd Hussain Araria of Bihar. They disclosed that they had come to Durg-Bhilai in March 2023. They trespassed into a

locked house in Nehru Nagar but did not find any valuables for stealing. So they uprooted the DVR and threw it in the Kosanala.

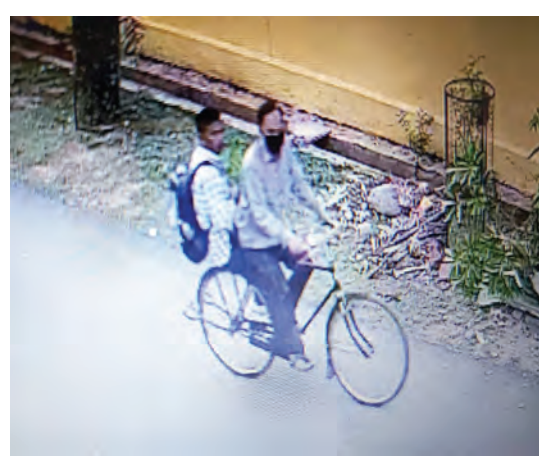
Later they trespassed into another locked house and burgled about Rs 1.25 lakh cash and silver coins. Thereafter they returned back to their homes. They again reached Bhilai on April 29 and on May 01, they committed theft at a house in Adarsh Nagar of Padmanabhpur area.

The next day, they targeted a house in Nehru Nagar. On May 03, they committed theft at a house in Vidya Vihar Colony of Nehru Nagar. Police recovered Rs 12000 cash, silver coins and some gold items from their possession.

The accused Syed Ahmed (54) son of Late Akhtar Ali a resident of DIG Bungalow Square, Near Police Station

Gautam Nagar, Bhopal (MP) and Mohammad Hussain (31) son of Mohammad Tahir a resident of village Basehti, Police Station Bausi, District Araria (Bihar) were booked under the provisions mentioned in section 457, 380 of IPC.

ASI Shमित Mishra, Purna Bahadur, Head Constable Satyendra Mandhariya, Pradeep Singh, Tieshwar Rathore, Vikrant Kumar, Dharendra Yadav, Farooq Khan, Shobhit Sinha, Arvind Mishra, Rinku Soni, Rakesh Chaudhary, Bhavesh Patel, Rajkumar Chandra, Md Shamim Khan, Anup Sharma, Upendra Yadav, Jugnu Singh, Shabbaz Khan, ASI Nilkusum Bhadauria, Head Constable Prakash Tiwari, and Head Constable Mohan Sahu played a vital role in arresting the accused.



Secretary, Steel, visits BSP's Iron Ore Complex, Project Sites

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, May 07: Secretary, Ministry of Steel, Govt of India, Nagendra Nath Sinha, IAS who arrived on his first visit to SAIL's Bhilai Steel Plant on May 05, 2023 visited the Plant's Dalli-Rajhara Iron Ore Complex (IOC) on the second day of his visit. Sinha was accompanied by Director I/c BSP Anirban Dasgupta.

Upon his arrival at Rajhara Guest House, Secretary Steel was welcomed by CGM I/c Mines & Rowghat, Samir Swarup, GM (Mines-Rajhara) C Srikant, GM (Mines-Dalli) PM Shirpurkar, GM (Personnel) SK Soni, GM (Mines) MR Thakur, Senior Manager (Personnel) MD Reddy



and other senior officers at IOC.

Soon after his arrival, Secretary, Steel, Sinha went straight to Rajhara Mechanised Mines quarry. He was accompanied by Director I/c Dasgupta, CGM I/c Mines & Rowghat Swarup and other senior officers.

Sinha who expressed keen interest in mining operations, also visited several project sites including Crushing & Screening Plant in Dalli Mechanised Mines, site for Modification in Washing Circuit and the site for Pellet Plant at Dalli Mechanised Mines.

Cricket betting racket busted; bookies nabbed

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, May 07: Durg Police arrested two persons under the provisions of Gambling Prohibition Act 2023. They were operating cricket betting on IPL Matches on a large scale in Mohan Nagar area. The accused were operating the betting racket from their home. Police have freed four bank accounts of the accused in which Rs 364522 is deposited.

Transaction of over Rs 3500000/- was done through these accounts. Police have also seized 08 mobile phones, 08 SIM cards and a TV from their possession. The accused were acting as bookies and were providing online accounts to the people through a website. They were accepting bets from all over the state as well as from other states also.

Police caught them red handed while accepting bets during an ongoing match between Delhi Capital and Royal Challenger Bangalore. It was a joint action of Durg Civil Team and Police Station Mohan Nagar.

On the instructions of SP Dr Abhishek Pallava, Durg Police is running a campaign against illegal IPL betting. Under the guidance of Additional Superintendent of Police (City) Sanjay Dhruv and City Superintendent of Police (Durg) Banker Vaibhav Ramanlal, a joint team of Mohan Nagar Police Station and Durg Civil Team led by of Sub-Inspector Shishupal Chandravanshi was constituted for action.

The team launched an investigation and maintained vigil in different areas. The network of informers was also activat-



ed. In this sequel, police received a tip off about some people who were accepting bets on IPL matches from a house in Lodhi Para of Urla area. Acting on this tip off, the joint team raided the house and nabbed two persons while accepting bets on the ongoing match between Delhi Capital and Royal Challenger Bangalore.

08 mobile phones and a Samsung TV were also re-

covered from them. During interrogation, the suspects confessed to conducting cricket betting through Grand Seven and Wazir Book App. They were accepting money in advance through UPI from the people interested in betting.

The accused further disclosed that they have about Rs 364,522/- in his four different accounts of Bank of Baroda, Canara

Bank, SBI and ICICI Bank. Taking immediate action, Durg police got the bank accounts frozen. Under the provisions of Chhattisgarh Gambling (Prohibition) Act 2023, further action is being taken against the accused identified as Vishwanath Singh alias Vicky (29 son of Jogendra Singh a resident of Lodhipara, Irla, Durg and Krishna Rajput alias Karan (19) son of Keshav Singh a resident of Sikolabhata Durg. Sub-Inspector Shishupal Chandravanshi, Head Constable Mukesh Kusre, Constable Omprakash Deshmukh, Tarakeshwar Shahu, Javed Khan, Kisha Soni, Nasir Baksh, Thomson Peter, Kamallesh Yadav, Gaur Singh, Prashant Patankar, Bharthari Nishad and Ajay Yadu played a vital role in arresting the accused.

Roka Chheka: 68 stray cattle caught

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, May 07: Bhilai Municipal Corporation is conducting a Roka Chheka campaign within its limits to catch the stray cattle. Efforts are being made to ensure that no one is troubled by stray cattle in the BMC limits.

The team of Bhilai Municipal Corporation is conducting a date-wise campaign to catch stray cattle in all the zones. Under the campaign, 68 stray animals have been caught and sent to Gauthan. Commissioner Rohit Vyas has given instructions to run a special campaign to catch stray cattle.

Under the Roka Chheka campaign, teams to catch



stray cattle are moving around the city with various resources to catch stray cattle. Cattle are being transported to the Gauthan in the Cow Catcher vehicle. The team of Bhilai Municipal Corporation mainly tar-

geted the cattle roaming along the roads of all the market areas and inner areas of the city.

The stray cattle in Power House Market, Service Road and GE Road have been causing troubles for the common peo-

ple and commuters. The corporation's team is catching the animals to provide relief to the commuters and common people. In the special campaign going on since last week, the corporation is working by making a

route chart to catch stray cattle from all the wards of the area.

A campaign to catch stray animals is also being run in the market areas. It needs to be mentioned here that Collector Pushpendra Meena has given instructions to run a special campaign to catch stray cattle. BMC is also working in compliance with the Collector's instructions.

The BMC team uses two cow catchers, ropes and other necessary resources so that they don't get hurt while catching cattle. Additional Commissioner Ashok Dwivedi has appealed to the animal owners not to let stray cattle in the open and support the campaign.

Social workers perform Kanyadaan of divyang brides

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, May 07: Members of Rupali Mehtari Gudi Bahuudeshiya Sanstha performed Kanyadaan of eleven divyang brides during the mass marriage programme of divyang couples organised recently by Astha Sanstha.

Puran Manchanda and Pratibha Manchanda extended monetary support to Rupali Mehtari Gudi Bahuudeshiya Sanstha for this activity. Members of the Sanstha gifted Suhag items to the brides. Nisha Sahu, Sangeeta Das, Babita Thakur, Bindu Thakur and Sanstha President Shanta Sharma were present.



DMC: City walls get new life with beautiful painting on walls

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, May 07: As part of the beautification drive within the Durg Municipal Corporation limits and to contribute to the Swachh Sarvekshan 2023 under Swachh Bharat Mission, the city walls have been painted with pictures of various historical places and landmarks. Beautiful artwork is being made in the boundary wall of government buildings and cultural buildings under the Municipal Corporation area. On the instructions of Commissioner Lokesh Chandrakar, wall painting is being done for public awareness towards cleanliness to make the city clean and beautiful. About 90% wall painting work has been completed in 60 wards of the city area for public awareness towards cleanliness. The message of cleanliness is being given through painting on the



walls of public places and high-traffic areas, along main roads and toilets. Under the Cleanliness Campaign, along with regular cleaning of roads and drains of residential areas, membrane and foil waste is also being removed in the city. Mayor Dheeraj Bakliwal is also trying to make common citizens aware of cleanliness under Swachh Bharat Abhiyan. Awareness is being created through wall painting in public places, main gardens,

congested areas, along major roads and square intersections. Mayor Dheeraj Bakliwal and Commissioner Lokesh Chandrakar said that painting would somehow help in promoting cleanliness. Through painting people will be given messages like throwing garbage in dustbins, keeping the surroundings clean. After the painting at the main places of the city, the beauty of the road has also increased.

Utkarsh Summer camp underway at BK Peace Auditorium

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, May 07: The seven-day Utkarsh Summer Camp 2023 is underway at the Peace Auditorium of Rajyoga Bhavan, Sector-07. The camp being organized by the education department of PIBV wing of PIBV was inaugurated by the Member of Parliament Vijay Baghel and special guest was district education officer Abhay Jaiswal.

The participating students were divided in four groups Shrawan Kumar, Prahlad, Arjun and Dhruv by BK Prachi who stressed on how one can develop magic memory through meditation which develops positivity and powerful thoughts. After traditional lamp lighting both the guests appreciated PIBV for organizing summer camp that helps make the children



a good citizen and shapes them into growing up with strong moral values. Centre head BK Asha didi revealed that the first summer camp was organized about 25 years ago which instills in children that their life should be ideal and dedicated to the well being of people and nation. On the second day of the camp BK Pooja through example of beautifully wrapped pebbles in gift explained the saying all that glitters is not gold

and therefore personality should be formed of inner strength, respect, honesty, obedience that form the core of being a good person.

Divine group teacher Sikha taught the traits of restrain, patience and service to humanity. On day three the participants were given a to do list of best practices by BK Gayatri. The list mainly mentioned that the children should respect elderly and take care of the grand parents and senior

citizens and take time out to talk to them, offering water to the parents when they come back from office, respect the guests who visit home, keep things at right place, listen to others, pay due respect to those older to them, water the plants in garden, complete the homework on time, do not waste food, follow traffic rules, getting up early in the morning, throwing garbage in dustbins, take permission before using things belong-

ing to others, save water and electricity, take care of younger brothers and sisters, keeping home, public places, railway stations clean, living with everyone in harmony, asking medicines for sick, looking for good in others, saying good morning to god and elders first thing in the morning etc. At the end of the third day programme the children sang "Hum Honge Kamyab" and meditated before going back.



Illegal sale was almost 30-40% of the total sale of the liquor in the state: ED

This act generated Rs 1,200-1,500 cr of illegal profits

In alleged liquor syndicate working under Anwar Dhebar's charge

Money made from sale of every bottle

Raipur, May 07: Money was "illegally" collected on "every bottle" of liquor sold in Chhattisgarh and evidence of "unprecedented" corruption and laundering of Rs 2,000 cr generated by an alcohol syndicate led by Anwar Dhebar, the elder brother of Raipur Mayor Aijaz Dhebar, has been collected, the ED said on Sunday.

Anwar Dhebar was arrested by the federal agency under the criminal sections of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) in the early hours of Saturday from a hotel in Raipur while he was trying "to run from the back door", it said in a statement.

He was remanded in

four-day Enforcement Directorate (ED) custody by a special PMLA court even as his lawyer said the arrest seemed to be "politically motivated" and that they would move to the Supreme Court.

The agency said Anwar Dhebar did not join the probe in the case despite being summoned seven times and charged that he was "continuously using benami SIM cards and internet dongles, and was changing locations".

When he was zeroed in at the Raipur hotel, he tried to run away from the back door instead of accepting the summons but was subsequently caught by the ED team, it said. Aijaz Dhebar is known to be an influential leader of the ruling Congress in Chhattisgarh.

"Investigation found that an organised criminal syndicate led by Anwar Dhebar was operating in Chhattisgarh. Anwar Dhebar, though a private citizen, was backed by and was working for illegal gratification of high-level political executives and senior bureaucrats.

"He weaved an elaborate conspiracy and stitched a wide network of persons/entities to execute the scam so that money was illegally collected from every bottle of liquor sold in Chhattisgarh," the ED alleged. It said raids were conducted at 35 locations in Chhattisgarh, West Bengal and Delhi, including the residential premises of Anwar Dhebar at Raipur, in March and this led to the collection of "evidence of unprecedented corruption and money laundering to the tune of Rs 2,000 crore between 2019-2022".

Anwar Dhebar, the ED alleged, was responsible for the "collection of this entire illegal money but is not the ultimate beneficiary of this scam".

"It is established that after deducting a percentage, he had passed on the remaining amounts to his political masters," it claimed. This money laundering case stems from a 2022 Income Tax department charge sheet filed against state IAS officers Anil Tuteja and others before a court in Delhi, the

ED said. Describing the liquor policy in Chhattisgarh, the ED said revenue from liquor (excise duty) is one of the highest contributors to the state kitty. "Excise departments are mandated to regulate the supply of liquor, ensure quality liquor to users to prevent hooch tragedies and to earn revenue for the State. But investigation revealed that the criminal syndicate led by Anwar Dhebar has turned upside down all these objectives," the agency alleged.

In Chhattisgarh, it said, the state controls "all aspects" of liquor trade from procurement to retail sale to consumers.

"No private liquor shops are allowed. All 800 liquor shops are run by the state and the Chhattisgarh State Marketing Corporation Limited (CSMCL) centrally procures all the liquor," the ED said.

The CSMCL, it said, issues tenders for manpower suppliers who run the shops, cash collection tenders and selects bottle makers and hologram

ED unable to prove charge against my brother in the court, says Mayor

Asks why no action is taken against BJP

Raipur: ED has once again summoned Mayor Aijaz Dhebar for questioning. To this end, the Mayor held a press conference before the ED inquiry. Protesting against ED action, the Mayor said that ED officials were taking action under pressure. Dhebar said that attempts were being made to harass the Congress workers. He said that his was accused of a scam of more than Rs 2000 crore,



but how will it be proved? Alleging that Chhattisgarh was the den of corruption during BJP rule he asked why no action was taken against them. Dhebar said that being the Mayor of Raipur Municipal Corporation, he had writ-

ten a letter to the ED officials. He said that he was made to sit for 10 hours in the name of questioning which affected works of Corporation. He said that he was fully cooperating with the inquiry, but it was wrong to do such an act out of political malice. Dhebar said that allegation about his brother Anwar's property worth Rs 2,200 was not being proved in the court. It may be noted that Dhebar's brother who was arrested from a private hotel on Saturday, is on remand for 4 days.

per case (depending on the type of liquor) which was fastidiously charged from the suppliers for each accounted cash procured by the CSMCL".

"Anwar Dhebar, in conspiracy with others, started getting manufactured unaccounted country-made liquor and selling the same through government-run shops. This way they could keep the entire sale proceeds without depositing even Re 1 in the state exchequer," the ED claimed. The probe found that between 2019 and 2022, this kind of "illegal sale was almost 30-40 per cent of the total sale of the liquor in the state and this act generated Rs 1,200-1,500 crore of illegal profits". This was an annual commission that was paid by the main distillers for getting a distillery licence and a fixed share in the market purchase of the CSMCL, the ED said.

The distillers "used to pay bribes as per percentage of market share allotted to them. Procurement was done strictly in this ratio by the CSMCL", the agency claimed.

Nearly 1.5 lakh students appear in NEET across state

Raipur, May 07: Nearly 1.5 lakh students appeared in National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET) across the state today. NEET was conducted in Raipur, Bhillai, Durg, Bilaspur, Ambikapur, Korba, Mahasamund, Janjgir, Raigarh, Rajnandgaon, Dhamtari, Jagdalpur, Kanker and Dantewada. In Raipur the examination was held at Holy Hearts Civil Line, KPC in Kamal Vihar and other centres. Prior to appearing in examination the aspirants seemed to be in confusion over NEET rules. About 15 thousand students



appeared in NEET in the capital Raipur. There are 2020 MBBS seats in 10 government and three private medical colleges of the state. According to information available 82 percent

seats in government colleges are state quota while 15 percent are All India seats and 3 percent are central pool seats. The counseling for admission will be done by the DME office. The

counseling committee of the National Medical Commission will conduct counseling for 15 percent of MBBS seats from Delhi.

Candidates were not being allowed to carry even keys. Several candidates were seen facing inconvenience in identifying their roll numbers in exam halls. The questions of subjects like Bio, Chemistry, Physics asked in this test of 200 questions are based on NCERT books. The students told that the questions were asked according to the syllabus, due to which there was no problem.

Those who questioned Ram's existence now talk of 'Ram Rajya': Nabin

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, May 07: Reacting to the claim of Congress and Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel to establish 'Ram Rajya' in Karnataka, Chhattisgarh BJP co-charge Nitin Nabin said that Bhupesh does not understand the meaning of 'Ram Rajya'. To understand 'Ram Rajya', one has to take a hundred births, he said at a press conference here on Sunday. How will those



who cannot listen to their opposition, bring 'Ram Rajya' he asked.

Chief Minister Baghel and his party first locked Ram, then locked Ram's temple, now they are talking about banning

Bajrang Bali as well, Nabin said, adding that they are the same people who raised questions on the existence of 'Ram Sethu'. Levelling allegation against Congress and Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel he said that Congress government did injustice to young man of Biranpur named Bhuvaneshwar Sahu who laid down his life in safeguarding religion. Administration did not ask Minister Ravindra Choubey even

once in the Binarpur case, he said. Relatives of the deceased Bhuvaneshwar Sahu questioned the role of Choubey who is the leader of the area, he said, adding that BJP will fight for justice to the family of Bhuvaneshwar Sahu. Alleging that Congress hurt Indian civilization and culture he said that people will never tolerate such act of Congress. He demanded that the film 'The Kerala Story' be made tax-free.

Fraud of more than 1 cr in the name of selling gram

Raipur, May 07: Two frauds allegedly cheated a businessman of more than Rs 1 crore in the name of selling good quality gram in the Azad Chowk area of Raipur. Acting on the complaint lodged by the businessman, police have registered an offense against them. According to the police, grain broker Rajkumar Dammani had met Surat's grain agents Firoz and Atif Lakhani in Nagpur. Since all those three persons were associated with the same business, they used to have phone conversations even

after coming to Raipur. On 14 October 2023, Firoz called Rajkumar and told that he had good quality gram. He offered low price for gram on the condition of payment of full amount of grain in advance. When Rajkumar started ignoring, Firoz agreed to give it to another customer. Meanwhile, seeing the cheap and quality, Rajkumar ordered 3010 quintals of gram and agreed to pay its total cost of Rs 1 crore 46 lakh. After this, Firoz and Atif got total amount of Rs 1 crore 46 lakh transferred from the accounts of Lakshmi

Enterprises, Tirupati Traders and Maa Bhavani Enterprises to their separate bank accounts. Firoz and Atif said that goods would reach Raipur within two days. But Rajkumar did not receive it. Both Firoz and Atif also switched off their mobile numbers. Later Rajkumar reached Surat where he came to know that both were frauds and several other businessmen were cheated in the same way. Rajkumar complained about this in Azad Chowk police station. The police have registered a case of cheating against the them.

Accused with 11.700 kg 'Ganja' nabbed

Raipur, May 07: Khamtarai police has nabbed a drug smuggler from Odisha - Devilal Bhoi with 11.700 kg 'Ganja' worth Rs 1.17 lakh in his possession and filed a case under section 20 B of Narcotics Act against him.



Khamtarai police got tip from an informer that a person is possessing some drugs and standing near Bus Stand in Bhanpuri triangle under

the person disclosed his name as Devilal Bhoi, R/o Odisha. When the police team conducted search of the bag in his possession, they found 11.700 kg 'Ganja' worth Rs 1.17 lakh and both the accused was arrested and the drugs was seized.

Four accused in gang-war nabbed

One is still absconding

Bilaspur, May 07: In the gang-war which took place in Bilaspur city last night with attack between old history-sheeter Medy and Vasim Khan, the criminals lased with weapons attack a youth. Entire incident is covered in the CCTV camera nearby and the Tarbahar Police had nabbed 4 accused involved in this incident and one is still absconding.



It is notable here that last night between 1-2 in late at night, two persons entered into controversy in front of Old Bus Stand and Hevans Park Hotel. The controversy heated up to the extent that both made life-threatening attack against each other and in this one of the party's received serious injuries.

On getting information about the same, Tarbahar police reached the site and seeing which the accused ran away. The police is conducting investigation into the incident and have even identified the accused. Youth named Bhaskar Verma was attacked and he has got seriously injured. As per information in this regard, the accused had plans to murder Bhaskar Verma. Since Bhaskar's vehicle went out of order and here his friend Naveen Goswami came to pick him up. It was here that 10-14 persons in 2 cars and 3 bikes. Among the attackers included Bilaspur's history-sheeter Ritesh Nikhare alias Medy, Siddharth Sharma alias Chotu Sabir

alias Ranu Sharma, Golu Videshi, Aditya Prakash Dubey, Sonu Khan, Prince Sharma, Kavya Gadhwal, and other attackers. All these accused first started scolding Bhaskar Verma and then started beating him. In order to save himself Bhaskar kept running here and there and after which the attackers gheraoed Bhaskar and started attacking him. The police has nabbed four accused in this case and this include Kavya Gadhwal, Siddharth Sharma, Prince Sharma, and Ayush Kududand, all from Bilaspur.

FOND REMBRANCE (8TH MAY)

Dear Papa....

We will always remember that special smile of yours, that Caring heart, that warm embrace, which you always gave us. You being there around through good and bad times, no matter what. You will forever be in our hearts each day, each moment. No one Can ever replace you and the love for you will always be there for us, as your eternal blessings.

Shilpi, Shailesh Himanshu, Harshita, Vaanya, Ridhima, Samanyu, Reyansh

Chronicle APPOINTMENT

SHRI RAM COLLEGE OF EDUCATION
(Affiliated To: Hemchandra Yadav University, Durg)
Village : Thakurtola, Post- Somni, District: Rajnandgaon (C.G.) Email: shgirramcollege2005@gmail.com, Contact No. : 9993237878, 7000901280
APPOINTMENT (Principal & Teaching Staff) UNDER UNIVERSITY STATUE NO. 28, Advertisement approval format for B.Ed. Principal & Teaching Post as per NCTE Norms.

S.No.	Designation	Post	Qualification
A	Principal	01	1. Postgraduate degree in Arts/ Science/ Social Science/ Humanities/ Commerce With minimum 55% marks (or equivalent grade In a point-scale wherever the grading system in followed) and 2. M.Ed. With minimum 55% Marks . (or equivalent grade In a point-scale wherever the grading system in followed); and 3. Ph.D in Education or in any Pedagogic Subjects offered in the Institute and 4. Eight year of teaching experience in a secondary Teacher Education Institution. Desirable :- Diploma/Degree in Educational Administration or Educational Leadership.
B	Assistant Professor Perspectives in Education or Foundation Course	02	1. Post Graduate degree in Social Science with minimum 55% marks (or equivalent grade In a point-scale wherever the grading system in followed) and 2. M.Ed. degree from a recognized university with minimum 55% marks (or equivalent grade In a point-scale wherever the grading system in followed) OR 1. Postgraduate (MA) degree in Education with minimum 55% marks (or equivalent grade In a point-scale wherever the grading system in followed) and 2. B.Ed/B.El.Ed. degree with minimum 55% marks marks (or equivalent grade In a pointscale wherever the grading system in followed) Note:- Besides fulfilling the above qualification the candidate shall have cleared the National Eligibility Test (NET) Conduct by University Grants Commission Provided candidates, who are or have been awarded Ph.D. degree in Education in accordance with the University Grant Commission (Minimum standard and procedure for Award of Ph.D. degree) Regulation 2009. Shall be exempted from the requirement of the clearing of NET for appointment as Assistant Professor or equivalent position in University or college or Institutions.
C	Assistant Professor Curriculum and Pedagogic Courses	05	1. Postgraduate degree in Sciences/ Mathematics/ Social Sciences/ Languages with minimum 55% marks marks (or equivalent grade In a point-scale wherever the grading system in followed); and 2. M.Ed. degree with minimum 55% marks marks (or equivalent grade In a point-scale wherever the grading system in followed) Note:- Besides fulfilling the above qualification the candidate shall have cleared the National Eligibility Test (NET) Conduct by University Grants Commission Provided candidates, who are or have been awarded Ph.D. degree in Education in accordance with the University Grant Commission (Minimum standard and procedure for Award of Ph.D. degree) Regulation 2009. Shall be exempted from the requirement of the clearing of NET for appointment as Assistant Professor or equivalent position in University or college or Institutions.
D	Specialized Courses		
I	Physical ducation	01	Master's degree in Physical Education (M.P.Ed.) with minimum 55% marks. (Training/qualification in yoga education shall be desirable)
II	Visual Arts (Fine Art)	01	Postgraduate degree in Fine Arts (MFA) with minimum 55% marks.
III	Performing Arts (Music/Dance/Theutor)	01	Postgraduate degree in Music/Dance/Theatre Arts with minimum 55% marks

● Qualification are as per UGC Regulation 2018 & NCTE Regulation 2014 & its amendment time to time.
● Pay Scale As per UGC/NCTE & C.G. State Govt. Norms and their amendment from time to time.
● Candidates should send their resum with 2 passport size photograph with self attested copy of marksheet with in 15 days from the date of publication in the below mention address.

Shri Ram College of Education
Vill.- Thakurtola, Post- Somni, Dist.- Rajnandgaon (C.G.) 491441, PH. 9752446205, 9685062710
Email : shriramcollege2005@gmail.com

CS conducts in-depth review of 3 departments

W&CD, Commerce & Industry and Higher Education

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, May 07: Chief Secretary Mr. Amitabh Jain conducted an in-depth review of the work of the Women and Child Development, Commerce and Industry and Higher Education Departments in order to review the priority schemes and programs of the state government at Mantralaya Mahanadi Bhavan here.

The Chief Secretary asked the officers of the Women and Child Development Department (W&CD) to work under a comprehensive strategy to provide nutrition to the malnourished children in the age group of 0 to 5 years found in the survey under the Mukhyamantri Suposhan Yojana.

He asked the officials to take all necessary measures so that not even a single child remains malnour-



ished. Malnourished children should be given hot food. More malnourished children should be given special treatment by keeping them in NRC centres.

The Chief Secretary, while reviewing the Department of Commerce and Industry and Public Enterprises, regarding the rural and cottage industry policy, marketing system, establishment of ethanol plant, women groups, women entrepreneurs and women businessmen and women startups to start a new scheme to set up business industry. He took de-

tailed information from the officials.

In the meeting, detailed information was taken from the officials of Higher Education Department regarding starting of Swami Atmanand Government English Medium Model College in major cities of the state. Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister Subrata Sahoo was present in the meeting. Officials of the Department of Commerce and Industry gave detailed information regarding the Chhattisgarh Women Entrepreneurship Policy 2023 through a pres-

entation.

Officials told that economic progress and economic empowerment of women have to be done. For this, the participation of women in entrepreneurship is being ensured. The economic and social status of the women of the state has to be strengthened. Women labour force has to be trained and assured of employment.

Similarly, activities related to agriculture related ancillary industries, business, cottage industries and service sectors have to be promoted. Officials told that

special financial facilities will be provided to women under the Chhattisgarh Women Entrepreneurship Policy 2023.

Women entrepreneurs will be given interest subsidy, permanent capital investment grant, exemption in electricity duty, stamp duty, mandi fee, land use change fee for small and medium scale industries. Quality certification, technical patent, technology purchase grant and disabled employment will be provided for women entrepreneurs.

Similarly, facilities for providing environmental project management grants will be given to women entrepreneurs. Secretary of Higher Education, Commerce and Industry, Women and Child Development Department Bhuvanesh Yadav and other departmental officers were present in the meeting.

Young man runs away with gold chains worth 6-7 lakh

● Had come to a jeweller's shop to buy gold chain

Central Chronicle News

Jagdalpur, May 07: On Saturday, a young man came as a buyer to Devendra Jewelers located in Sadar Ward under the corporation area. The accused liked the gold chain and then ran away with the entire chain case shown by the shopkeeper. The shopkeeper ran after him and tried to catch him but the accused managed to escape.

The entire incident has been recorded in CCTV. On the basis of which the report of the case was registered in the police station Kotwali. Along with locating the accused of this theft, the police is also scanning the CCTV



footage installed in the city and surrounding areas.

Prithviraj Tated, Owner of Devendra Jewellers, informed that a young man had come to his shop to buy a gold chain. During this he asked to show different types of chains. After this the young man saw some chain wearing and started liking it. During this, when the

shopkeeper's attention was diverted, he ran away from the shop with the whole bunch of chain.

Before he could understand anything, he fled on a bike parked outside the shop. He told that the accused ran away with gold chains of 12 different designs. Whose estimated market value is being told around Rs 6 to 7 lakh.

GEMS Summer Carnival from today

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, May 07: With the children having started enjoying summer vacations from May 01, Shri Gujrati English Medium School Management took a decision to make it more exciting by introducing GEMS Summer Carnival from May 08 which will continue till June 03. Giving information in this regard, Shri Gujrati English Medium School Principal Dr Shailesh Sharma said, as part of summer carnival various co-curricular activities are planned so as to ensure all round development of children. The different activities to be performed as part of summer carnival include Spoken English, Art and Craft, Dance and Aerobics, Yoga and Music and Vedic Maths. He informed that carnival timings are from 8:00 am to 10:00 am daily and expert train-



ers have been roped in to conduct these activities. When asked about the response, Dr Sharma replied that he is enthusiastic about the success of this carnival as registrations both from the in-house and outside participants are flooding in despite of the fact that only in-house publicity and FB publicity have been done to inform about the carnival.

'Govt's flagship schemes should be better implemented'

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, May 07: Urban Administration and Development, Labour Department Minister Dr. Shivkumar Dabria took a review meeting of district officers in the hall of the collector's office, Surajpur. In the meeting, Education Minister Dr. Premejai Singh Tekam, Parliamentary Secretary Parasnath Rajwade, Telghani Board President Mr. Sandeep Sahu, District Panchayat Vice President Mr. Naresh Rajwade, Collector Mr. Sanjay Agarwal, Superintendent of Police Mr. Ramkrishna Sahu, District Panchayat CEO, Ms. Leena Kosam and district officials were present.

Minister Dr. Dabria said that the implementation of all the flagship schemes of

the state government should be done well and it is necessary to do result-oriented work in the district along with paying attention to those works. He instructed for continuous monitoring of the development works of Narva, Garva, Ghurva and Bari.

He said that wherever Gouthans have been built in the district, adequate quantity of fodder and water should be available there. Instructions were given to lay special emphasis on the availability of water.

He told that the summer season has started, there should be enough water in the cowsheds for the cattle. There is some problem in the rainy season, it has to



be removed. He instructed the Forest Department and the Panchayat Rural Development Department to coordinate the work of Narva.

Under the flagship scheme Bhumihin Mazdoor Kisan Nyay Yojana, along with registration in the villagers, the scheme has also been started in the Nagar Panchayats. He told that

the Chief Minister has released the first installment of unemployment allowance.

There is a need to encourage people to avail unemployment allowance. The officers should make efforts to get the benefits of various schemes of the government. He instructed the Revenue Department to time-limit the works of nomination, demarcation

and partition.

He instructed to do the work of maintenance and repair of roads of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana and Chief Minister Gram Sadak Yojana and PWD before the monsoon. For this, the government has also given money to the urban bodies.

The development works of Nagar Panchayats also have to be done fast. For this, according to the announcement of the Chief Minister, the proposals of the Nagar Panchayats should reach the headquarters by June 10. While giving instructions to make land available for works in the municipal bodies on time, he said that while giving advance possession of the land to the concerned

officers, they should ensure that allotment work is also given.

No work should remain pending for allotment. He told that the labour registration work is done in the Labour Department, it has become free of cost, now no fee should be charged for the registration. Godhan Nyay Yojana should be implemented in the urban bodies along with the villagers.

The information about cow dung purchase should reach the directorate daily. Taking information about mobile medical, Dhanwantari shop, he gave instructions to increase the number of Dhanwantari medicine shops as well as to run centers near the hospital and health center. So that more people can get benefit from it.

Forget about the worry of fees and study with full dedication: Bhupesh Baghel

● CM Baghel brings a ray of hope to visually impaired siblings, promising to cover MBA fees at IIM Ahmedabad

● Brother-sister duo's 'Ray of Hope' project earns praise and support from CM

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, May 07: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel steps up to help visually impaired siblings Muskan and Mohit achieve their dreams by covering the fees for Mohit's MBA program at IIM Ahmedabad, while also recognizing their contributions to society through the project "Ray of Hope".

Muskan shared that both

her brother and she are struggling with a genetic eye disease called retinitis pigmentosa, causing severe vision impairment. Sadly, Muskan lost her vision entirely, while her brother has left with only half of his. After Mohit got accepted in the Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad, the high fees at the institute came as a shock, leaving them feeling hopeless about his education. They learned that the only person who could help was the Chief Minister, but they didn't know how to reach out to him.

The siblings met Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel at his residence office here on Thursday evening. When Muskan talked to Chief Minister about her concerns, he said "Never think like that. Your dreams will definitely come true. Forget about the



worry of fees and study with full dedication." In addition, he directed the officials concerned to prepare a proposal seeking approval from the Cabinet to provide Rs 25 lakhs for Mohit's college fees.

Mohit, a resident of Raipur, told the Chief Minister that his father works in a private company. Despite suffering from a genetic eye disease, he

aspires to study and make a difference for children facing similar challenges. Mohit has been accepted for an MBA program at India's top management institute, IIM Ahmedabad, with a score of 99.93 per cent on the entrance exam (CAT). The program's fees for two years amount to approximately Rs 25 lakh, which his family can't

afford. Chief Minister applauded Mohit and Muskan's hard work that led to their success and assured them that they need not worry about the fees. He promised to do the needful that would enable them to concentrate entirely on their studies while their fees are taken care of.

Muskan told the Chief Minister that she is currently pursuing a B.Ed degree from Banaras Hindu University. Additionally, she and her brother Mohit run a project called "Ray of Hope", where they provide online Mental Maths and English classes to nearly 200 visually impaired individuals in India and abroad. They aspire to expand this initiative further. Chief Minister Baghel lauded Mohit and Muskan for their commitment to serving their society.

Christian Society to stage demo on May 8



● To protect constitutional rights

Central Chronicle News

Jagdalpur, May 07: The office bearers of the Christian community kept their point by organizing a press conference at the Patrakar Bhawan located at the district headquarters.

Jitendra Fowler Singh, secretary of the Christian society, told in the presence of the office bearers that, for the last one year, we are facing opposition from the villagers at differ-

ent places of Bastar division. Today in the rural areas of Bastar various kinds of obstacles are being created in our religious place (church) and family prayer. People of Christian society have also been banned from using drinking water at public places. Social programmes like marriages and other are being banned. The people of the society are not being allowed to do farming in their fields and are being stopped to do wages for living. The officials of the

Christian society said that constitutional rights are being violated.

'Annoyed by the said harassment, a one-day protest demonstration and rally has been organized on May 8 at Methodist Church, Mango Garden, Mission Compound to protect our constitutional, fundamental rights. During this, apart from Jitendra, Secretary of the Christian Society, Pastor Vice President Nukesh Baghel, Pastor GP Paul, President Pastor CR Baghel were present.

Collector Vijay Dayaram reviews works under RIPA

● And under NGGB programme

Central Chronicle News

Jagdalpur, May 07: Collector Vijay Dayaram K reviewed the works conducted in Bastar district under Rural Industrial Park (RIPA) and Narva, Garua, Ghurwa, Bari (NGGB) programme here on Saturday. In the review meeting held in the Collector's Astha room, CEO District Panchayat Prakash Sarve and officers of concerned departments were present.

During the review, Collector emphasized on purchase of cow dung, manufacture and sale of manure and said that the work of purchasing cow dung should be done com-

pulsorily in all Gouthans. In Gouthans where there is shortage of vermi-compost, the work of purchasing cow dung should also be done there and within ten to 12 days the process of making vermi-compost should be started by making vermi-stitch. He also asked to motivate people to sell more and more cow dung, so that their income would increase. He also instructed the officers to fulfill the target of purchasing 30 quintals of cow dung per week in all Gouthans. The Collector also told the officers and employees of the National Rural Livelihood Mission the need to do better work to make the Godhan Yojana a success. Along with this, while reviewing the purchase of cow urine,



he directed the officers of Agriculture, Horticulture and Forest Department to use various products prepared from cow urine including Jeevamrit.

During this, the Collector also took information regarding the payment of the beneficiaries of the Godhan Nyaya Yojana. Expressing dis-

pleasure on being informed about pending payment of some beneficiaries due to incorrect information in the software, he directed to resolve it immediately. He said that this work will also be reviewed every week.

Along with this, while reviewing the economic activities conducted in

rural industrial parks, the Collector said that this is a very important scheme of the government, which is going to change the condition and direction of the rural economy. He stressed on working with competitive spirit for sale of finished products in rural industrial parks. He said that along with the total

cost of the raw value of the products that will be manufactured there, work should be done considering their consumption. He also emphasized on increasing the demand in the open market for the consumption of finished products, so that the people working there get maximum profits.

The Collector emphasized on preparing such products in rural industrial parks, which are the special identity of Bastar. Along with this, he also emphasized on the processing of other components along with the main components of the raw material. The Collector instructed to prepare products from small grains like ragi, kodo-kutki in rural industrial parks.

Leave the pomp and show, work on the ground

In the meeting, Collector Vijay Dayaram asked the officers to pay attention to work on the ground instead of showing off and pomp. He said that all officers and employees should be active and do high level work. He said that



Narva, Garua, Ghurwa, Bari (NGGB) and Rural Industrial Park (RIPA) are very important schemes of the government, which along with strengthening the rural economy, increasing organic agriculture, reducing farmers' dependence on chemical fertilizers and providing healthy life to the people. It is a step taken in the direction of doing so. He told about the need to monitor these schemes properly and come forward to solve any kind of problems. He said that instead of shifting the responsibilities of the officers and employees on each other, they should go ahead and work to solve the problems and make this scheme successful.

Contribution of Seth Phulchand College in rural education commendable: V-C RSU

- Pt. RSU felicitates SPASM as Best College on its foundation day
- For achieving highest marks in performance index for academic year 2021-22

Central Chronicle News

Navapara-Rajim, May 07: Rajim city's well-known Seth Phulchand Agrawal Samiti Mahavidyalaya (SPASM) on occasion of 60th foundation day of Pt. Ravishankar Shukla University has been felicitated with Shri BL Pandey Chavaijayanti (Running trophy) and memento and certificate for receiving highest marks in the performance index for academic year 2021-22 on May 1, 2023. The above trophy is presented to a College for

maintaining best quality education and infrastructure in the College.

The above trophy was presented at the hands of Vice Chancellor Pt. RSU Prof. Sachchidanand Shukla and Registrar Pt. RSU Dr Shailendra Patel and Vice Chancellor Chhattisgarh Swami Vivekanand Technical University (CSVTU) Bhilai-Durg Mukesh Verma to the President of Autonomous body of the College Manmohan Agrawal and Principal Dr Shobha Gavari.

While presenting the above trophy, the Vice Chancellor Pt. RSU hailing the performance of the College said that Seth Phoolchand College by increasing its infrastructure



in the rural area has given valuable contribution in the field of education.

The President of College's autonomous body Manmohan Agrawal extending greetings to all the staff and employees of the College said that the objective of establishing this College in the area was to provide high quality educa-

tion to the students with minimum fees. Principal of the College Dr Shobha Gavari termed the achievement as contribution of the team work and extended greetings to entire staff of the College and expressed gratitude towards the University on being selected as the Best College.

It is notable here that this

College right from its foundation day has achieved new records in the field of education, literature, sports, arts, social upliftment, NSS, NCC and personality development. For this achievement, the Vice-President Chitropatala Shishkan Samiti Ramesh Pahadia, Secretary Vinod Chalani, Asst.

Secretary Dr Rajendra Gadia, Treasurer Swaroopchand Tatia, Director Bhawana Agrawal, members- Ashok Gangwal, Basant Jhabak, Mrs. Dhelabai Jain, Bhagchand Bangani, Yash Agrawal and Vice-Principal of College- Dr Manoj Mishra have extended greetings to all the College staff and employees. In this auspicious programme, Dr Ajay Sharma, Dr. Devendra Chafekar and Prof. Vikas Banjare were present on behalf of the College.

MLA Dhruv starts public contact programme

- Tours villages, hold face-to-face talks with all concerned

Central Chronicle News

Gourela, Pendra, Marwahi (GPM), May 07: The count-down for the Vidhan Sabha poll has started and in view of this MLA Dr KK Dhruv has launched massive public contact and meeting with villagers.

As such Dr Dhruv is a popular leader of the District, especially among the tribal community, where he is popularity is known to all. He is known for his simple nature, cordial behaviour and use of language.

As such when one talks about Dr KK Dhruv, it is obvious and known to all, that he is one among selected few MLAs of state who



are available 24 hours a day for any work.

He leaves for public contact with villagers and people of different communities right in the morning and hold talks with persons face-to-face. By 12:00 noon he generally completed tour of 3-4 villages.

It was in this context Dr KK Dhruv visited Baharijhorhi of Gram Panchayat Ghumantola under Marwahi VS, near MP's border on Saturday and took information

about the Livelihood Mission, Rojagar Guarantee works, Pension, PDS and other government's schemes and projects.

He also held dialogues with the villagers present and tried to find out amicable solution to the their grievances as well. The medical attitude of MLA Dr KK Dhruv was once again visible, when during his tour he checked an ailing woman and offered her medicines for treatment.

Four accidents take place in 24 hrs

Mainly due to reckless driving by riders

Central Chronicle News

Gourela, Pendra, Marwahi, May 07: Four different accidental cases of Gourela, Pendra, Marwahi (GPM) have come to fore in the district in the last 24 hours and all are majority due to driving of vehicles at high speed, says local people.

The first case is that of a mother and child returning after paying obeisance to God in a temple and were overrun by a speeding vehicle and in this moth-

er died on the spot.

In another accident, a recklessly driven trailer entered a house losing control on steering on Pendra-Gourela main road, near Semara and damaged a large part of the house.

In this nobody in the house was fortunately injured and narrowly escaped a major outcome. The third incident is that of speedily driven vehicle hitting bikers in their bike near Pancharam Colony, on main road

and in this three got injured.

The fourth incident is that speedily driven two vehicles becoming out of control in the rat-race to move ahead and this led to traffic-jam near the New Bus Stand area.

It is notable here that the local citizens have seen many such incidents resulting due to reckless driving by vehicle riders and the traffic police department is not taken any action against them.

President KUM highlights CM Baghel's achievements

- To villagers in Gram Karamtara

Central Chronicle News

Khairagarh, May 07: President Krishi Upaj Mandir (KUM) Dashmat Janghel cited the achievements of CM Bhupesh Baghel's government in a programme organised in Gram Karamtara here on Saturday. Addressing the gathering of regional party workers, she gave information about the public welfare schemes of the Baghel's government.

Janghel said that CM Baghel is working constantly for welfare of farmers, women, unem-



employed, landless labourers and for Women Self-Help Group through Gauthans in the village through various welfare schemes.

From the next Khariff year, CM Baghel has made declaration to pur-

chase 20 quintal per acre of crop from the farmers on MSP; the unemployed youths will be paid Rs 2500 as honorarium per month; monthly benefits to Gram Patels, Anganbadi workers,

Anganbadi Assistants by hiking their honorarium.

She further said that very less time is left for the polls and it is by going to villages, we all have to take up the government's schemes door-to-door.

Infusing enthusiasm among the villagers, State Gen. Secy. Kissan Congress U Janghel said that party workers are the backbone of the government and without party workers no elections can be won and therefore the party workers have to fold up their sleeves and do hard work at booth level.

During this Khairagarh BCC President Mohan Verma, BCC gen. secy. Mahendra Sahu, Haroop Singh Rajput, Ganesh Sahu, Khuman Verma, Omprakash Verma, Koduram Sahu, Jagesar Sahu, Narad Verma and others were present.

Gift of happiness for women prisoners and their children in jail

- Rotary Club of Bilaspur collaborates with CSLSA

Central Chronicle News

Bilaspur, May 07: A large number of convicted women and such women whose cases are pending in the courts, remain detained in the jail. Along with these women prisoners, their small children also live in the jail and some children are kept in the place operated under the "Muktakash" campaign.

These innocent children continue to suffer in the prison environment along with their mothers for a crime they have not committed. Being con-

stantly in prison and living in a state of unhappiness leads to depression.

At such a time, a separate effort different from the prison environment inside the jail is being started in the jail for the first time with the joint efforts of Rotary Club Bilaspur collaboration with Chhattisgarh State Legal Services Authority in the form of "Project Khushi". Under this, yoga, meditation, henna application training and competition, drawing, singing, fancy dress, dance, street plays, etc.

competitions and programs will be organized for the women detained in jail, while living with the women detained in jail and the campaign organization Different

types of sports competitions will also be organized for the children of women prisoners living in the "free space". So that they can get a chance to breathe in a different environment from the prison environment and they can also meet people outside the prison world.

Sewing machines etc. will be distributed to women during the programme. At the same time, arrangements have been made by the Rotary Club Bilaspur to distribute sports items etc. to the children. The program was conducted from the morning of 6th May till the evening of 07th May. On the evening of May 07, distribution of prizes and certificates of competitions and pro-

grams etc.

under this program, Justice Goutam Bhaduri, Executive Chairman, Chhattisgarh State Legal Services Authority and Rotarian Hamida Siddiqui, President, Rotary Club of Bilaspur in the chief hospitality And it will be done in the presence of Mrs. Vani Rao - President, Abhiyan Sanstha (MUKTAKASH).

The preparation of the program is being done by the members of Rotary Club and Legal Services Authority under the direction and guidance of Anand Prakash Wariyal, Member Secretary, Chhattisgarh State Legal Services Authority and Rotarian Hamida Siddiqui - President Rotary Club of Bilaspur.

CRPF head constable dies of heart attack

- Was bid tearful adieu by villagers, family members
- Was to join as ASI on promotion to 93 CRPF Battalion in Lucknow the next day

Central Chronicle News

Fingeshwar, May 07: Head Constable of 23 CRPF Battalion Gajanand Dhruv, R/o Bamhandehi, dependent upon Gram Panchayat Gunderdehi of Fingeshwar block, died because of heart attack last on Saturday and this left the entire in sad state of atmosphere.

The officer from CRPF Camp in Gram Thanod of Naya Raipur took part in the final rites and offered his tributes. The officers got the body of Head Constable wrapped in the tri-colour and laid wreath



as mark of respect. In the final journey of Gajanand, the villagers of Gram Bamhandehi and nearby villages were present and the final journey was taken out amidst playing of patriotic tunes by the band team.

As per information in this regard from villagers and family members,

Gajanand was to join back on his duty after leave on Friday and for this he left to make some purchase in Fingeshwar on Thursday.

While returning from there, he got severe chest pain at around 6:30 pm and he was immediately taken to the hospital and where he was declared

dead because of heart-attack. On hearing about this death news, entire village was in state of shock and sad atmosphere prevailed.

His brother informed that till last, Gajanand was posted as Head Constable in 23rd CRPF Battalion in Srinagar of J&K. From here he was to join on promotion as Asst. Sub-Inspector 93rd Battalion in Lucknow and was to leave on Friday.

But all of sudden he suffered a heart attack and died. In the final journey from his residence, the residents of the area and family members raise slogans in favour of 'Jai Gajanand' and bid him tearful adieu.

Discrimination in recovery proceedings on women's group

Central Chronicle News

Dongargarh, May 07: In the name of electronic equipment and skill development training to Scheduled Caste women, the amount of one crore sanctioned by the Scheduled Castes Development Authority has been diverted and after taking into account the complaint received by the state government, the letter of recovery of the amount has been sent to Dongargarh district.

The information was received to the beneficiary women group including the then CEO and the then CEO of Rajnandgaon district. It has been learned that except for the 5 women groups coming under Ghumka area, letter of re-



covery has been issued to all other relatives.

It is to be noted that, for the economic development of Scheduled Caste women from the Scheduled Castes Development Authority, five women groups of village Mohra area of development block under Dongargarh assembly constituency and five women

of village Ghumka area of Rajnandgaon development block have been formed by the government.

A total amount of Rs 1 cr was sanctioned to the group, but lakhs of rupees were embezzled by the work agency appointed by the government in connivance with the material supplier, whose complaint

was made to the state government by the former MLA of the area, Ramji Bharti.

In the investigation conducted by the state government, the district administration was ordered to recover the entire amount, blaming the district CEOs of Dongargarh and Rajnandgaon, who were

appointed as work agencies. Also on August 10, 22 and September 5, 22, the Assistant Commissioner, Tribal Development, Rajnandgaon sent a letter to the CEO of Rajnandgaon District Panchayat saying that to inform this office by withdrawing the entire amount released to the women self-help group.

Notice sent to 5 women groups

Notice to be sent to 5 women groups, namely Shri Ganesh Mahila Self Help Group Hardua, Jai Jagruti Mahila Self Help Group Charbhata, Gyan Ganga Mahila Self Help Group (Ghumka), Jai Karuna Mata Mahila Self Help Group Bhatgaon and Jai Satnam Mahila Self Help Group Beejetla.

JKC to launch 'Kissan Samman Yatra'

- To promote about central's agri schemes, purchase of paddy on MSP

Central Chronicle News

Khairagarh, May 07: In the Jila Kissan Morcha (JKC) meeting, BJP District President Ghaman Sahu said that in order to take up the issue of central government's purchase of paddy on MSP to other central agriculture schemes, need to be taken to masses and for this BJP Kissan Morcha will take out 'Kissan Samman Yatra'. This Yatra will be held in three stages viz. beginning at district level, then at Mandal level and finally at Shakti Kendra level.

Electrical connection for power pumps temporary

Jila Kissan Morcha (JKM) President Jeewan Dewangan said that in the



undivided Rajnandgaon district (Khairagarh, Manpur, Mohala, Rajnandgaon) there are many agriculture pumps pending for permanent connection and the farmers have already submitted the demand amount for permanent connection for these pumps. JKM would register dharna and protest against the Baghel government and would also gherao the Collector office and submit the memo. For this the dharna-protest would be staged

as per the time fixed by the senior party leaders.

The meeting was attended by District Panchayat V-P Vikrant Singh, ex-MLA Komal Janghel, ex-Janpad V-P Khaman Tamrakar, Tileshwar Sahu, Kanshiram Sahu, Sukhraj Ram Nirmalkar, Mukesh Dhankar, Ramesh Janghel, Neelkanth Jangel, Ganesh Verma, Suraj Verma, Chandresh Sahu, Nemu Ram Shivhare, Gopal Ram, Narayan Sahu and others were present.

BRIEF



A young magician performs during a magic show, organised to urge the education department to enlist magic in the syllabus, in Kolkata, Sunday.

Boat capsizes

■ Jaipur: Five members of a family were rescued, while two people are feared drowned after a boat capsized in the Bilaspur dam in Rajasthan's Tonk district, police said on Sunday. The incident took place on Saturday evening when Mohsin Khan of Tadaraisingh panchayat samiti had taken his family for a boat ride, they said. It was a fishing boat that had a capacity of two people but was carrying seven, including its operator Badri Gurjar. It capsized due to strong winds, causing its occupants to fall into the water, the police said.

Bus fall

■ Jalaun (UP): A bus carrying a marriage party fell into a roadside ditch in the district, leaving five people dead and 17 others injured early Sunday, police said. The bus was hit by another vehicle near Gopalpur village following which it fell into a ditch, Superintendent of Police Iraj Raja said. The accident took place around 3 am when the marriage party was returning to Mandela village in the district, he said. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath expressed grief over the loss of lives in the accident and directed officials to speed up the rescue work and provide adequate treatment to the injured persons.

IED recovered

■ Srinagar: Security forces on Sunday recovered an IED in Pulwama district of Jammu and Kashmir, officials said. Based on questioning of terrorist associate Ishfaq Ahmad Wani, security forces recovered the 5 kg improvised explosive device (IED) at Arigam on the Pulwama-Shopian road, they said. They said Wani was already under arrest in another case.

Aide arrested

■ Rampur (UP): Police here have arrested a close aide of senior Samajwadi Party leader Azam Khan for allegedly forcibly evicting a person from his house, officials said. The accused, Aley Hasan Khan, a former circle officer, was arrested from his residence in Delhi, the police officials said. Chaudhary was arrested following the issuance of non-bailable warrants in two cases by the MP-MLA court, the police said.

Explosion

■ Amritsa: One person suffered minor injuries and glass facades of some buildings were damaged in an explosion on a heritage street near the Golden Temple here, police said on Sunday. The explosion, the cause of which is not yet known, was reported near an eating joint Saturday night, they said.

Abdullah to Opposition

'Support strong regional parties in next Lok Sabha polls'

Srinagar, May 7 (PTI)



Jammu and Kashmir National Conference (JKNC) MP Farooq Abdullah speaks during an interview with PTI, in Srinagar, Sunday.

Veteran politician and former Union minister Farooq Abdullah on Sunday said the main opposition parties should support strong regional parties as he mooted a "one against one" strategy to take on the BJP in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

"I am not so sure of the Opposition's unity but as far as Lok Sabha elections are concerned I think the states matter now and all the opposition parties must realise that," Abdullah, 85, said.

Giving an example, he said that if in West Bengal Mamata Banerjee is strong, "we must make sure that she does well, rather than creating hurdles for the TMC leader. Similarly, in Bihar Nitish (Kumar's) JD(U) and RJD, if they are doing well, don't create hurdles for them. Similarly in Uttar

Pradesh, Akhilesh (Yadav of SP) is doing well so let us not create such a situation.

"And I think one of the most important things is that if you really want to beat them (BJP), then there should be one against one. Where a Congress candidate can win, let not another one stand. Where another party can win, let that party have the chance of

putting their candidate. That is one way of really beating them at their game," Abdullah told PTI.

Asked whether he had suggested this approach to the opposition leaders, the National Conference president said they should think about what they should do. "I hope they will consider this."

The three-time chief minister of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir and sitting Lok Sabha MP from Srinagar also spoke about the alleged misuse of central agencies such as the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), Enforcement Directorate (ED) and the Income Tax Department.

"It has been done in the past. Can't be only these (BJP) people are doing it. They are doing it 100 times more than what others did. But I hope future governments do not

use these agencies just to browbeat the Opposition.

"We must not use these agencies to browbeat our Opposition. The Opposition is necessary in this nation. And, therefore, using these agencies in this manner in a democratic country is totally wrong and should not have been done," he said.

He said the Opposition is a must for any democratic country and added "that is how democracy will flourish and India will become much stronger in the world."

He also lamented that India has fallen to 161 out of 180 in the World Press Freedom Index and said, "This shows how much we have destroyed the freedom of the press... It does not augur well for democracies. The press keeps a check on you and that check is necessary for a democratic country."

PROTEST RALLY



Congress workers take out a protest march after members of Bajrang Dal allegedly vandalised Congress office in Jabalpur, Sunday.

India ready to lead technology-driven diabetes care: Jitendra Singh

New Delhi, May 7 (PTI)

Union minister Jitendra Singh on Sunday said India is fast becoming a huge medical tourism hub and it is ready to lead technology-driven diabetes care.

Addressing the three-day World Congress of 'Diabetes Technology and

Therapeutics 2023' (DTechCon 2023) here, he said the country is being looked up to by the rest of the world in the field of healthcare after the successful handling of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Technologically and in human resources, we are much ahead of most other countries," said

Singh, the Minister of State for Personnel.

He said India is not only becoming a technology leader, but also a huge medical tourism hub.

"India is ready to lead technology-driven diabetes care," said Singh, who is also a renowned diabetologist.

Special flight to be arranged to bring back Maha students stuck in violence-hit Manipur: CM Shinde

Mumbai, May 7 (PTI)

Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde on Sunday said 22 students from the state currently stuck in riot-hit Manipur will be first shifted to Assam from where a special flight will be arranged to bring them back home.

Violent clashes broke out recently between tribals and members of the majority Meitei community in the north-eastern state of Manipur, which has so far displaced more than 13,000 people and killed at least 54.

The clashes broke out after a Tribal Solidarity March was organised in 10 hill districts of the state to protest against the Meitei community's demand for Scheduled Tribe (ST) status.

CM Shinde in an official

statement said his government was keeping a watch on the situation in Manipur. His deputy Devendra Fadnavis also promised help to the affected students.

"There are 22 students (in Manipur) from Maharashtra. I have spoken to two of them Vikash Sharma and Tushar Awhad and assured them of arranging a special flight to return home. I told them not to be afraid of anything, the state is making all the necessary arrangements to bring them back safely," he said.

The students were studying in some of the technology institutes based in Manipur, the release said.

"I have also spoken to Maharashtra Chief Secretary Manoj Sounik and other state officials to

make the necessary arrangements. We are currently watching the situation closely," the CM said.

An official communication from Shinde's office later said he dialled Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh and Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma to discuss providing a safe passage to students from Maharashtra to return home.

The students will be shifted to Assam first and from there a special flight will be arranged for them to return home, it said.

Shinde has contacted Sarma in this connection, the statement said.

The Maharashtra CM has also contacted Shiv Sena's Manipur state head over phone and asked him to provide all the necessary help at local level, Shinde's office said.

G20 meet: Security beefed up in north Kashmir

Srinagar, May 7 (PTI)

Security has been beefed up in north Kashmir ahead of a G20 meet in the valley later this month, in view of three back-to-back encounters with militants in which five ultras were killed, officials said on Sunday.

Additional security personnel have been deployed on the ground and drones are being used for aerial surveillance, they said.

Sniffer dogs are assisting security personnel in checking vehicles at various check points established to prevent movement of militants or explosives, they said.

The officials said the security apparatus has been put on a heightened alert as Kashmir will host the third G20 Tourism Working Group meeting later this month. North Kashmir has witnessed three back-to-back encounters between se-

curity forces and militants in the past five days, in which five ultras were killed.

Three of these five ultras hailed from south Kashmir: Their presence in north Kashmir, close to Gulmarg tourist resort, has given rise to apprehensions about the possibility of a major terror strike in the valley, the officials said. Police officials said the forces were alert to thwart any possible plan of militants to carry out attacks in the run-up to the event.

Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) of Baramulla Amod Ashok Nagpure said the intelligence grid was working very hard and the forces have been able to neutralize the threats.

"Our forces are on alert for the summit. Our intelligence agencies are also working hard, our network is very strong. So, we are getting timely information

of all the suspicious activities in the area," Nagpure said.

He said the security agencies are confident that the summit will pass off peacefully and successfully "because of our preparedness".

The SSP said the security forces have been able to neutralize the threats as there is a complete synergy among various agencies. The first of these back-to-back encounters in north Kashmir took place on Wednesday as the forces foiled an infiltration bid near the Line of Control (LoC) in Machil sector, in which two militants were killed.

On Thursday, two militants were killed in an encounter in Wanigam Payeen Kreeri area of Baramulla district. A Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) militant was killed in an encounter in Karhama Kunzer area of Baramulla on Saturday. While there was a brief lull with no gun-

fight in the valley over the past few weeks, Wednesday's encounter took place a day after Additional Director General of Police of Kashmir Vijay Kumar had chaired a joint meeting with the officers of police, intelligence agencies and security forces to discuss overall security arrangements for the G20 event.

During the meeting, all SSPs were instructed to conduct anti-terrorist operations on specific inputs. The officials were also instructed to coordinate with other law enforcement agencies and intelligence agencies to gather information about any potential security threats and take necessary actions to neutralize them.

While reviewing the security arrangements for the G20 event, the ADGP emphasised the need for coordinated efforts to ensure fool proof security for the summit.

Maha Vikas Aghadi will remain intact: Ajit Pawar

Pune, May 7 (PTI)

Senior NCP leader Ajit Pawar on Sunday said the tripartite Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) alliance will remain intact and necessary efforts are being taken. Speaking to reporters in Baramati in Pune district, he dismissed speculation about his absence at a press conference held in Mumbai on Friday where Sharad Pawar announced his decision to withdraw his resignation as the NCP chief. "MVA belonged to us earlier. It was, is, and will remain intact in future also. Related work (to strengthen the alliance) is going on," he said when asked if

Sharad Pawar's decision to not step down has boosted enthusiasm in MVA. The MVA comprises Shiv Sena (UBT) led by Uddhav Thackeray, NCP, and Congress.

Queried on an atmosphere of confusion prevailing against him, especially his future political course, Ajit Pawar blamed the media and his "well-wishers", a cryptic reference to his detractors in politics. "You field such kind of questions to me (that create the confusion). Those who are envious of my (style of) work and the people who love me (pun intended) create such an atmosphere of confusion," he said.

Man sentenced to life imprisonment for printing, circulating fake currency notes

Indore, May 7 (PTI)

A court in Madhya Pradesh's Indore has sentenced a 26-year-old man to life imprisonment for printing fake currency notes and circulating them in the market during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Fourth additional sessions judge Jaideep Singh on Saturday sentenced Rajratan Tayde to life imprisonment, following which the convict was sent to the central jail, additional public prosecutor Hemant Rathore told PTI.

The Indore crime branch team and Azad Nagar police had arrested Rajratan while he was waiting for a customer near Bhandari

bridge to hand over a consignment of fake currency notes on June 9, 2021, he said.

The accused was found with a bag containing notes of Rs 100 denomination worth Rs 2.53 lakh, Rathore said.

The accused was taken to his rented house in Azad Nagar, where the police recovered his laptop, pen drive, scanner cum printer, lens, and slide cutter, he said.

Rajratan had deposed before the court that he had lost his job during the pandemic. He then came across a video about making of fake currency notes on YouTube. The accused bought the necessary equip-

ment and practiced note printing for 20 days before finally coming out with fake currency, Rathore said.

Azad Nagar police station in-charge Indresh Tripathi told PTI that Rajratan was an accused in two other cases registered at Khudel and Kanadiya police stations of Indore.

In one of the offences, Rajratan had sent attempted to extort Rs 50 lakh from former MLA Satyanarayan Patel by sending him a message on his mobile phone, while in the other case he had allegedly threatened and demanded Rs 25 lakh from an officer of the Narmada Valley Development Authority (NVDA), the official said.

DMK slams Centre over use of name 'Akashvani'

Chennai, May 7 (PTI)

The ruling DMK in Tamil Nadu on Sunday hit out at the Centre for what it called replacing the national broadcaster's name 'All India Radio' with 'Akashvani' and demanded that the Union government restore the name AIR.

Writing to Union Minister of Information and Broadcasting Anurag Singh Thakur, DMK Parliamentarian T R Baalu referred to media reports on Prasar Bharati's "direction" to stop using the words All India Radio and instead use the word Akashvani and said the "sudden de-

cision is unwarranted."

Blaming the Centre, Baalu said his party was fully against the decision to "jettison" the popular name All India Radio.

"In the circumstances, I request you to kindly intervene in the matter and advise Prasar Bharati suitably so that the earlier practice is restored by it immediately."

Though Prasar Bharati claimed that this was an old decision and AIR stations have been advised to implement it, Baalu, also leader of the DMK Parliamentary party, said the move was "not proper and is not acceptable at all".

RELIEF CAMP



People of violence-hit areas of Manipur at a relief camp setup by the Assam Government, in Cachar district of Assam, Sunday.

Sikkim's public representatives work among people: Subba

Yuksum (Sikkim), May 7 (PTI)

Rushing around the holy grounds of Norbugang, Indra Hang Subba is busy working with volunteers to get things ready for the first edition of Sikkim Arts and Literature Festival (SALF).

While often people can be seen jostling to take pictures or shake hands with their local MP, the air of ease around Subba, the sole Lok Sabha member from Sikkim, makes one wonder if he is not popular. However, the 34-year-old says people here "don't go crazy" since all public representatives in the

state regularly spend time with them.

"We go among people every day and we are with them. So, leaders are not treated as celebrities here. We meet people and we sit with them. You might have seen me working here with the volunteers the whole day. All the other (public) representatives also work like that," the Sikkim Krantikari Morcha (SKM) leader said.

"Having a (public) representative at an event is a very normal thing in Sikkim. We don't believe that we should have that type of status. Protocol is there, which is the law, we should follow that but

apart from that, we have always been with the people. "So when ministers, or MLAs, or MPs come to a place, it's not a very new thing for the people of Sikkim. We are always with them, that's why they don't go crazy, although they love us," he added.

Talking about the SKM's efforts to revive the state's art, culture and literature, Subba said the idea behind events like the SALF is to encourage the youth to broaden their perspective and understand the social structure of the country. "We want to encourage our youngsters to... learn something from the experts who have come

from different parts of the country and will be speaking from different perspectives. So, we want our youngsters to have that perspective, to understand the social structure of not just the country but the entire world," he said.

Organised by the state government and Teamwork Arts at the historical site of Norbugang, the SALF, which started on Saturday, will see discussions on wide-ranging topics, including climate change, wildlife conservation, history, culture and ethnicity, poetry, architecture, folklore, mental health and writings from the northeast.

BRIEF



Prime Minister Rishi Sunak holds an oversized tea pot as he goes to pour a cup as he sits next to US First Lady Jill Biden as they attend the Big Lunch party at Downing Street in London Sunday.

Coronation Lunch

London: British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak and wife Akshata Murty will host a Coronation Big Lunch at Downing Street in London on Sunday for community heroes to celebrate the crowning of King Charles III and Queen Camilla as part of the country's long celebratory weekend. Among the invitees is British Sikh entrepreneur Navjot Singh Sawhney, who won the UK PM's Points of Light Award earlier this year for his eco-friendly hand-cranked Washing Machine Project, which is benefiting over 1,000 families without access to an electric machine in underdeveloped countries or refugee camps.

Tourism market

Colombo: India regained the top inbound market for Sri Lanka's tourism market after six months as about 20,000 Indian tourists arrived in the island nation in April this year. Tourism Authority figures showed that 19,915 Indians had visited the island in April over 14,656 Russian tourist arrivals. Russians remained the top inbound market from October last year to March this year.

Plantation drive

Singapore: Some 10,000 trees will be planted across Singapore to mark the 100th year since the birth of the city-state's founding Prime Minister, the late Lee Kuan Yew, who was known as the economically prosperous Republic's chief gardener. Lee, who died in 2015, had launched the first nationwide tree-planting campaign in 1963 and introduced the "Garden City" vision in May 1967, which started a greening movement that has lasted for decades.

Colonial victims

Seoul: Japan's prime minister expressed sympathy for the suffering of Korean forced labourers during Japan's colonial rule, as he and his South Korean counterpart on Sunday renewed resolve to overcome historical grievances and strengthen cooperation in the face of shared challenges such as North Korea's nuclear programme.

Anti-monarchy

London: A total of 52 arrests were made during the Coronation including the head of the country's largest anti-monarchy group, a move defended by Scotland Yard as part of its efforts to ensure protests did not become criminal or disruptive. The Metropolitan Police said on Saturday evening that the arrests were made for offences including affray, public order offences, breach of the peace and conspiracy to cause a public nuisance and the people remain in custody.

Pak, China and Afghanistan agree to combat terrorism

Islamabad, May 7 (PTI)

Pakistan, China and Afghanistan have agreed to combat terrorism and enhance cooperation in different economic fields, the foreign office here said on Sunday.

The foreign ministers of the three countries participated in the 5th China-Pakistan-Afghanistan Trilateral Foreign Ministers' Dialogue held in Islamabad on Saturday, it said in a statement.

"The three sides agreed to advance political engagement, counterterrorism cooperation and enhance trade, investments and connectivity under the trilateral framework,"

it said.

No further details about the three-way interaction were provided for which Acting Afghan Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi was specially allowed by the UN to travel to Pakistan.

Chinese foreign minister Qin Gang flew from Goa, where he attended the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) meeting, to Islamabad to participate in the trilateral.

Separately, Muttaqi met Pakistan foreign minister Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari on Sunday and held "a candid and in-depth exchange" on key issues of mutual concern, including peace and security, as

well as trade and connectivity.

The two foreign ministers reaffirmed their desire to pursue continuous and practical engagement.

On peace and security, they emphasised the need for enhanced coordination to counter-terrorism and deepen bilateral cooperation. Regarding bilateral and transit trade, the two sides stressed the importance of removing impediments to trade in order to advance the goal of enhanced regional economic integration and connectivity, the statement said.

Muttaqi also met Pakistan army chief General Syed Asim Munir and the two discussed is-

ues of mutual interest including aspects related to regional security, border management, and formalisation of bilateral security mechanisms for improvement in the current security environment, according to a statement issued by the army's media wing.

"COAS stressed the need for enhanced cooperation between the two brotherly neighbours to effectively tackle the common challenges of terrorism and extremism.

"He reiterated the need for full support and commitment from the Afghan Interim Government in matters of mutual interest," it said.

Imran claims top ISI officer was involved in senior journalist's murder

Lahore, May 7 (PTI)

Pakistan's former prime minister Imran Khan has alleged that top ISI officer Major-General Faisal Naseer, who tried to kill him twice, was also involved in the brutal murder of senior journalist Arshad Sharif.

Khan's remarks came while he was addressing a rally in Lahore from his bullet-bomb-proof vehicle. The rally was telecast live in other cities through a video link.

"Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI)'s Major-General Faisal Naseer tried to kill me twice. He is also involved in the killing of (TV anchor) Arshad Sharif. He also stripped my party Senator Azam Swati naked and inflicted severe torture on him," Pakistan-Tehreek-

e-Insaf (PTI) chief Khan said. Arshad Sharif, who was killed in Kenya last October as he fled the country citing threats to his life from the security agencies.

The shooting dead of the investigative journalist by police in Kenya caused outrage in Pakistan. Kenya's police, in an initial report, had said the 49-year-old was shot dead in a moving vehicle in a case of mistaken identity. Khan, 71, had earlier accused Gen Naseer along with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah of an assassination attempt on his life in November last year in Punjab province's Wazirabad wherein he received three bullets in his leg.

Arab governments vote for Syria's return to the Arab League

Cairo, May 7 (AP)

Arab government representatives in Cairo on Sunday voted to return Syria to the Arab League after a 12-year suspension.

The vote in the Egyptian capital came days after regional top diplomats met in Jordan to discuss a roadmap to return Syria to the Arab fold as the conflict continues to de-escalate, and soon before Saudi Arabia hosts the upcoming Arab League Summit on May 19.

The decision for Syria to return also includes a commitment to ongoing dialogue with Arab governments to gradually reach a political solution to the conflict, in line with

United Nations Security Council Resolution 2254.

The Arab League in the decision also set up a communications committee consisting of Saudi Arabia and Syria's neighbours Lebanon, Jordan and Iraq to follow up on developments.

There is still no Arab consensus on normalisation with Damascus. Several governments did not attend the meeting.

Among the most notable absentees was Qatar, which continues to back opposition groups against Syrian President Bashar Assad's government, and continues to resist normalisation with Damascus. Syria's membership in the Arab

VICTORY DAY PARADE



Military cadets demonstrate their skills during a rehearsal for the Victory Day military parade which will take place at Dvortsovaya (Palace) Square on May 9 to celebrate 78 years after the victory in World War II in St. Petersburg, Russia, Sunday.

PIA aircraft strays in Indian airspace for 10 mins after failing to land in Lahore

Lahore, May 7 (PTI)

A Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) aircraft flew in Indian airspace for almost 10 minutes as the plane failed to land at the Lahore airport due to heavy rain, according to a media report on Sunday.

The PIA flight PK248, which returned from Muscat on May 4 at 8 pm, failed to land at the Allama Iqbal International Airport in Lahore due to the heavy rain, The News reported.

The pilot attempted to land at the airport, but the Boeing 777 aircraft became unstable and could not land, it added.

On the instructions of the air traffic controller, the pilot initiated the go-

around approach, during which he lost his way due to heavy rain and low altitude, the paper said.

The aircraft, flying at an altitude of 13,500 feet with a speed of 292 km/hr, entered the Indian airspace from the Badhana police station. The plane turned back from Naushehra Pannuan after travelling 40 kms through the city of Taran Sahib and Rasulpur in the Indian Punjab.

While flying in Indian airspace, the captain took the plane to a height of 20,000 feet, and the plane flew in the Indian airspace for seven minutes.

The flight then re-entered the Pakistani airspace from near the village of Jhagian Noor Muhammad in the Indian Punjab.

S. Korean, Japanese leaders meet again to improve ties

Seoul, May 7 (AP)

The leaders of South Korea and Japan met on Sunday for their second summit in less than two months, as they push to mend long-running historical grievances and boost ties in the face of North Korea's nuclear programme and other regional challenges.

Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida arrived in South Korea earlier on Sunday for a two-day visit, which reciprocates a mid-March trip to Tokyo by South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol. It was the first exchange of visits between the leaders of the Asian neighbours in 12 years. South Korean media attention on the summit is focused on whether Kishida will make a more direct apology over Japan's 1910-45 colonial rule of the Korean Peninsula. Such comments by Kishida would likely help Yoon win greater support for his push to build stronger ties with

Japan and ease domestic criticism that he's preemptively made concessions to Tokyo without receiving corresponding steps in return.

"It took 12 years to restore the shuttle diplomacy" but our exchange of visits took less than two months," Yoon said at the start of the meeting. "I think this confirms that South Korean-Japan relations, which have started fresh, are moving forward with a speed."

Yoon said cooperation between Seoul and Tokyo is essential considering "the current grave international political situation and the global polycrisis".

He didn't elaborate, but has previously cited North Korea's advancing nuclear programme, the intensifying US-China strategic rivalry and global supply chain problems as reasons for greater cooperation with Japan. Kishida said he and Yoon plan to exchange views to further develop bilateral relations. Kishida said that "a series of dia-

logues has dynamically started moving" since his summit with Yoon in March, during which he said the two leaders "wiped out somewhat shrunk mood to strengthen our dialogue and cooperation."

South Korean and Japanese officials said their leaders would discuss North Korea's nuclear programme, South Korean-Japanese economic security and overall relations, and other unspecified international issues. Ahead of his summit with Yoon, Kishida and his wife, Yuko Kishida, visited the national cemetery in Seoul, where they burned incense and paid a silent tribute before a memorial.

Buried or honoured in the cemetery are mostly Korean War dead, but include Korean independence fighters during the period of Japanese rule. Kishida was the first Japanese leader to visit the place in 12 years. In their March summit, Yoon and Kishida agreed to resume leader-

ship-level visits and other talks. In recent weeks, the two countries have also withdrawn the economic retaliatory steps they had earlier taken against each other in previous years when their history row rekindled.

The most recent sticking point in their ties was 2018 court rulings in South Korea that ordered two Japanese companies to financially compensate some of their aging former Korean employees for colonial-era forced labour.

The verdicts angered Japan, which has argued that all compensation issues were already settled when the two countries normalised ties in 1965.

In an escalation of tensions, the two countries later downgraded each other's trade status, while Seoul also threatened to spike a military intelligence-sharing pact. Some activists and residents in South Korea staged campaigns to boycott Japanese products, as well.

Texas mall shooting: 9 people, including gunman, dead

Houston, May 7 (PTI)

A gunman opened fire at a crowded mall in the US state of Texas, killing at least eight people before being shot dead by a police officer, officials have said, in the latest in a relentless series of gun violence across the country.

The gunfire erupted around 3:30 pm on Saturday at the Allen Premium Outlets as throngs of shoppers filled the outdoor mall, which is about 25 miles north of Dallas and has more than 120 stores.

Police said they shot the gunman dead and believe he acted alone.

Police are yet to identify the victims and the gunman. A Dallas-area medical group says it was treating victims as young as 5 years old.

At least seven people are being treated in hospital, three of whom are



Law enforcement officers walk at a shopping center after a shooting.

critically ill. Allen Fire Chief Jonathan Boyd said seven people - including the gunman - were pronounced dead at the scene and two died later in hospital. According to the officials, an Allen police officer, who was at the mall on an unrelated call, heard gunshots at Allen Premium Outlets.

"The officer engaged the suspect and neutralised the threat," Allen Police Department posted on Twitter.

"He then called for emergency personnel."

The department said, "There is no longer an active threat." Video footage showed hundreds of shoppers exiting the area at the time of the shooting. Shoppers and employees scrambled into storage areas and hid when they heard gunshots, CNN reported. Witnesses said some people sheltered in place for up to two hours as law enforcement cleared the sprawling complex. One witness said that he saw a man holding his neck, and "blood (was) just dripping down."

PROTEST MARCH



Savanna Briggs-Vielle, of the Blackfeet tribe, left, Lisa Monger, of the Tulalip tribe, Kayla Harstad, of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians, and Sajali Keeline of the Muckleshoot tribe, second from right, drum with the Urban Native Education Alliance during the third annual march and gathering for Missing & Murdered Indigenous Women, People & Families.

Indian-origin man sentenced for assaulting and murdering woman with Down's syndrome in New Zealand

Melbourne, May 7 (PTI)

A 33-year-old Indian-origin homeless man has been sentenced to nearly 20 years imprisonment in New Zealand for sexually violating and fatally strangling a woman with Down's syndrome in September 2021, a media report said.

Shamal Sharma violently preyed on 27-year-old Lena Zhang Harrap, a woman with Down syndrome when she was out on her daily walk in Auckland on September 22, 2021, The NZ Herald newspaper reported on Thursday.

Harrap's body was found partially concealed along a bush-lined walkway about a kilometre from her Mt Albert home after a large-scale, hours-long search involving police and members of the

public, the report said. Sharma, who has been ordered to spend the next 19 and a half years in prison was arrested on September 24, two days after committing the heinous crime, the report said.

According to police, Harrap was tortured over a period of about two hours, inflicting multiple blows to her face before strangling her, which led to her death.

Harrap had received 13 bruises and abrasions to her head, as well as blunt force trauma that caused brain injuries but was not fatal.

Some injuries were so brutal that they could have independently caused her death, Crown prosecutor Matthew Nathan was quoted as saying as he acknowledged Sharma's history of schizophrenia but

noted that he was not found to be legally insane at the time of the offending and that the attack was motivated by sexual desire.

"This has a degree of sadism through the infliction of pain," Nathan told the judge.

Sharma was also charged with harassing another woman who was jogging in Henderson, West Auckland, 24 hours prior to violently murdering Harrap.

He stepped forward with no discernable emotion in the High Court after the court announced the minimum term of imprisonment for the mandatory life sentence, it said.

"No sentence is long enough, and no justice can replace the life and love that was lost," Harrap's mother, Su Harrap was quoted as saying.



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Long Live the King

Charles III Crowned King of the United Kingdom

On a rainy Saturday, reminiscent of his mother's coronation 70 years ago, Charles III was officially crowned King of the United Kingdom in a solemn religious ceremony at Westminster Abbey in London. The event marked the continuation of an ancient tradition that has endured for almost a thousand years, with every British coronation since William the Conqueror's in 1066 taking place at the Abbey. The coronation of King Charles III was a momentous occasion for the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth. It marked the beginning of a new era for the monarchy and the country, as a new monarch takes on the duties and responsibilities of the role. The ceremony itself was steeped in tradition and symbolism, reflecting the deep historical roots of the monarchy and its place in the modern world. One notable aspect of the ceremony was the presence of representatives from different faiths and communities. This reflects the diversity of modern-day Britain and the importance of inclusion and tolerance in a multicultural society. The fact that Britain's first Hindu Prime Minister Rishi Sunak read a passage at the ceremony is a testament to the changing face of the country and its leadership. The religious ceremony was made up of five key stages: the Recognition; the Oath; the Anointing; the Investiture and Crowning; and the Enthronement and Homage. The Imperial State Crown, or Crown of State, was placed on Charles's head at the Investiture and Crowning stage, and the monarch exchanged it for St. Edward's Crown at the end of the Coronation Service. While Camilla wore Queen Mary's crown, which was designed for the coronation of June 1911, Charles was anointed behind a cloth screen depicting a central design of a tree with branches filled with 56 leaves representing the Commonwealth of nations - including one of the leaves dedicated to India. The holy Chrism oil consecrated at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem was symbolically touched to the monarch's head, chest, and hands as part of the religious ceremony. The streets of central London were lined with thousands of well-wishers waving flags, alongside some groups of protesters who campaign for the abolition of the monarchy and have organized #NotMyKing protests at Trafalgar Square. There were some reports of arrests of protesters as they allegedly tried to disrupt the procession. The historic occasion was an opportunity for faith leaders and representatives of the Hindu, Sikh, Muslim, Buddhist, and Jewish communities to process through the Abbey ahead of the service. House of Lords peers of Indian heritage handed over key regalia to the monarch during the ceremony. In attendance were community champions, including Bansari Ruparelia, a British Empire Medal (BEM) winner, who provides support and care to people experiencing social isolation. Another BEM winner, British Indian chef Manju Malhi, joined the likes of Sourabh Phadke, a graduate of the Prince's Foundation - set up in Dumfries House, Scotland, by Charles as the Prince of Wales with a vision to provide holistic solutions to challenges facing the world. Gulfsa, winner of the Prince's Trust Global Award, and Indian-origin Jay Patel of Prince's Trust Canada were also among the selected invitees. The crowning of Charles III, the longest-serving heir to the British throne, has been a long-awaited event. He has previously served as Prince of Wales, Duke of Cornwall, and Duke of Rothesay. He is known for his interest in environmental issues, organic farming, and architecture, and has been a patron of many charitable organizations. As the newly crowned King and Queen made their way to another waiting horse-drawn historic Gold State Coach, the chiming of Abbey bells marked the conclusion of the two-hour-long ceremony. The coach, last seen during the Pageant of the Platinum Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II in June 2022. Overall, the coronation of King Charles III was a historic and memorable event, steeped in tradition and symbolism. It marked the beginning of a new era for the monarchy and the country, and it served as a reminder of the importance of unity and inclusion in a diverse and multicultural society. As King Charles III begins his reign, we wish him all the best and look forward to seeing what he will achieve in the years to come.

Modi's Roadshows in Karnataka

Addressing National Issues Beyond Political Campaigns

Yash Pal Ralhan

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been on a series of road shows in the southern Indian state of Karnataka ostensibly to campaign for the upcoming assembly elections in the state. However, some observers are questioning whether these road shows can actually address the national issues facing the country. The reality is that there are several pressing national issues that require the attention of the Prime Minister and his government, such as the ongoing unrest in Manipur and Jammu and Kashmir, the deteriorating economic situation, and the lack of progress on key reforms. The situation in Manipur, for example, has been steadily deteriorating in past few days, with violent clashes between different ethnic groups and the state government's failure to address the underlying issues. While the Prime Minister has spoken out on the situation, many are calling for stronger action to address the root causes of the conflict. Similarly, the situation in Jammu and Kashmir remains tense, with continuing violence and unrest in the region. The upcoming G20 conference in the state is a cause for concern, as extremists may try to create a law and order situation that could attract international attention and support from Pakistan. Meanwhile, the Indian economy is facing significant challenges, with rising inflation, a slow recovery from the pandemic, and the government's failure to implement key reforms. The Prime Minister's attention is needed to address these economic issues and to ensure that India's economic recovery is on track. In addition, there are several other national issues that require the Prime Minister's attention, such as the implementation of key social welfare programs, improving healthcare infrastructure, and addressing environmental concerns. While road shows and political campaigns are an important part of the democratic process, they cannot be a substitute for addressing these pressing national issues. The Prime Minister and his government must prioritize these issues and take strong action to address them. Furthermore, there is a need for greater accountability and transparency in government. The PM's portal for grievances of the common man, for example, is not actively working, and many complaints go unaddressed. This lack of responsiveness and accountability erodes public trust in the government and undermines the democratic process. While political campaigns and road shows have their place in the democratic process, they cannot be a substitute for addressing the pressing national issues facing the country. The Prime Minister and his government must prioritize these issues and take strong action to address them. At the same time, there is a need for greater transparency and accountability in government, and for ensuring that the voices of marginalized communities, such as the disabled, are heard and their needs are addressed. Only by addressing these challenges can India move towards a more inclusive, equitable, and prosperous future.

Central Chronicle invites articles, write-ups, and comments on a wide range of issues for our editorial page. Submissions should be between 800-900 words in length. In addition, we welcome letters to the editor for this page. While letters may be edited for clarity, we aim to preserve the integrity of the original message, and ask that they be kept to around 50-60 words. Submissions can be sent via email to editor@centralchronicle@gmail.com.

YOGA CONCLAVE



Women perform yoga during 'Yoga Conclave', a programme organised by Patanjali University and Bharat Swabhimana (Women Wing), in New Delhi, Sunday.

Prevention of thalassemia required genetic test



PROF. MANMOHAN PRAKASH



We all are aware that the world has made a lot of progress in the field of medical science (from diagnosis to treatment). All the countries including India are getting its benefits in the form of increased human survival age, good precise treatment and prevention of various diseases. Although there are still some diseases whose treatments are still difficult, expensive or even not possible. Many genetic disorders like Thalassaemia, Hemophilia, Sickle cell anaemia, Down syndrome, Cystic fibrosis and Tay Sachs etc. can be placed in these categories.

Genetic disorders like Thalassaemia are expanding rapidly in India. Its burden is higher in Northern and Western region than Eastern, Southern and Central region. Thalassaemia is characterised by faulty haemoglobin synthesis and RBC production in which the age of human red blood cells is much less than that of a normal healthy human being. Patients suffering from this disease require regular life-long medicines along with blood transfusion at regular intervals, which not only make the treatment expensive, but also make it out of reach of the poor family.

It is also well-known that thalassaemia is a disease which is passed from parents to children. Actually genes of a parent are responsible for

such hereditary diseases. These genes entered in the child through sex chromosomes (through reproduction) of parents. It is a proven fact that parents of thalassaemia like disease can also have carrier genes in one or both of the sex chromosomes (i.e. sex chromosomes of mother and father). If only one of the parents has thalassaemia causing genes in the sex chromosome, then the child may have minor thalassaemia and if both the parents sex chromosomes have thalassaemia causing genes, then major thalassaemia may occur, which is comparable more dangerous than minor thalassaemia. In autosomal recessive condition, heterozygotes of either Alfa and Beta Thalassaemia are usually asymptomatic and generally requires no treatment. But homozygotes and compound heterozygotes condition is responsible for Thalassaemia syndrome disease which requires regular treatment. The classification of Thalassaemia minor, major and intermediate is based on alpha and beta globin chain inequality.

In disease thalassaemia, the general symptoms include - fatigue, weakness, lethargicness with anaemia and low RBC, however, in severe conditions patients show pale skin, facial bone deformation, slow physical growth, abdominal swelling, dark yellow urine.

Patients suffering from this disease require regular blood transfusion with certain medicines. Doctors believe that bone marrow transplantation, stem cell therapy, chelation therapy and gene therapy may be very useful in this disease. But this kind of treatment is not only expensive but also not available in every hospital.

For better management of this disease parents are advised to follow (a) the careful selection of donors (if possible avoid remunerative donors), (b) regular checking (c) keep records of red cell antibody, transfusion reaction and annual blood transfusion requirements (d) keep the post transfusion haemoglobin below 145-150 g/l (e) follow the doctor suggestions and do not break the treatment. The NGO like LION providing financial support for medical facilities to patients in almost every district.

In India cases of this disease are continuously increasing. Every year 10000 children are being born with this major thalassaemia and approximately contributing ten percent in the total world incidence. With 42 million carriers India is now known as "Thalassaemia capital" of the world. This statistics is alarming and showed that preventive and awareness strategies is not upto mark in India. May be due to majority of having low socio-economic status and low medical literacy. In recent years central government has taken initiative for treatment of rare disease - specially included diagnosis, prevention and treatment under the policy of Rare Disease 2021. The aim of 2023 world thalassaemia day is to be aware about this disease, share the knowledge about symptoms and treatment of such disease and come forward to care for the patients.

In India, most of the parents match the horoscope of the bride and groom before marriage, but never want to see

their genetic horoscope. It means neither boys and girls who have decided for marriage or nor his family members never try to find out before marriage that the pair is suffering from any kind of genetic disease or carrying genes of such genetic disorder?

We all know that in medical science it is said that 'prevention is better than cure'. People must keep in mind that in modern medical science genetics disease identification facilities are available through which a person can easily know whether they are carrying genes which are responsible for genetic disorders or not. With premarital detection of the causative genetic disorder gene, parents have two options. One, they can prevent these carrier genes from being transferred to their next generation by avoiding marriage. Secondly if they want to marry then they have choice to refuse to give birth. Children can be adopted but they have no answer when their grown up children will ask from parents 'that why did you give birth to me to fight with these serious incurable diseases?'

In the modern scientific age children will never grant excuses to their parents for lack of understanding about genetic disorder, ignorance of modern medical technologies for better offspring and unscientific thinking and knowledge about the future generations. Hence, for healthy and inherited disease free society Indian peoples are advised to see genetic horoscope or map before marriage or before child birth. Medical science also suggest that such diseases cannot be cured but can be prevented. Its prevention required parent genetic test for the presence of thalassaemia gene, prenatal screening, preimplantation genetic diagnosis along with public awareness and education. We as good Indian citizens must think over these recommendations.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Modi's silence unacceptable

The ongoing protest by wrestlers intensified after a scuffle broke out between protesters and the Delhi Police at Jantar Mantar. Ace wrestler Vinesh Phogat alleged that a police officer manhandled and shoved the protesters. It is outrageous that the Delhi Police, who should maintain peace, are instigating violence and then blaming the protesters. The Modi government is crossing all limits of civility by harassing Olympic, Commonwealth, or World medal winners of our country for protecting a BJP MP and president of Wrestling Federation of India, Brij Bhushan Singh. What's wrong with PM Modi that he is shielding Singh despite charges against him? Our daughters should not be made to come to the street for justice. Instead of justice, they were attacked and injured by Amit Shah's police at midnight. Silent people across the country are watching the torturous behaviour of the government.

Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee, Faridabad

India's Press Freedom Slips

I am writing to express my concern over India's recent slip of 11 spots on the World Press Freedom Index. As the largest democracy in the world, this deterioration in ranking is unpalatable. The measures adopted by the government to muzzle criticism have been counterproductive and detrimental to our country's reputation. This ranking serves as a reminder for the government to revisit its policies and start taking criticism in its stride. Instead of suppressing dissent, the government should create an environment where journalists and media professionals feel safe to report the truth and express their opinions. Press freedom is essential for the functioning of a democratic society. The government must work towards protecting it, not undermining it.

MK Nair, Raipur

Proud moment

It is a matter of joy and pride over the appointment of Ajay Banga as the Chief of the World Bank. This is truly a proud moment for all Indians, as it feels like our people are ruling the world - be it as CEOs or world leaders. It is inspiring to see individuals like Ajay Banga, who have come from the same background and circumstances as many of us, achieve such great success on a global level. His appointment is a testament to his hard work, dedication, and leadership skills. I hope that Ajay Banga's appointment will encourage more young Indians to pursue their dreams and strive for excellence. We need more role models like him to inspire the next generation of leaders.

Shivkumar Mishra, Raipur

The Mohini incarnation of Lord Vishnu is dedicated to feminine power



Rajender Kumar Sharma

The Mohini incarnation of Lord Vishnu is dedicated to feminine power. Mohini Ekadashi Vrat is observed on the Ekadashi Tithi of Shukla Paksha in the Vaishakh month, and this year it falls on May 1 (Monday), 2023. On this day, Lord Vishnu's Mohini incarnation is worshipped to receive his blessings. It is believed that on this day, Lord Vishnu incarnated as Mohini and gave the nectar that emerged from the churning of the ocean to the gods. Fasting on the day of Mohini Ekadashi is believed to lead to salvation.

The fast is broken on the next day of Ekadashi after sunrise. Sometimes, there is a rule to observe the Ekadashi fast for two consecutive days. Fasting with the family takes place on the first day, while ascetics,

widows, and those seeking salvation fast on the second day. Devotees can choose the type of Ekadashi Vrat during Sankalp according to their willpower and physical strength. For example, they can fast with only water, fruits, milk products, or by eating once a day.

Mohini is the only female incarnation of the Hindu god Vishnu and is depicted as a woman symbolizing feminine power. She stopped the demons from drinking the nectar by charming and tying them, and also killed Bhasmasur and Swarbhana for the welfare of the world. During the churning of the ocean, the deities were afraid that the asuras might become immortal by drinking the nectar. They prayed to Lord Vishnu to stop this from happening. Then, Lord Vishnu incarnated as Mohini and gave the nectar to the deities. He prevented the demons from becoming immortal by charming them.

Bhasmasura was a person in mythology who sought a boon from Lord Shiva that whoever he placed his hand on would turn into ashes. According to the legend, Bhasmasura himself turned into ashes with this power. Shiva sought help from Vishnu, who took the form of a beautiful woman, Mohini, attracted Bhasmasur, and inspired him to dance. While dancing, Vishnu made Bhasmasur place his hand on his own head, which resulted in Bhasmasur

turning to ashes.

During the churning of the ocean, Lord Vishnu appeared in the form of Dhanvantari with the last Ratan Amrit Kalash. When the Asura ran away from Lord Dhanvantari with the Amrit Kalash, Dhanvantari took the form of a beautiful woman named Mohini. Mohini took the nectar from the demons and gave it to the gods, charming the demons to prevent them from becoming immortal.

A demon named Swarbhana understood the trick of Vishnu in the form of Mohini and disguised himself as a deity. He went to drink the nectar, but when Mohini found out, she beheaded Swarbhana with the Sudarshan Chakra. However, the nectar had already gone down his throat, and he became immortal. Swarbhana's head and torso became famous as Rahu and Ketu, respectively.

Maharishi Vashishtha described the importance of Mohini Ekadashi to Shri Ram, saying, "O Ram! This fast eradicates all sins and leads to salvation. All seven illusions are destroyed with this fast. There is no better fast than this fast in the world. Just by reading or listening to the glory of this fast, one gets the fruit of a thousand cattle."

(Sr. Educationist & Columnist, Dehradun, Uttarakhand. Views are personal).

AI Challenges for Working world



Gyanendra Pandey

for workers who lack the necessary skills.

Bias and discrimination: AI systems are only as unbiased as the data that is used to train them. If the data is biased, the AI system may perpetuate that bias, which could lead to discrimination against certain groups of people.

Cybersecurity: As more businesses adopt AI technologies, they will need to ensure that their systems are secure and protected against cyber attacks. This will require investments in cybersecurity infrastructure and training.

Ethics and accountability: As AI becomes more autonomous, it will become increasingly important to establish ethical guidelines and ensure that AI systems are held accountable for their actions. This will require collaboration between policymakers, businesses, and other stakeholders.

Overall, the challenges posed by AI in the working world will require a proactive and collaborative response from businesses, policymakers, and workers themselves. It will be important to invest in education and training to ensure that workers have the necessary skills to thrive in a rapidly changing work environment. Additionally, ethical considerations must be taken into account when developing and implementing AI systems, and accountability must be established to ensure that these systems are used responsibly and for the benefit of society as a whole.

Artificial intelligence (AI) is already transforming the working world, and it is likely to continue doing so in the future. While AI has the potential to increase productivity, efficiency, and accuracy in many industries, it also poses a number of challenges for the workforce. Some of the challenges that may arise from the increasing use of AI in the working world include:

Job displacement: AI has the potential to automate many routine and repetitive tasks, which could lead to job displacement for some workers. This could be especially true in industries such as manufacturing, retail, and transportation.

Skills mismatch: As AI becomes more prevalent in the workplace, there may be a mismatch between the skills that workers have and the skills that are required for the new roles that emerge. This could lead to a situation where there are fewer jobs available

BRIEF



Properties

New Delhi: Godrej Properties expects 14 per cent growth in sale bookings this fiscal to a record Rs 14,000 crore on strong housing demand, a top company official said. In an interview with PTI, Godrej Executive Chairman Pirojsha Godrej highlighted that the company's performance in 2022-23 was very strong on all important metrics like sale bookings, cash collections from customers, completion of projects and addition of new land parcels for future developments.

'Virtual' room

Lucknow: The Lucknow airport on Sunday said it has set up a virtual room to ensure faster clearance of passengers' hand baggage, bypassing the requirement of travellers' physical presence to verify any restricted items. The audio-video communication system has been installed at the Chaudhary Charan Singh International Airport near gate number 1 of in the security hold area of the domestic terminal-2.

Pact

New Delhi: Power trading solution provider PTC India has inked a long-term power purchase agreement with VS Lignite Power for 115 MW of electricity supply. PTC India executed a long-term power purchase agreement (PPA) for 115 MW with VS Lignite Power Pvt. Ltd, a company statement said. VS Lignite operates a 135-MW lignite-fired power plant in Bikaner district of Rajasthan.

Better times



New Delhi: Tyre maker CEAT expects recovery in its international business and replacement market, which are more profitable segments, going forward, according to company Vice Chairman Anant Goenka. With raw material prices remaining stable, the company is expecting "double digit plus margins" going forward.

Store

Kolkata: Retail major Shoppers Stop is planning to open the country's largest beauty-related store in Kolkata during the upcoming festive season, according to a top company official. The store will be more of a concept than a traditional outlet, with details being kept under wraps for now, Shoppers Stop Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer Venu Nair said at the MCCI organised Retail Summit on Saturday.

FSDC MEETING

FM Sitharaman to review state of economy

New Delhi, May 07 (PTI):



Nirmala Sitharaman

Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman will review the state of the economy amid global and domestic challenges at a meeting of the Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC) on Monday.

The 27th meeting of the high-level panel to be held here will be attended by all financial sector regulators, including RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das, sources said.

This would be the first meeting of the FSDC after the passage of Rs 45 lakh crore Budget for 2023-24 with greater emphasis on capital expenditure with an outlay of Rs 10,00,961 crore.

The FSDC is the apex body of sectoral regulators, headed by the Union finance minister.

The meeting will review the current global and domestic economic situation and financial stability is-

ues, including those concerning banking and NBFCs in view of failure of Silicon Valley Bank and Signature Bank and liquidity pressure faced by Credit Suisse, according to the sources.

The council would review the progress of measures approved earlier for further development of the financial sector and to achieve inclusive economic growth with macroeconomic stability, they said.

RBI in its latest bi-monthly policy marginally revised upward the economic growth projection for the current fiscal to 6.5 per cent, from its earlier estimate of 6.4 per cent.

Unveiling the first bi-monthly monetary policy of 2023-24 fiscal in April, RBI Governor had said the GDP growth in the first quarter of 2023-24 is expected at 7.8 per cent.

The growth for second, third and fourth quarter of the current fiscal has been projected at 6.2 per cent, 6.1 per cent and 5.9 per cent, respectively.

The last meeting of the high level panel had taken place in September, 2022.

The Council during the last meeting deliberated on the early warning indicators for the economy and preparedness to deal with them, improving the efficiency of the existing Financial Information Systems and issues of governance and management in Systemically Important Financial Institutions including Financial Market Infrastructures, and strengthening cyber security framework in financial sector.

GSTN defers by 3 months, implementation of time limit

New Delhi, May 07 (PTI): GSTN has deferred by 3 months the implementation of time limit for businesses with turnover of over Rs 100 crore to upload their old e-invoices. Last month the GST Network had imposed a timeline for businesses with turnover of Rs 100 crore and above for uploading e-invoices on the Invoice Registration Portal (IRP) within 7 days of the issue of such invoices beginning May 1.

Previously, there was no such restriction for businesses to upload the invoices on the IRP. As per GST law, businesses cannot avail input tax credit (ITC) if invoices are not uploaded on the IRP. In an advisory to taxpayers on May 6, GST Network said it has been decided by the competent authority to defer the imposition of time limit of 7 days on reporting old e-invoices on the e-invoice IRP portals for taxpayers with aggregate turnover greater than or equal to Rs 100 crore by three months.

MG Motor India launches Comet EV



Gurugram, May 07: MG Motor India, a British automobile brand with a 99-year-old legacy, launched three distinct variants of its recently unveiled smart electric vehicle, the MG Comet EV—Pace, Play, and Plush. The MG Comet EV—the Smart electric vehicle marks a new era in urban mobility solutions for India. The Comet, based on the versatile GSEV Pure Electric plat-

form, boasts a sleek and roomy design with natural agility that enables seamless and stress-free urban commuting. Comet EV, the second electric vehicle in MG Motor India's line-up, is a blend of style, technology, and sustainability, offering a versatile drive with unparalleled safety features.

The variants come with distinctive styling and have options for users to

make their personal statement with a wide range of add-ons, accessories, funky body wraps, and cool stickers. The Comet EV will be available at a very special inaugural price, starting at Rs 7.98 lakh for the Pace variant; Play and Plush variants come at Rs 9.28 lakh and Rs 9.98 lakh (ex-show-room), respectively. The offer will be limited to the first 5000 bookings.

Nitin Kukreja appointed Allen CEO



New Delhi, May 07: Allen Career Institute Private Limited ("Allen Career Institute" or "Allen"), India's pioneering education company, has announced the appointment of Nitin Kukreja as its new Chief Executive Officer. Nitin is mandated to build a world-class education company of the future and bridge

the wide education deficit in India. Nitin and his team will focus on combining Allen's deep-rooted academic excellence with technology to deliver these objectives on scale.

Commenting on the appointment, Brajesh Maheshwari, Chairman, Allen Career Institute, said, "Nitin has been associated with Allen as a board member and made invaluable contributions in defining the strategic roadmap for Allen. We are excited to welcome and support him in the avatar of our Chief Executive Officer. Nitin is a values-driven leader with exceptional strategic capabilities and strong experience in scaling businesses.

'One-third of annual exploration projects are for critical, strategic minerals'

Kolkata, May 07 (PTI):



(Policy Support System - Planning and Monitoring) Asit Saha said.

Amid the buzz of 'green economy', the Geological Survey of India (GSI) is intensifying its exploration exercises for critical minerals, like lithium, nickel, cobalt and rare earth elements, with "one-third" of such projects being dedicated to the search of these resources, a top official said on Sunday.

These critical minerals are key to clean energy technologies.

The national survey organisation, which now has a working collaboration with Geoscience Australia for mineral exploration, is also in talks for tie-ups with the authorities in Russia and Brazil, GSI Deputy Director General

"We have been taking up more than 100 exploration projects every year for critical minerals since 2020-21. The same trend continues this year (2023-24) also, as it is our thrust area. Earlier, the number of such projects was to the tune of 60-70 but now we have drastically increased it.

MAI launches Chennai-Yangon direct flights

Chennai, May 07 (PTI):



Private airline Myanmar Airways International (MAI) has commenced direct non-stop flights between Chennai and Yangon, boosting connectivity between the two countries, the airliner said on Sunday.

An Embraer E190LR aircraft with a seating capacity of 98 seats - six in business class and 92 in economy - would be operated between the two cities. Chennai is the latest city to be served by MAI after Delhi, Kolkata and Gaya.

On its arrival at Chennai airport on Saturday, the maiden flight was welcomed with a traditional water salute by officials of the Airports Authority of India, among others, a press release

said. The launch of new flights in 2023 also marks 75 years of cordial ties between India and Myanmar, it said.

Nearly 48 passengers arrived in Chennai from Yangon while 70 passengers travelled from Chennai to Yangon on the inaugural flight.

Honorary consul of Myanmar Professor Ranganathan J along with Chennai Airport Director

S S Raju formally inaugurated the launch of the service by lighting a traditional lamp at the international departure terminal in the city.

With the launch of non-stop flights of Myanmar Airways International, travellers from Chennai can easily visit tourist destinations in the neighbouring country including Yangon, Mandalay, Bagan and Ngapali Beach among others.

The new flight connection is aimed at mutually benefiting and improving trade as well as the health and leisure tourism sectors of both countries.

The flights will be operated every Saturday and the aircraft will depart from Yangon at 8 AM local time and arrive in Chennai at 10.15 AM. In the return direction, the flight from Chennai will leave at 11.15 AM and arrive in Yangon at 3.15 PM.

Myanmar Airways International currently operates in 18 international destinations and 18 domestic destinations and has seamless interline arrangements with 34 carriers, a company release said.

Myanmar Airlines International is represented by the STIC Travel Group in the country.

'Lot of headroom for growth in India'

New Delhi, May 07 (PTI):



Alan Mamedi

As Swedish caller identification app Truecaller touched 250 million active users milestone in India, CEO and co-founder Alan Mamedi believes there is still a lot of headroom for growth here, and does not anticipate any changes in how its "privacy-focused, permission-based system" works as new regulations come up in the country.

Mamedi asserted that the company will be compliant with the upcoming data protection laws in India and "welcomes any and all actions in the mission to make communication safe and efficient".

Mamedi, who was recently in India along with Truecaller's Chief Strategy Officer and co-founder Nami Zarringhalam, said the

company appreciates Trai consultation on Caller Name Presentation (CNAP) and remains "very supportive of this and any future initiatives they have".

The telecom regulatory authority of India (Trai) recently asked telecom companies to take immediate action to curb pesky calls and messages, initiating a slew of measures to crackdown on the

issue of spam, and instances of fraud.

Truecaller said it remains focused on core aspects of its service, that is, protecting the highest number of people from unwanted or malicious communication.

"There is a lot of room to grow, even in India. We currently have 250 million active users here, even though there may be over 500 million data connected smartphones," Mamedi told PTI.

On new regulations such as Digital India and digital personal data protection bill that are taking shape, Truecaller CEO affirmed that the company is already compliant with data protection laws in many other nations, and will abide by upcoming norms in India as well.

Gold imports dip 24 % to USD 35 bn

In 2022-23

New Delhi, May 07 (PTI): India's gold imports, which have a bearing on the current account deficit, dipped 24.15 per cent to USD 35 billion in 2022-23 due to global economic uncertainties, according to data from the commerce ministry.

Imports of the yellow metal stood at USD 46.2 billion in 2021-22.

The growth rate in the imports was in the negative zone during August 2022 to February this year. It jumped to USD 3.3 billion in March 2023 as against USD 1 billion in the year-ago month, the data showed. Silver imports, however,

rose 6.12 per cent to USD 5.29 billion during the last fiscal.

The significant fall in gold imports though has not helped in narrowing the country's trade deficit - the difference between imports and exports. The merchandise trade deficit in 2022-23 was estimated at USD 267 billion against USD 191 billion in the year-ago period.

According to industry experts, high import duty on gold and global economic uncertainties have led to the dip in imports of the precious metal.

"India imported about 600 tonnes of gold during April-January 2023, and it is down because of high import duty.

However, manufacturers including Panasonic, Godrej and Daikin are hoping that sales for the industry will be back on track as normal summer

resumes. "This year the weather has been usually cool for April and hence we have recorded a lower growth compared to last year. We have seen many customers delay the purchase of ACs as of now," said Panasonic Life Solutions India Business Head, Air Conditioners Group, Gaurav Sah.

AC sales dip 15 % in April

As temperature falls

New Delhi, May 07 (PTI): Unseasonal rains in north India during April-end and May beginning have put brakes on sales of cooling products such as air conditioners, refrigerators and coolers, according to industry players.

Customers have delayed the purchase of air conditioners in April and May, which are considered to be the peak season for the industry. In April, some makers reported around a 15 per cent decline in sales in comparison to the same period a year ago.

However, manufacturers including Panasonic, Godrej and Daikin are hoping that sales for the industry will be back on track as normal summer

resumes.

"While the east and south have seen good growth till April because of no weather disruptions, the west has been flat, said CEAMA President Eric Braganza. "The month of May will be crucial for defining the season's growth. If the expected increase in temperatures happens, we will see a revival in demand and a rapid reduction in market inventory," said Braganza.

Godrej Appliances Business Head and Executive Vice President Kamal Nandi said there is a strong correlation between temperature rise and the sale of cooling products like ACs, refrigerators, air coolers and deep freezers.

Irdai proposes to tighten norms for media campaigns

By insurers

New Delhi, May 07 (PTI):

Regulator Irdai is proposing to tighten norms for insurance advertisements by assigning higher responsibility on senior management while designing and approving the advertisements for the consumption of the customers," said the exposure draft on which Irdai has invited comments from the stakeholders by May 25. The committee will be required to report to the product management committee, the draft said. It further said the product management committee would be the final authority either to approve or reject the advertisements, after examining the recommendations of the advertisement committee.

ly from marketing, actuarial and compliance functions of the insurer. "The objective of the amendment is to assign higher responsibility on the senior management while designing and approving the advertisements for the consumption of the customers," said the exposure draft on which Irdai has invited comments from the stakeholders by May 25. The committee will be required to report to the product management committee, the draft said. It further said the product management committee would be the final authority either to approve or reject the advertisements, after examining the recommendations of the advertisement committee.

Saif Ali Khan chosen brand ambassador

Dollar Industries has collaborated with Bollywood actor, Saif Ali Khan as the face of Dollar Lehar, the affordable product segment of the brand. With Akshay Kumar as the existing brand ambassador for Dollar Bigboss catering to the metro segment, the decision to increase the mass portfolio with a leading Bollywood celebrity is prompted by the growing fashion aspirations across the country's Tier-2 and Tier 3 cities which strives for stylish yet affordable fashion.

The first step in that direction was to rope in Saif Ali Khan to add to the style quotient of Dollar Lehar and then

have a communication that would reflect his uber-cool persona through a witty plot and a memorable execution in the campaign 'Masti Ki Lehar', said Vinod Kumar Gupta, Managing Director, Dollar Industries Limited. The new Ad film conceptualised by Lowe Lintas, Kolkata and directed by Uzer Khan is set in the backdrop of Rajasthan and revolves around a bunch of foreign tourists harassing an old guide, who fails to understand their language. Saif comes to the rescue and in a hilarious turn of events teaches the foreign bully a lesson in his own imitable style.

Favourite on-screen 'Moms' of Television

Throughout Indian television's history, it has portrayed some of the most remarkable female characters in various shows, depicting mothers as the embodiment of love, care, compassion, and sacrifice. These small-screen mothers have made a lasting impression on viewers' minds. &TV artists, on this Mother's Day talk about playing different shades of dotting mothers on-screen. These include Neha Joshi (Yashoda, Doosri Maa), Kamna Pathak (Rajesh, Happu Ki Ultan Paltan), and Soma Rathod (Amma Ji, Bhabiji Ghar Par Hai). Kamna Pathak, aka Rajesh Singh from Happu Ki Ultan Paltan, shares, "In my show, I play the role of a mother to nine children, each with their distinct personalities. Whether it's Hritik (Aryan Prajapati), Chamchi (Zaara Warsi), Kate Singh (Gazal Sood), Ranbir (Somya Azad), or Malaika (Sonal Panwar), my



love for them is equal, even if I sometimes have to resort to "Pyaar and maar" (laughs). My character Rajesh knows how to keep all her children happy and will do anything to fulfill their wishes. She is the family's pillar, providing strength and support to her children. Rajesh is like the family's police officer, ensuring that everything is under control. Without her, the house would be in chaos. She never tires of performing her motherly duties, making her the perfect supermom. Although she can be strict, setting rules for her family to follow, her primary goal is to keep her children happy."

Tune in to Doosri Maa at 8:00 pm, Happu Ki Ultan Paltan at 10:00 pm, and Bhabiji Ghar Par Hai at 10:30 pm, airing every Monday to Friday only on &TV!

From Indian classical to hip-hop, Punjabi music Vidyut Jammwal trains on them all

Ever wondered what it takes to train like Vidyut Jammwal? Of course dedication but a great taste in music helps too. From Indian classical, sufi to electronic and Punjabi music, the Bollywood action star listens to them all while working out.

It won't be wrong to say that Vidyut, who is gearing up for the release of his upcoming film 'IB 71' releasing on May 12, has taken action a notch higher. But to perform great stunts one needs to train greater.

So what kind of music does he listen to? Vidyut said: "Music keeps changing for me. It depends on what zone I am in. Let's talk about fitness. When I go to the gym,



sufi music or Indian classical music. I enjoy that."

"That's not it. "There are times that I want to kick the punching bag open, I'd listen to some b-boying or hip-hop music. It keeps changing. There are times I like electronic music, but it depends on where I want to take my physical fitness to. But I keep shifting music."

Vidyut has a taste for Punjabi music too! "Sometimes I want to have fun while training and that's when I listen to Punjabi or some other regional music."

'IB 71', headlined and produced by Vidyut Jammwal, tells the story of the 'Ganga' hijack of 1971, which helped India gain a strategic advantage over Pakistan.

Zaara Warsi reveals the person behind the big break in the industry

Actor Zaara Warsi, who plays Chamchi in &TV's gharelu comedy, Happu Ki Ultan Paltan, has come a long way as a child actor. With her character Chamchi, who is Katori Amma's (Himani Shivpuri) favourite grandchild and the daughter of Happu (Yogesh Tripathi) and Rajesh (Kamna Pathak), she has been tickling the viewers' funny bones for the last four years.

In this interview, Zaara gets candid about her journey in the entertainment industry and how her current show has made her a household name.

How much do you enjoy playing Chamchi in Happu Ki Ultan Paltan?

I love everything about my character and completely relate to it. The character Chamchi I portray is an affectionate and lively young woman who shares a close bond with her siblings. This portrayal reflects my real-life per-

sonality, as I also hold a deep respect for my elders and cherish my close relationships with family. Through this role, I have gained professional success and recognition and valuable and meaningful connections. In the show, she is closest to her grandmother (Katori Amma), played by Himani Shivpuri Ji. They are both partners in crime, and she is like the real 'Chamchi' of her Dadi. Our characters are also named "Katori" and 'Chamchi' (laughs). I have never seen my Dadi ji (grandmother). She passed away before I was born, and my grandmother's love and care were missing in my life until I joined 'Happu Ki Ultan Paltan'. Thanks to this show, I had the pleasure of meeting Himani Mam, who has become a caring grandmother. Words cannot fully express my love and admiration for her. She is interested in my academic pursuits and provides valuable guidance



on improving my on-screen performance. Her knowledge and experience are invaluable, and I constantly learn from her.

How did your journey as Chamchi begin?

Well, that's an interesting story. So, Yogesh Tripathi sir, playing my on-screen father Daroga Happu Singh, and Salim Zaidi sir, who essays Tilu in Bhabiji Ghar Par Hai,

had come down to Lucknow for one of the events in Lucknow. It was like a talent hunt audition, and both were impressed by my dance and advised me to try acting. We exchanged numbers, and on their suggestion, I came down to Mumbai with my mother; and with their help, I bagged a cameo role in Bhabiji Ghar Par Hai. The show's director, Shashank Bali Ji, liked my work, but there was not much coming my way after that, so I moved back to my hometown of Baryali. But to my surprise, after seven months, I got a call from the team that they were doing an extended show on 'Bhabiji Ghar Par Hai', a character Daroga Happu Singh and wanted me to be cast as one of the nine children of Happu Singh. It was a dream come true for me, and without a second thought, I packed my bag and came to Mumbai with my mother again.

Was it your choice or fate to become an actor?

As a four-year-old, I would stand in front of a mirror and imitate my family members and characters from TV shows. My mother and other relatives were fond of acting, and they believed that I had the potential to become an actor. However, my mother's unwavering determination and effort paved the way for me to enter the industry. With her persistent hard work, I eventually became an actor, and I now cherish this profession.

Any dream role?

Given my passion for dance alongside acting, my ultimate aspiration would be to portray a renowned dancer in a Bollywood biopic. It would be the ideal role that could perfectly amalgamate my two favourite things.

Watch Zaara Warsi as Chamchi in Happu Ki Ultan Paltan at 10:00 pm, airing every Monday to Friday only on &TV!

Anupam Kher, Mrunal all praise for Kangana's dreamy, floral saree look



"Every inch of you is perfect", is a line from singer Meghan Trainor's song 'All About The Bass', which fits well for actress Kangana Ranaut's latest pictures on social media as she looks every-inch like a dream in a beautiful blush pink saree. Kangana took to Instagram, where she's don-

ning her iconic signature hair curls and a pink saree. Bollywood personalities Anupam Kher and Mrunal Thakur showered her with compliments in the pictures, Kangana is seen posing in the middle of colourful flowers. She looked dreamy in her traditional look as she paired it with

a dewy-blushed look. Sharing the photo, the actor wrote in the caption, "Ready for an important interview."

Reacting to the post, Anupam Kher wrote in the comments, "Superb you are looking". "Curls," pointed out Mrunal with loved-up emojis. Raashii Khanna mentioned, "Beautiful!". Several fans also flooded the comment section with red heart emojis.

On the work front, Kangana has Tejas in the pipeline, where she will be seen as an Indian Air Force pilot. She is also producing the upcoming film 'Tiku Weds Sheru', starring Avneet Kaur and Nawazuddin Siddiqui. The Padmashri actress will be seen in 'Emergency' and 'Chandramukhi 2'.

Rift come to fore in &TV characters!

In &TV's Doosri Maa, Happu Ki Ultan Paltan and Bhabiji Ghar Par Hai, the relationship between characters will exhibit a rift. About &TV's Doosri Maa track, Yashoda shares, "Suresh (Sunil Dutt) summons the police to arrest Krishna (Ayudh Bhanushali) for stealing his money. However, Malti (Anita

Pradhan) intervenes to save Krishna, which angers Aastha and Nupur as they overhear Malti saying grandparents have a special place for sons. Yashoda (Neha Joshi) tries to convince them that they are mistaken and that Krishna is not solely responsible for Ashok's departure. Kamini (Priyeta Sahay) manipulates

Suresh into dividing the house into two, with Yashoda and her children on one side and other people on the other side, leaving Yashoda shattered." Watch Doosri Maa at 8:00 pm, Happu Ki Ultan Paltan at 10:00 pm, and Bhabiji Ghar Par Hai at 10:30 pm, airing every Monday to Friday only on &TV!



Hansika wraps up shoot for female-centric film 'Man' in Chennai

Hansika Motwani has completed shooting for the last schedule of director Iqbal Nisar's Tamil film 'Man' in Chennai. The film is a thriller that talks about violence against women and the difficulties that they have been subjected to. Hansika plays a fashion designer -- a strong, independent and empowered woman. The look is fierce and the shoot was very challenging. Speaking on the wrap of the film, Motwani said: "As the 'Man' shoot comes to an end, I must say this journey wasn't very easy, but it was definitely worth the effort. My character in the movie has many layers and it was an experience to play such a strong woman. I can't wait for the audience to see me play Nirmla. This movie is truly very special to me." Directed by Iqbal and



shot in Chennai, Pollachi and Madurai, the movie's also includes Aari Arjunan, who plays the antagonist, Janani Durga and Soumika. Ghبران has composed the music and Mani has worked the cameras.

Actor Vaarun Bhagat: 'Undekhi' has been my biggest project so far

Actor Vaarun Bhagat is over-the-moon as the makers of the crime thriller series 'Undekhi' have announced its new season. The actor said that they were supposed to shoot the show five months before, but as it has done so well, the writers were taking their time and writing a phenomenal story. Vaarun plays Lucky, a complex character who is both charming and dangerous, and the actor has managed to capture his essence perfectly, becoming a fan favourite of critics and audiences alike. And now, much to the delight of fans, Applause Entertainment has announced that they are coming back with a third season.

Expressing his excitement for the upcoming season, Vaarun says, "We were supposed to shoot the show five months before, but as the show has done so well, the writers are going to take their time and write a phenomenal story that does justice to Undekhi and the people who have watched the show." He continues, "As the days are coming closer, I am feeling very excited and nervous. I'm try-



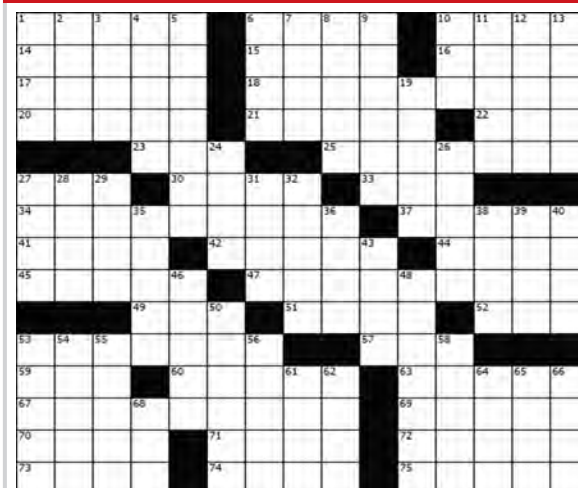
ing to keep myself calm and in a Zen space, not get too excited, and simply just looking forward to start shooting."

"Undekhi' has been my biggest project so far, so I am just hoping that the new season becomes something special for the entire cast, team and the entire people who are watching"

The announcement of season 3 has created a buzz among fans, who are eagerly waiting to see what happens next.

CROSSWORD

638



ACROSS

- Great destruction
- Completed
- Cake decorator
- Suspect's story
- Pharaoh's river
- Speak wildly
- Misplaces
- Boat with two hulls
- Slightest
- Secretly marry
- Peculiar

DOWN

- Poetic contraction
- Prickly plants
- Family mem.
- Rock's partner
- Untrained
- Water container
- Address _____ Blair
- Artist's prop
- Glide
- Noblewomen
- Water _____ (like some watches)

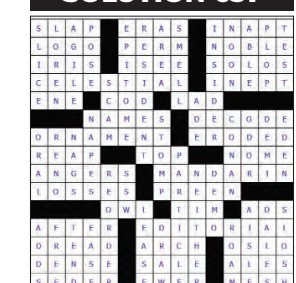
- Sedan or coupe
- Invitation inits.
- Owens
- Assisted a crook
- Slippery fish
- _____ constrictor
- Baldwin and Guinness
- Paying attention
- Pertaining to plants
- AM-FM _____
- Change for a five
- Comfort
- Poet _____ Dickinson
- Certain bills
- Soared
- Palm fruits

DOWN

- Foyer
- Medicinal plant
- Passport endorsement
- Overweight
- Water tank
- _____ upon a time..."
- Small bottle
- Singer _____ John
- The Grim _____
- Nest egg (abbr.)
- Holiday song
- Escape
- Tears apart
- Iron or lead
- Musical sound
- "Oliver" _____
- Went quickly
- Dubugue's locale
- Mushroom part

- Perjurer
- _____ beam
- Build
- Not as much
- Ark builder
- Carvey of SNL
- Liberal _____
- Dwell
- Lucifer
- Harpooned
- Easing of pain
- Monastery head
- Pioneer Daniel _____
- Dined
- Sticker
- Andes animal
- Example
- Large quantity
- Revise
- Irritate
- Christmas gifts
- Pack animal

SOLUTION 637



Real Madrid overcomes Osasuna to win Copa del Rey

Seville, May 07 (AP):

Rodrygo scored twice to lead Real Madrid to its first Copa del Rey title in nearly a decade after overcoming Osasuna 2-1 in the final.

Rodrygo was set up by fellow Brazil forward Vinicius Junior to give Madrid the lead just two minutes after kick-off at La Cartuja Stadium.

Osasuna's Lucas Torrealba equalized in the 58th, but Rodrygo put Madrid back ahead for good in the 70th. With the Spanish cup in hand, Madrid will host Manchester City on Tuesday in the opening match of their Champions League semifinal.

Since winning its last Copa del Rey in 2014, the 14-time European Cup winner had won four Champions Leagues while falling short in the Spanish cup. That changed on Saturday, when it defeated an Osasuna that was seeking



Real Madrid team players and head coach Carlo Ancelotti celebrate with the trophy after Madrid defeated Osasuna 2-1 in the Copa del Rey soccer final at La Cartuja stadium in Seville, Spain.

its first major title in club history after also losing its only other Copa del Rey final in 2005. Madrid has 20 Copa del Rey titles, behind only Barcelona (31) and Athletic Bilbao (23).

Now it can seek a cup double if it can get past City for a second straight season and successfully defend its continental title.

"We had been talking all week about how it had been a long time since Real Madrid had won this title," Rodrygo said. "I really wanted to win this title since it was this that was the only (club) title I was missing."

Just 22 years old, Rodrygo, like many of his teammates, has completed their collection of club ti-

ties after having already won the Champions League, Spanish league, Club World Cup, UEFA Super Cup and Spanish Super Cup.

Captain Karim Benzema received the cup from Spain's King Felipe VI, who attended the coronation of King Charles III.

Rodrygo was key to Madrid's run to its record-extending 14th-European Cup last season. And against Osasuna he proved clutch in yet another big match, especially when cued by countryman Vinicius.

Vinicius dribbled past both Jon Moncayola and Ruben Pea before slipping the ball past three other defenders to find Rodrygo in the middle of the area to score the early opener.

Vinicius continued to escape his markers and Moncayola, a midfielder converted into a left back soon got a yellow card for pulling him down from behind.

Sabalenka beats Swiatek to reclaim Madrid Open title

Madrid, May 07 (AP):

In another meeting of the top two players in the world, Aryna Sabalenka finally got the better of Iga Swiatek on clay.

Second-ranked Sabalenka beat top-ranked Swiatek 6-3, 3-6, 6-3 to reclaim the Madrid Open title on Saturday.

Sabalenka lost to Stuttgart final two weeks ago and had never previously taken a set against her Polish rival in three clay-court meetings.

But the Belarusian held nothing back by aggressively hitting for winners and breaking Swiatek four times in the 2 1/2-hour final. The Australian Open champion claimed her tour-leading third title of the season and 13th of her career, including her second in Madrid after triumphing here in 2021. "I am just super happy with this win, especially against Iga on clay,"



Belarus' Aryna Sabalenka holds the winner's trophy after defeating Iga Swiatek of Poland at the end of the women's final at the Madrid Open tennis tournament in Madrid.

Sabalenka said. She told Swiatek on court, "It is always tough against each other and you always push me to my limits. I hope we will play many more times this season." It was the first WTA 1000 final between the top two ranked players since No. 1 Serena Williams beat No. 2 Li Na

at the 2014 Miami Open. It was also only the third time in the last 40 years that the top two women met twice on clay in a single season. Swiatek, a three-time Grand Slam winner, entered the match with a 5-2 record against Sabalenka. But she was clearly flustered early on

Bopanna-Ebden lose in Madrid Open final

Madrid: Indian tennis star Rohan Bopanna and his Australian partner Matthew Ebden lost to Russian pair of Andrey Rublev and Karen Khachanov in the Madrid Open men's doubles final here on Saturday. The 43-year-old Bopanna and Ebden, 35, lost 3-6, 6-3, 3-10 in the summit clash that lasted one hour and nine minutes. The Indo-Australian pair had entered their second ATP Masters 1000 final of the season after beating the duo of Santiago Gonzalez and Edouard Roger-Vasselin in the semifinals.

by Sabalenka's superb hitting. She shook her head and talked to her coach in the stands after costly hitting errors.

After Sabalenka commanded the first set and the start of the second, Swiatek found her composure and leveled the set score.

Asian Championships

Jeremy wins silver in snatch but fails to complete his event

Jinju (Korea), May 07 (PTI):

Indian weightlifter Jeremy Lalrinnunga won a silver in snatch but could not register an overall total as he failed to lift the weight in any of his three clean and jerk attempts in a disappointing show at the Asian Championships here on Sunday.

Competing in his first tournament since winning the gold at the 2022 Commonwealth Games, Jeremy was the only one in the 12-lifter field who did not finish (DNF) his event. The 20-year-old, however, won a silver medal in the snatch event with a personal best-equaling lift of 141kg in the non-Olympic 67kg weight class. Jeremy failed to lift 165kg in his first two



clean and jerk attempts. He then increased the weight to 168kg, which would have been 2kg more than his personal best and also a national record, but the reigning Youth Olympic champion faltered again. In fact, out of six attempts — three each in snatch and clean and jerk — Jeremy could lift the barbell only twice. "I don't know what happened today. It was just bad

luck," Jeremy told PTI. "After two failed attempts in clean and jerk, I went for the national record. I have lifted 168kg several times in training but today it was just not my day," he added. The Mizolifter, who is returning from a thigh injury that saw him miss last year's World Championship, looked rusty from the beginning.

He got off to a bad start, faltering in his opening snatch attempt of 137kg as his right knee gave away. However, he was able to lift the same weight comfortably in his next try.

Jeremy then bettered the snatch mark with a successful 141kg attempt to register the second-highest lift in the section before things went downhill for him.

Salt on heated battle with Siraj

'Taking on opposition's best bowler sends message of calm to dugout'

New Delhi, May 07 (PTI):

A little bit of "needling" from RCB's best bowler Mohammad Siraj spurred Phil Salt to play a match winning innings for Delhi Capitals at the Feroz Shah Kotla.

Siraj has been lethal with the new ball this season but he was at the receiving end on Saturday night when Salt took him to the cleaners in the fifth over of the run chase.

Salt emerged as the undisputed winner following a heated exchange with Siraj, who was seen pointing fingers at the English opener after bowling a bouncer. The 19-run over saw Salt smash couple of sixes and a four and Siraj wasn't given another spell.

Salt's breathtaking 87 off 45 in his debut IPL season



set up an emphatic win for the hosts. He said his chat with Siraj had a lot to do with the intensity of their away game against RCB at Chinnaswamy Stadium.

"I am very satisfied with the knock. Obviously, there was a little bit of needle. A lot of our pre-match talk was about really taking it to them, which I felt we did really well.

Chithravel sets national record in triple jump

Sable, Parul shatter NR in men's and women's 5000m

New Delhi, May 07 (PTI):

Triple jumper Praveen Chithravel shattered the national record and breached the 2023 World Athletics Championships qualifying standard in Cuba while Avinash Sable and Parul Chaudhary set men's and women's 5000m national marks in a track event in USA.

Chithravel jumped 17.37m to finish on top of podium at the V Prueba de Confrontacion 2023 competition on Saturday in Havana, Cuba, a World Athletics category F event, to better the earlier national record of 17.30m set by Renjith Maheswary in 2016. The 21-year-old Chithravel also breached the 2023 Budapest World Athletics Championships qualifying standard of 17.20m. His earlier personal best was 17.18m which he had achieved while



winning gold during the National Inter-State Athletics Championships in Chennai last year.

His 17.37m effort also put him in the second place in the season's top list for non wind assisted jumps. Chithravel is currently training in Cuba under coach Yoandri Betanzos, who is the native of that country. World junior championships medalist T Selva Prabhu, who is also training along with Chithravel, broke the U-20 national record with an effort of 16.58m for a fourth-place finish in the same event. Sable and

Chaudhary, both 28, bettered the old men's and women's 5000m national records at the Sound Running Track Festival, a World Athletics Continental Tour silver level event, in Los Angeles in USA on Saturday. Sable bettered his own earlier national record of 13:25:65 by clocking 13:19:30 as he finished 12th in the race, while Chaudhary broke the earlier national mark of 15:15:89 which had remained for 13 years in the name of Preeja Sreedharan by clocking 15:10:35 for a ninth-place finish. Sable also holds the national record in 3000m steeplechase which is his pet event. He had won a silver in 3000m steeplechase at the 2022 Commonwealth Games. He has also already qualified for the 2023 World Athletics Championships men's 3000 steeplechase event.

Focus on Narine's place in eleven as KKR face-off Punjab Kings at home

Kolkata, May 07 (PTI):

A 'Go To' man in Kolkata Knight Riders for more than a decade, Sunil Narine will have to play out of his skin to justify his place in the playing eleven when his team face Punjab Kings in a must-win Indian Premier League game, here on Monday.

The Trinidad man, who has played 158 games spread across 12 seasons, including the current one, has 159 wickets along with 1039 runs with four half-centuries after he worked on his batting once his action was deemed suspect and he lost fizz of the pitch. Narine hasn't been



the same "mystery bowler", who burst into the T20 franchise scene, for many seasons but he would be first one to admit he has been insanely lucky. The architect of 2012 and 2014 IPL wins with 24 and 21 wickets in those two seasons, has struggled for at least two of

his last three seasons but KKR management (the principal decision makers CEO Venky Mysore and assistant coach Abhishek Nayar) has stuck with him. However with KKR starting at another round robin exit with only four wins in 10 games, there is no room for error in next

four games. The question is whether KKR can still afford to still play the man, who only has seven scalps from 10 games with an economy rate of 8.76 and aggregate of 14 runs from 8 batting innings with a strike-rate of less than 80.

While KKR does need to take some tough selection calls, Punjab Kings is also in a spot of bother and the match is of equal importance for them.

Having been out-batted by Mumbai Indians in their last outing, the Shikhar Dhawan-led side may be a spot ahead of the eighth-placed KKR with a two-point lead but both the teams are staring at elimination.

Gill, Saha fire Gujarat Titans to 227/2

Ahmedabad, May 07 (PTI): Shubman Gill smashed an unbeaten 94 and Wriddhiman Saha a brutal 81 as Gujarat Titans piled up 227 for two the fourth highest total this season against Lucknow Super Giants in the Indian Premier League here on Sunday. Saha and Gill went hammer and tongs from the word go to add 142 runs for the first wicket in only 12.1 overs, setting the franchise record for highest partnership for any wicket, as LSG had no respite despite deploying eight bowlers into the attack. It was also the second-best stand for any team for any wicket in this IPL, and for Gujarat Titans, the total was their highest-ever in IPL since their debut last season. Saha struck an overall four sixes and 10 fours to make 81 from 43 balls whereas Gill opened up tad late but finished close to what would have been a splendid maiden IPL century, hitting seven sixes and two fours in his 51-ball



Gujarat Titans batter Shubman Gill celebrates his half century during the IPL 2023 cricket match between Gujarat Titans and Lucknow Super Giants, at Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad, Sunday.

knock. Gujarat Titans also bettered their overall record of most runs in the powerplay. Having hit 65 against Chennai Super Kings here in the season-opener, the Saha-Gill pair went ballistic to add 78 runs in the first six overs, scoring at 13 runs per over. Saha got off the blocks quickly to put pressure on the visiting bowlers, hitting Mohsin Khan for a couple of fours and Avesh Khan for a six and a four in the first two overs of the innings.

The Gujarat wicketkeeper-batter continued with his assault on Mohsin in the left-armers' second over, hitting him for a couple of sixes and fours each to take the defending champions past the 50-run mark inside four overs. Gill, so far steady at the other end, smacked a six over long-off Krunal Pandya and in the last over of the powerplay, Saha brought up his fifty off only 20 balls with a six off Yash Thakur.

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Maiden Sikkim Arts and Literature Fest begins



Speaking at the inaugural ceremony on Saturday, Sikkim's Education Minister Kunga Nima Lepcha said art and literature can unite people and help realise the dream of world peace.

"All of us are aware that art and literature have been an integral part of human civilisation since its inception. These two forms of expression have been the backbone of our culture. We know that it is literature and art that

peace. Let us try to make the universe as one, try to create conditions under which we try to understand each others' problems and the various reasons which are making this world not peaceful. This world has to be made peaceful," the minister added.

The ceremony was also attended by Agriculture Minister L N Sharma, Lok Sabha MP Indra Hang Subba and MLA Aditya Golay Tamang.

Subba said the aim of the festival is to blend the traditional arts and culture of Sikkim with the rest of the country.

"We want that our art and literature are blended with the traditional art, culture and literature of the rest of the country and in the coming time, with the rest of the world," he said.

give us the opportunity to know each other; to unite ourselves, particularly in respect of world peace," Lepcha said.

Festivals like this will go a long way in creating opportunities to share varied experiences and create human communities in a world "torn by war and greed", he said.

"Today's world is torn by war and greed, so it is vital for us to see that we all get together and realise our dream of world

NEET ASPIRANTS



Applicants wait in a queue before entering the examination centre to appear in the NEET-UG exam, in Ranchi, Sunday.

With calls for world peace

Yuksom (Sikkim), May 07 (PTI)

Surrounded by rolling hills at the head of the Khangchendzonga National Park, the maiden edition of the Sikkim Arts and Literature Festival (SALF) started in the tranquil Yuksom village with calls for world peace and promoting the state's culture.

Organised by the state government and Teamwork Arts at the historical site Norbugang, the festival will see discussions on wide-ranging topics, including climate change, wildlife conservation, history, culture and ethnicity, poetry, architecture, folklore, mental health and writings from the northeast.

77 elected unopposed in second phase

Of ULB polls in UP

Lucknow, May 07 (PTI)

Candidates for a total of 77 posts, including one Nagar Panchayat president, have been elected unopposed in the second phase of the ongoing urban local body elections in Uttar Pradesh, the State Election Commission said.

The election of Rabupura Nagar Panchayat president of Gautam Buddha Nagar district has been held unopposed. Apart from this, five councilors from Aligarh, three from Meerut, one councilor from Ghaziabad have been elected unopposed.

Similarly, out of 36 unopposed members in Nagar Panchayats, 16 have been elected from Gautam Buddha Nagar, three from

Etah, two each from Azamgarh, Banda, Kasganj, Farrukhabad, Aligarh and Hathras and one each from Bulandshahr, Barabanki, Siddharthnagar, Pilibhit and Hamirpur, according to a press statement issued by the election commission on Saturday.

State Election Commissioner Manoj Kumar said in the statement that 31 members of municipal councils have been elected unopposed in different districts.

He said seven municipal council members in Etah, five in Badaun, four in Bulandshahr, three in Etawah, two each from Kanpur Nagar, Kasganj, Baghpat and one each from Kannauj, Ghaziabad, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Mirzapur, Sultanpur and Hapur have been elected unopposed.

UP MAFIA STORY

Three of 66 named in police list now dead

Cops on look out for those absconding

Lucknow, May 07 (PTI)

With Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath promising a crackdown against mafia, the Uttar Pradesh Police last month released a list containing the names of heads of 66 criminal gangs, and top officials say multiple teams are on the ground looking for the absconding accused and also keeping an eye on those on bail.

Three of the listed mafia are now dead — Anil Dujana and Aditya Rana alias Ravi killed in police encounters, and Atiq Ahmad killed in Prayagraj by assailants posing as journalists. Atiq Ahmad's brother Ashraf, whose

name did not figure in the list, was also gunned down with him. Among the rest 63 named in the list, five are absconding, 20 are out on bail, and 38 are lodged in different jails.

Senior police officials said the government is monitoring them. "Our teams are on the lookout for the criminals and if they fire at the police instead of surrendering, they will definitely face retaliation," a police officer said. Special Director General of Police (Law and Order) Prashant Kumar told PTI, "The police are keeping an eye on everyone. Nobody will be allowed to play with law and order in the state."

He said multiple teams have been formed to arrest the mafia who are absconding. "The police are

keeping a close watch on the activities of the mafia, who are on bail. The police carry out their verification from time to time."

The mafia list was released weeks after Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath vowed decisive action against such elements in the state. "Mafiaon ko mitti me mila denge (will reduce the mafia to dust)," he had thundered in the state assembly during a heated debate with Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav over the issue of Atiq Ahmad, who was then lodged in a jail in Gujarat.

On May 4, gangster Anil Dujana, whose name generated fear in the districts of National Capital Region for two decades, was killed in Merrut in an encounter with the Uttar Pradesh

Special Task Force. "Anil Dujana, a wanted criminal, was surrounded by our team in a village in Meerut on Thursday afternoon. Dujana fired at our team to escape and was killed in retaliatory firing," Additional Director General of UP STF Amitabh Yash had said.

Anil, who carried his village name as his last name, had over 60 cases lodged against him, including of murder and extortion. He was killed just two weeks after mafia-turned-politician Atiq Ahmad and his brother Ashraf were shot dead from point-blank range by three people as the two brothers alighted a police van and walked towards a hospital, handcuffed and being escorted by policemen, in Prayagraj around 10 pm.

Next R-Day Parade could see all-women contingents

On Kartavya Path

New Delhi, May 07 (PTI)

Next year's Republic Day Parade here could see all-women marching and band contingents with authorities working on such a proposal for the ceremonial event to be held at Kartavya Path, defence sources said.

The defence ministry, in March, had circulated an office memorandum to the planning for the 2024 parade, they said.

The memorandum mentioned such a proposal being considered and added that a "de-briefing meeting" was held under the chairmanship of the defence secretary in early February, the sources said.

After deliberations, it has been decided that the Republic Day Parade 2024 will have only women participants in the contingents (marching and band), tableaux and other performances during the parade at the Kartavya Path, says the memorandum. A few all-women contingents, and women officers, including those lead-

ing military contingents comprising men, have taken part in the annual parade on Rajpath (now Kartavya Path) in the last few years. India showcased its military might and vibrant cultural heritage during the 74th Republic Day Parade held on January 26 this year, with 'Nari Shakti' being a dominant theme. The Indian Air Force marching contingent of 144 air warriors was led by a woman officer, with three supernumerary male officers in the 2023 parade, which was the first Republic Day celebrations held at the ceremonial boulevard since the re-vamping of the Central Vista and renaming of Rajpath last year.

The first Republic Day celebrations were held in 1950 at the Irwin Stadium (renamed Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium), and since 1951, the ceremonial parade has been taking place on Rajpath.

Various states and Union Territories, besides several departments and ministries every year showcase culture and heritage, among other themes, through colourful tableaux.

Pak-based Hizbul terrorist given 30 days to appear for trial

In terror funding case

Bhaderwah (J&K), May 07 (PTI)

Tightening the noose around local terrorists operating from Pakistan, the state investigation agency (SIA) has executed proclamation proceedings against a Hizbul Mujahideen terrorist in Doda district of Jammu and Kashmir.

Mohammad Hussain Khateeb, a resident of Bhaderwah town who is presently based in Pakistan, has been given 30 days to appear before the court to face trial in a terror funding case, failing which his property



In this combo photo, right, the State Investigation Agency (SIA) officials put up posters of the absconding Pak-based militant Muhammad Hussain Khateeb, in J&K's Bhaderwah and, left, the poster, giving notice to Khateeb to appear before the court to face trial in 30 days failing which his property will be attached.

will be attached, an official said.

Khateeb is wanted by the SIA in a terror funding case of last year, also involving former minister Jateinder Singh alias Babu Singh who is

presently lodged at Central jail in Kot Bhalwal Jammu.

Singh, chairman of Nature - Man and Friendly Global Party, was arrested on April 9, last year, 10 days after he

went underground following the arrest of his worker Mohammad Shareef Shah, a resident of south Kashmir's Kokernag, along with Rs 6.90 lakh hawala money in Jammu.

On September 24, the SIA filed a charge sheet against three persons, including Singh and Khateeb, in the court of third additional session judge Jammu. Three supplementary charge sheets were subsequently filed against nine more accused persons.

Of the total accused, nine are facing trial while three, including Khateeb, are absconding.

The SIA said the former minister was alleged-

ly in contact with Khateeb over encrypted social media applications and had clandestinely visited Dubai for arranging funds.

"Shah was designated as Secretary of this party, who received these funds in Kashmir through an unknown person and travelled to Jammu to handover these funds to Babu Singh and this fund was arranged by Khateeb, who is a Hizbul Mujahideen terrorist operating from Pakistan," the official said.

Executing the proclamation proceedings under section 82 of the CrPC against Khateeb, the SIA affixed posters of

the absconding accused at his residence at Masjid Mohalla in Bhaderwah and other conspicuous places.

"Khateeb has been granted a period of 30 days by the court in its proclamation order to appear before it to face trial. If the accused fails to appear before the court within the period of 30 days, proceedings under Section 83 CrPC shall be launched against him and his property will be attached," an official said.

He said the proceedings were conducted in presence of respectable persons of the vicinity where Khateeb's family is putting up.

WORLD LAUGHTER DAY



A man dressed as comic actor Charlie Chaplin interacts with a child on World Laughter Day, at New Market area in Kolkata, Sunday.

Tibetans weave dreams in Arunachal refugee camp



Miao (Arunachal Pradesh), May 07 (PTI): Sonam Tsomo, a 50-year-old Tibetan weaver, has made a comeback in her life at the Tibetan settlement in Changlang district of Arunachal Pradesh, after she joined the carpet centre three decades ago. Today,

Tsomo and many of her peers have made the settlement their home, where they weave dreams in their looms. The carpet centre at Choephelling Tibetan refugee camp is the backbone of the 500-odd Tibetan refugee families whose ancestors had fled

Tibet along with the 14th Dalai Lama after the Chinese invasion in 1959.

For a first-time visitor to the carpet centre, the ambience of the unit with music wafting in the air, often in sync with the movement of the weavers' hands and fingers, is a scene to witness.

Floor and wall carpets have been the unique selling point for the Choephelling Cooperative Society since it was established in 1975 by Tibetan refugees on the outskirts of Miao, the sub-divisional headquarters of Changlang district of Arunachal Pradesh.

POLICE URGE CAUTION

Most accidents in HP occurred during evening rush hours

Shimla, May 07 (PTI) The maximum number of road accidents reported in Himachal Pradesh during the 2017-2022 period occurred between 6 and 9 pm, data suggests, putting the figure at 22 per cent.

The high frequency of accidents at this time of day, when most officegoers return home from work, has prompted the police to tell commuters to "drive cautiously, your loved ones need you". According to Himachal Pradesh Police data, 6,530 people were killed in 16,330 road accidents between 2017 and 2022. Of these, 3,590 accidents or 22 per cent occurred between 6 and 9 pm when officegoers return home, officials said. The

data also showed that 26,600 people were injured in these accidents. "According to the Union Ministry of Road Transport and Highways data released in 2021, road accidents and fatalities per lakh in Himachal Pradesh is 31.54 and 13.77 against the national average of 29.30 and 10.93, respectively.

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