



BRIEF



A devotee prepares to take a holy dip as part of rituals on the commencement of the 'Kharchi Puja' festival, on the outskirts of Agartala, Monday.

Condole

New Delhi: President Droupadi Murmu on Monday condoled the death of BJP Rajya Sabha MP Hardwar Dubey. Dubey breathed his last at the Fortis Escorts Heart Institute here, the hospital sources said. He was 74.

Recuse

New Delhi: Supreme Court judge Justice K V Viswanathan on Monday recused himself from hearing the pleas, including those filed by the Enforcement Directorate (ED), in connection with a money laundering case linked to real estate firm IREO. The ED has moved the apex court against the Delhi High Court's June 9 order granting M3M Group owners Basant Bansal and Pankaj Bansal interim protection from arrest till July 5 in connection with the case.

Suicide

Nagapuram: A third-year medical student was found dead at Vishwa Bharathi Medical College in Kurnool district, Andhra Pradesh, police said on Monday. According to the police, Denteperthi Lokesh, 22, hanged himself around 10 pm on Sunday night in his hostel room at Penchikalapadu village, around 25 km from Kurnool town, where the medical college is located.

ArrestedF

Medininagar: Three Naxals belonging to the banned Tritiya Sammelan Prastuti Committee (TSPC) have been arrested in Jharkhand's Palamu district, police said on Monday. Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP) Rishab Garg said the trio, including a self-styled area commander, was arrested in Patan police station area, around 185 km from Ranchi, during an overnight operation.

Run over

Dehradun: Two teenagers were run over by a train while they were taking selfies on a railway bridge in the Roorkee town of Uttarakhand's Haridwar district. The accident occurred on Saturday evening, Laksar police station in-charge Mamta Gola said on Monday.

Lightning

Jaipur: Four people were killed and as many others injured in incidents of lightning strikes in Rajasthan as first monsoon rains were received in some parts of the state, officials said Monday. The deaths were reported from Pali, Baran and Chittorgarh districts, they said.

Weather
High 26 Low 24

MARKET
NIFTY 18,691.20
SENSEX 62,970.00

BULLION
GOLD 58,418
SILVER 68,971

'Never let the sanctity of our borders be violated'

Jammu, Jun 26 (PTI): India will procure MQ-9B drones from the US by following the established procedure and will compare the "best price" offered by manufacturer General Atomics to other nations before concluding the purchase, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on Monday.



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh with Union Minister Jitendra Singh during a 'National Security Conclave', at Zorawar Singh Auditorium in Jammu, Monday.

On the eastern Ladakh standoff with China, Singh reiterated that India wants to resolve the border issue through dialogue and in a peaceful manner while asserting that the government will never compromise on the country's border and its self-respect.

"We will never let the sanctity of our borders be violated," the defence minister said at a national security conclave in Jammu, adding that the talks are continuing at military and diplomatic levels to resolve the dispute.

On the drone deal with the US, Singh said the de-

fence ministry will compare the acquisition cost of the drones with the best price General Atomics offered to other countries, adding the acquisition will be made only by following the established procurement procedure.

India and the US firmed up the drone deal during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's high-profile visit to Washington.

Singh rejected speculative reports on the price and other terms of pur-

chase relating to the procurement of 31 MQ-9B drones from the US.

His comments came a day after the defence ministry said it is yet to finalise the cost and specific terms of purchase of the MQ-9B long endurance drones from the US.

Strongly trashing reports in a section of social media on the price as well as the acquisition process, the ministry said it will examine the "best price" offered by the manufacturer

'Armed forces equipped with latest weaponry'

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Monday said the armed forces of the country are being equipped with latest weaponry, asserting that national security is the government's topmost priority and it is committed to protect the sovereignty, unity and integrity of the country. Singh also said the country does not want to depend on imported weapons.

to other nations before concluding the procurement. The defence minister described the overall border situation with China as a matter of perceptual difference but noted that there are agreements and protocols based on which the armies of the two countries carry out the patrolling.

Referring to the standoff in eastern Ladakh, he said the Chinese Army ignored the agreed protocols and unilaterally tried to

change the status quo on the Line of Actual Control. He lauded the valour and dedication of the Indian Army which prevented the attempts by China's PLA (People's Liberation Army) to change the status quo, according to a statement by the defence ministry.

On Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK), the defence minister said Pakistan does not have a locus standi there as it has illegally occupied the area.

"The Indian Parliament has unanimously passed at least three resolutions which state that PoK is a part of India," he said.

Singh also mentioned the deal between US defence major General Electric Aerospace and Hindustan Aeronautics Limited to co-produce F-414 fighter jet engines in India.

"With this deal, we will become the fourth country to manufacture jet engines. Tejas aircraft will be fitted with these Made in India engines," he said.

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NH MMI Narayana Superspecialty Hospital, Lalpur, Raipur

MHA asks why additional troops needed in Bengal

Sends letter to SEC

Kolkata, Jun 26 (PTI): The ministry of home affairs (MHA) on Monday sent a letter to the West Bengal State Election Commission (SEC) seeking details of the need for additional 485 companies of central forces, for which it has sent a requisition, an official said. The MHA, in its letter, also sought details of the deployment of the 337 companies of central forces which have been sent so far for the coming panchayat election in the state, he said.

Sinha has written thrice to the MHA seeking more central forces for the panchayat election in the state, slated to be held on June 8. The SEC has asked for total 822 companies of central forces from the MHA for the rural poll. "The MHA has sent a letter to the SEC asking for reasons behind the requisition of additional 485 companies of central forces, for which State Election Commissioner Rajiva Sinha had written to it. It has also inquired how the central forces sent so far have been utilised.

'What's happening in India'

New Delhi, Jun 26 (PTI): After returning to India from his foreign visit, Prime Minister Narendra Modi asked BJP president J P Nadra and other leaders what was happening in India, party leaders, who had gone to receive him at the airport here, said.

Modi returned to India in the early hours of Monday after his six-day visit to the US and Egypt during which several landmark agreements were signed.

He was received at the Delhi airport by Union Minister of State for External Affairs Meenakshi Lekhi and BJP chief Nadra. BJP leaders and party MPs



PM chairs a meeting with senior ministers and officials after his return from state visit to US and Egypt, in New Delhi, Monday.

from Delhi such as Harsh Vardhan, Hans Raj Hans and Gautam Gambhir were also present.

"He asked Nadra ji how it is going here, and Nadra ji told him that party leaders were reaching out to people with the

report card of the nine years of his government, and the country is happy," BJP MP Manoj Tiwari told reporters when asked what the prime minister asked them after meeting them at the airport.

12 members of marriage party killed

TRAGIC MISHAP

Berhampur, Jun 26 (PTI): Twelve members of a marriage party were killed and seven others injured as two buses collided head-on in Odisha's Ganjam district, police said on Monday. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik expressed grief over the death of people in the accident and announced ex gratia to the next of kin of each deceased. They wished for the speedy recovery of those injured in the accident. "Pained by the bus accident in Ganjam district, Odisha. Condolences to those who lost their loved ones. May the injured recover soon. An ex-



A damaged bus after a collision between two buses near Digapahandi area on Berhampur-Taptapani road, in Ganjam district, Sunday night.

gratia of Rs 2 lakh from PMNRF will be given to the next of kin of each deceased. The injured would

be given Rs 50,000," the Prime Minister's Office tweeted. Patnaik also announced ex gratia of Rs 3

Ex-gratia announced

"Pained by the bus accident in Ganjam district, Odisha. Condolences to those who lost their loved ones. May the injured recover soon. An ex-gratia of Rs 2 lakh from PMNRF would be given to the next of kin of each deceased. The injured would be given Rs 50,000," the Prime Minister's Office tweeted. Patnaik also announced ex gratia of Rs 3 lakh to the next of kin of each deceased and free treatment of injured persons.

RUN FOR SHELTER



Pedestrians cross a road amid monsoon rain, in Kolkata, Monday.

On camera, armed men rob car at gunpoint

DRAMATIC FOOTAGE

Inside Pragati Maidan tunnel

New Delhi, Jun 26 (PTI): The Delhi Police has received a dramatic CCTV footage that captured the alleged gunpoint robbery inside the busy Pragati Maidan tunnel where four motorcycle-borne men intercepted a car and looted about Rs 2 lakh from a delivery agent and his associate.



Motorcycle-borne robbers loot a delivery agent and his associate inside Pragati Maidan tunnel at gunpoint, in New Delhi.

Officials said on Monday the purported incident was caught in one of the CCTV cameras installed inside the 1.5-km tunnel that connects New Delhi with Sarai Kale Khan and Noida.

Police said they are also questioning the complainants, their employer

and other staffers to ascertain if it was an insider job. The 22-second video appears to show that the four men were trailing the cab on two motorcycles and intercepted it inside the tunnel as other vehicles passed by. As the cab

stopped, the two men riding pillion got down from their respective motorcycles, one quickly going to the driver's seat and the other to the rear gate, both apparently whipping out their pistols. All four were wearing helmets.

'Probe into 17-year-old bank 'scam' has resumed after court order'

RAIPUR

Raipur, Jun 26: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel on Monday said police have resumed probe into a 17-year-old "scam" in the Indira Priyadarshini Mahila Nagrik Sahakari Bank after a court in Raipur gave the go-ahead.

The alleged irregularities of Rs 22 crore were unearthed in 2006 when the Bharatiya Janata Party was in power and 11 persons were arrested at the time, as per police. Promising stern action against those who had embezzled hard-earned money of account holders, the CM said, "The court has ordered for further investigation into it. Our police officials have been looking into case related files and will take further action accordingly." "The important thing is



that labourers, farmers, small businessmen who had lost their hard earned money should get it back. The entire embezzled money will be recovered and returned to account holders," he added.

The irregularities were unearthed when Raman Singh was chief minister and a narco test was also conducted on the accused but the probe did not move forward and nor was

About the scam. The alleged irregularities of Rs 22 crore in the Indira Priyadarshini Mahila Nagrik Sahakari Bank were unearthed in 2006 when the Bharatiya Janata Party was in power and 11 persons were arrested at the time.

What CM said....

Promising stern action against those who had embezzled hard-earned money of account holders, the CM said, "The court has ordered for further investigation into it. Our police officials have been looking into case related files and will take further action accordingly." "The important thing is that labourers, farmers, small businessmen who had lost their hard earned money should get it back.

money returned to depositors, Baghel alleged. In a tweet last week, Baghel had said, "The court has allowed investigation into the Indira Priyadarshini bank. In narco test, one of the prime accused and then bank manager Umesh Sinha had said he had given crores of rupees to then Chief Minister Raman Singh and his cabinet colleagues Amar Agrawal, Brijmohan Agrawal and Ramvihar Netam. Other people, including the bank operators were also given money."

FLASH FLOODS

6 dead in Himachal rains, tourists stranded on NH-21

SHIMLA

Shimla/Mandi, Jun 26 (PTI): Hundreds of commuters were stranded in Himachal Pradesh's Mandi district as the Chandigarh-Manali national highway was blocked following flash floods and landslides, officials said on Monday.

The 70-km Mandi-Pandoh-Kullu stretch has been badly affected, they said. A total of 301 roads are closed in the state following heavy rains, while 140 power transformers are disrupted.

Flash floods were witnessed in Khotinallah near Aut, about 40 km from Mandi town, on the Pandoh-Kullu stretch due to a heavy downpour and

the commuters have been stranded since Sunday evening. The alternative Mandi-Kullu route via Katola, blocked due to landslide, has been opened after almost 20 hours and small vehicles are now being diverted through this stretch, said the officials of the Mandi administration. The Mandi-Pandoh stretch was blocked near 6 Miles after a landslide. The officials said restoration work is underway and explosives are being used to blast heavy boulders blocking roads on this stretch. One way traffic is expected to be restored on this stretch in an hour or two, they said. However, rains have

started again and reports of landslides are coming from other places in the district. The commuters have been advised not to move towards Mandi until the road is opened, the officials added. "It is a nightmarish experience as we have been stuck here since yesterday evening. There are limited hotels and other accommodations available nearby," said Mohit, a tourist from Chandigarh.

There are over two km of jam on both the sides even though the police and administration have stopped traffic at several points on the stretch as the road is blocked, he added.

lakh to the next of kin of each deceased and free treatment of injured persons.

After Jamul and Bilaspur; Mahadev Book branch busted in Visakhapatnam

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Jun 26: Durg Police continued its operation against online cricket betting and busted a branch of Mahadev Book in Visakhapatnam. In the past two days, Durg Police had busted two other branches of online cricket betting rackets in Jamul and Bilaspur. In all the three cases, most of the accused hail from Bhilai-Durg.

In Visakhapatnam, the accused were doing transactions through various bank accounts. 01 laptop, 10 mobiles, 03 ATM Cards, 03 Cheque Books, one wifi router and other documents were recovered from the possession of seven accused.

Police are going to conduct micro analysis of obtained bank accounts and

mobile numbers. The accused are being quizzed to collect information in respect of persons conducting this illegal activity in other states.

Superintendent of Police (Durg) Shalabh Kumar Sinha informed that Durg Police had busted other branches of online cricket betting in Jamul and Bilaspur. Several other branches were busted in the past also. Durg Police quizzed the accused and conducted technical analysis of the evidence to find other persons associated with the online betting.

In this sequel, the joint team of Anti Crime and Cyber Unit and Old Bhilai Police Station got information about some people who were operating a branch of Reddy Anna Book 186 in



Madhurawada area of Visakhapatnam.

Under the guidance of SP Shalabh Sinha and supervision of ASP (City) Sanjay Dhruv, DSP (Cyber) Prabhat Kumar, DSP (Crime) Rajeev Sharma and CSP (Chhawani) Ashish Banchhor, the joint team led by Inspector Santosh Mishra (I/c ACCU) and

Inspector Manish Sharma (SHO, Old Bhilai) acted on this tip off and conducted a raid at a rented house in Madhurawada of Visakhapatnam. The team arrested six persons red handed while operating the online betting racket.

The accused are identified as Pintu Rai (35) son of KP Rai a resident of South Vasundhara Nagar, Old

Bhilai; Prashant Kori (23) son of Ajay Kori a resident of Risali Bhilai; Vikas Sahu (24) son of Bharat Lal Sahu a resident of HSCL Colony, Ruabandha Bhilai; Saurabh Jaiswal (23) son of Gopal Jaiswal a resident of Power House Bhilai; Rohit Rohra (22) son of Panjaldas Rohra a resident of Kadambari Nagar Durg and Jagdeesh Konatala (32) son of Sanjeev Rai a resident of A n a k a p a l l i , Visakhapatnam (AP).

ASI Shamit Misra, Constable Pradeep Thakur, Jagjeet Singh, Arvind Mishra, Rakesh Anna, Keshav Sahu, Vikrant Kumar from ACCU and SI LR Dhruv and Head Constable Rajesh Sahu from Old Bhilai Police Station played a vital role in busting the racket.

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Jun 26: Bhilai Steel Plant, conducts several public welfare activities as part of its organizational social responsibility towards the community in and around its areas of operations. The Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Department of the Plant organized a one-day free Health Camp, at Village Pahandor on June 24, 2023.

The Medical Team from CSR department, comprising of Dr Isha Kujur, Pharmacist, Khilawan Kumbhkar, Firoza Joseph for Blood-Sugar and BP examination, Kedarnath Yadav for registration, volunteered their services for the camp. Sita Sinha from the CSR department was



also present during the Health Camp.

A total of 31 villagers from village Pahandor, including 11 men, 16 women and 04 Children, availed free health services at the day long Health Camp and free medicines were distributed to them. It is noteworthy that Health Camp is one of the prime initiatives, through which BSP's CSR

Department has contributed substantially towards Public Health & Medicine.

The CSR Department of Bhilai Steel Plant, conducts health camps on regular basis in the adjoining areas or mines, with the aim of ensuring adequate medical & Health facilities to the communities within which it works.

Summer Camp concludes at Uday Mahavidyalaya

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Jun 26: The summer camp concluded at Uday Mahavidyalaya on June 23. The summer camp was organised under the guidance of Dr TR Sahu (Director, Uday Mahavidyalaya and Uday Public School) from June 05 to June 14.

The students received training of cricket from international cricketer Rajesh Chauhan (Founder, Govind Chauhan Cricket Academy) while training of Karate was imparted by Anjana Rajveer Singh (Self Defence Trainer, Creative Karate Academy). The students also learnt Lathi Sports and Self Defence.

The closing ceremony



was held on the occasion of World Olympics Day on June 23. Principal Dr Alipa Sahu distributed the certificates among the participants. The closing ceremony was organised on World Olympics Day to encourage the students in sports and partake in Olympics.

Teachers including Kalavati Rao, Neelam Chauhan, Roopkala Yadav, Tasneem Fatima, Anjali Jaiswar, Aprupa Pathak, Chetna Nirmalkar, Kalpana Gupta, Satnam Singh and GCCA Cricket Trainer Durgesh Kumar and children were present.

Girl reaches Jandarshan, gets admission in hostel immediately

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Jun 26: Collector Pushpendra Kumar Meena met the common people during the Collector Jandarshan program on Monday and listened to their problems and complaints. He tried to redress most of the problems on the spot and directed the concerned officers to take necessary initiative for quick disposal of the applications.

On Monday, 110 applications were received in the Jandarshan, including applications related to illegal possession, partition, financial assistance, demarcation, admission in Swami Atmanand School, ration card, etc.

The woman of Durg, who reached Collector Jandarshan with an application, was very happy

when Collector Pushpendra Kumar Meena took prompt action and got both her daughters admitted in Atmanand School. She said that after the death of her husband, she is facing financial problems and is unable to spend for education of her children.

A resident of village Pathariya reached Jandarshan with an application for admission in the hostel. The applicant Anamika has taken admission in Government Girls College to study B.Com. After the death of her parents, her grandfather is the only one to take care of her.

She further informed that her grandfather is not financially strong and hence she had applied for admission in SC, ST and OBC girls' hostel. Taking quick action on her appli-



education, the Collector got her admitted in the girls' hostel.

Dharam Kumar Yadav, a resident of Loharpara, reached jandarshan regarding the problem of water drainage and submitted an application for construction of a drain. He said that in the absence of a drain near the house, the dirty water flows on the road and the passage in front of his house always

remains unpleasant. Similarly, residents of Gayatri Mandir ward also submitted applications for construction of drains.

Residents said that during the rainy season, the water of Station Road fills the houses of the locality in the absence of drains. Earlier the drain was constructed, but now the drain has been broken due to the construction of a house. Due to lack of drains, rain

water enters the houses. On this the Collector instructed the Municipal Corporation Durg to take necessary action.

A resident of village Jangaon M, who reached with a complaint about the encroachment of agricultural land, said that a person of his village has encroached on his agricultural land. He had submitted an application against him at Tehsil Office Patan.

The Court of Sub-Divisional Officer Patan as well as Commissioner of Durg Division have passed orders in his favour. The applicant stated that till now the encroachment has not been removed by the concerned person. On this, the Collector directed Tehsildar Patan to take immediate action and provide possession of the said land to the farmer.

39 couples tie nuptial knots at mass marriage

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Jun 26: Under the Mukhyamantri Samuhik Kanya Vivah Yojna, the Department of Women and Child Development organised a mass marriage programme within the limits of Bhilai Municipal Corporation on Monday at Sarva Samaj Manglik Bhavan.

Chief Minister's OSD Manish Banchore, Mayor Neeraj Pal, Chief Minister's daughter Dr Shweta Baghel, Bhilai Municipal Corporation Commissioner Rohit Vyas, Antyavasayi Corporation Vice President Neeta Lodhi, BMC Speaker Girwar Bunt Sahu, MiC members Meera Banjare and Rita Singh Gera congratulated the newly married couples and wished them a happy life ahead.



39 couples tied the nuptial knots in the mass marriage program. Mayor Neeraj Pal described the Chief Minister Kanya Vivah Yojana as an ambitious scheme of the government. The girls from underprivileged families get benefit from this marriage scheme.

The special aspect of

this scheme is that all the necessary items of marriage like clothes, almirah, box, rack, utensils, drum, cooker, silver, mangalsutra, rings, wrist watch set and 21000 rupees are given through cheque.

All these arrangements are made under the Chief Minister's scheme. The mass marriage was con-

ducted with traditional and vedic rituals. The marriage procession was also taken out with great pomp and gaiety.

The bride and groom were seen very happy in the mass marriage, while their acquaintances and relatives also participated in the marriage ceremony in large numbers.

Students welcomed at schools in new academic session

Free books, uniforms, bicycles distributed by public representatives

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Jun 26: Shala Pravesh Utsav was celebrated with enthusiasm in the schools of all the development blocks of Durg district. Public representatives also participated in the events.

Durg MLA Arun Vora and Mayor Dhiraj Bakliwal attended the programme at Government Girls Higher Secondary School, Government Higher Secondary School Titurdih and SAGES Government Higher Secondary School Deepak Nagar Durg.

Free text books, uniforms and bicycles were distributed to the students. Apart from this, District



Education Officer Abhay Jaiswal and Statistics Officer Amit Ghosh were present in Government High School SAGES Jangaon R and SAGES Ranitarai of Development Block Patan. Free text books, uniforms and bicycles were distributed to the children. District Mission Coordinator Surendra Pandey was present in the schools of Bhendsar, Dandesara and Ganiyari.

Vivek Sharma and IK Ramteke (APC) attended the programme at Gayabai

Government Primary School Urla and Sardar Vallabhbai Patel English Medium School.

According to the District Education Officer, all the newly admitted children were welcomed by the guests by applying tilak, offering sweets and aarti. The attendance of the children in all the schools was satisfactory. Slate, chalk, pencils were distributed in all the primary schools.

Shala Pravesh Utsav was celebrated in development block Patan in the presence of public representatives, school management committee officials, Anganwadi workers, Navyuvak Mandal, Mahila Mandal and parents.

Defensive Driving Training organised at Plate Mill

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Jun 26: Defensive Driving Training was organized at SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant's Plate Mill under the Joint-collaboration of Behavioural Interventions Cross Functional Team (BICFT) and Rail & Road Safety on June 24, 2023. The one Day Training was provided to the Plate Mill employees under the guidance of Anirban Dasgupta, Director I/c (BSP), Anjani Kumar, ED (Works) and Tapas Dasgupta, CGM I/c (Iron) to make the Plant-employees aware about the rules of safety.

While addressing the gathering, RK Bisare, CGM (Plate Mill) said that adhering to the rules of safety is



an act of paramount importance whether we work at the Plant or at home. Similarly, commuting from home to the plant and back to home is also an integral part of Rail & Road Safety which cannot be ignored at any cost. Senior Officials of the Department Shailendra Kumar Verma, GM (Electrical), Hemant Kumar Bahurupi, GM (Operations), J Sudhakar, GM (Mechanical) and Devdutt

Sarang, GM & DSO were present on this occasion. Defence Driving Trainers Shweta Jha and Vikas Patra imparted knowledge on Defensive Driving to the trainees.

On this occasion the trainees also took part in the Road Trials, and congratulated the Plate Mill collective for organizing such an event. The program was coordinated by Sunil Mitra, GM(Operations), Plate Mill.

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Jun 26: Under the aegis of Shree Jagannath Samiti, Sector 4, a 9 days festival of Mahaprabhu Shree Jagannath Swami ji's 54th Rath Yatra is being celebrated. In this episode, various cultural programs are being organized daily in the grand pandal of Mahaprabhu Shri Jagannath Swami ji sitting in Gundicha Mandap Sector 10. At the beginning of the program, the Maha Aarti program of Mahaprabhu Shri Jagannath Swamy was performed.

As part of the cultural evening, the singers of "Neelima Swaranjali

Musical Group" performed devotional songs in such a way that the present devotees were overwhelmed with emotion. This program of devotional music was very successful.

Shree Jagannath Bhajan rendered in Hindi and Odia by singers enthralled the audience. The present audience got drenched in devotion. Chief General Manager (Safety and Fire Services) of Bhilai Steel Plant, GP Singh, president of the Committee, Virender Satpathy and General Secretary, Satyawan Nayak were specially present on the occasion. Chief General



Manager (Security and Fire Services) GP Singh who was present as the chief guest, and President of the Committee Virender Satpathy and General Secretary Satyawan Nayak, honored 17 artists by giving mementos and citations. GP Singh, present as the chief guest, congratulated the

artists for their excellent performance and wished them a bright future. On this occasion, the president of the committee Virender Satpathy presented the welcome speech and the program was conducted and the vote of thanks was done by the general secretary of the committee Satyawan

Nayak.

In making this festival successful, Jagannath Committee President Virender Satpathy and General Secretary Satyawan Nayak along with the office bearers of the committee Trinath Sahu, Bhim Swain, BC Biswal, Anam Nahak, D Trinath, Brindavan Swain, Prakash Das, Kalu Behera, Niranjan Maharana, Ranjan Mahapatra, Prakash Swain, Basant Pradhan, Sushant Satpathy, SC Patro, Jagannath Patnaik, Ravi Swain, Bees Keshan Sahu, Kavi Biswal, Ravindra Raul, Seemanchal Behera, VK Hota, S Dalai, Kailash Patro contributed significantly.

Sports and discipline are equally important as the formal education: CM

Students should learn the value and importance of time
CM sanctions Rs 5 cr for the renovation of Prof. JN Pandey Govt Excellent Hindi Medium School



Yojana (MBY). In these kindergartens, children of age group five to six years will be imparted basic education, taught to play and will be prepared for the school. In the first phase of this scheme, 5 thousand 1 hundred 73 kindergartens were inaugurated on 5 September 2022.

Prof. JN Pandey Govt Excellent Hindi Medium School is a historic school that gave us four CMs and one Vice President. Pro. JN Pandey School was established in the year 1864 and this school has also been affiliated with Calcutta University and Allahabad University. This school has given four chief ministers to the state. Late Pt. Ravi Shankar Shukla, Late Shri Dwarka Prasad Mishra, Late Shri Shyama Charan Shukla and Late Shri Moti Lal Vora have

been students of this school. Moreover, former Vice President of the country Late Shri Hidayatullah has also been a student of this school.

On the occasion, Chairman Chhattisgarh Housing Board and MLA Kuldeep Juneja, Mayor Raipur Municipal Corporation Ejaz Dhebar, Chairman Chhattisgarh Mineral Development Corporation Girish Dewangan, Chairman Chhattisgarh Gau Seva Aayog Mahant Ramsunder Das, Principal Secretary Education Department Alok Shukla, Secretary Education Department Dr. S. Bhartidasan along with officials of the department and students, teachers, principals and guardians were present at the programme.

children.

CM welcomes the students to the school with 'Tilak' and sweets

On the occasion of Shala Praveshotsav, Chief Minister welcomed the new students to the school with tilak, garlands and sweets. On this occasion, Chief Minister also distributed uniforms, books and school bags to the school children. He congratulated the students, teachers, principals and parents on the commencement of the new academic session. Chief Minister said that these children are our future and it is our responsibility to provide them proper environment so that they may focus better on their studies.

An amount of Rs 5 cr has been approved for the renovation of the school. Chief Minister sanc-

tioned an amount of Rs. 5 crore for the renovation of the historical Prof. JN Pandey Government Excellent Hindi Medium School, and said that funds will never come in the way of making the temples of education strong, well-equipped and beautiful. Chief Minister said that he had sanctioned an amount of Rs 1200 crore in the budget for the renovation and repair of schools in the state and at present, renovation work of 23 thousand schools is in progress.

Inauguration of 4318 Kindergartens under the second phase of MBY

On the occasion of Shala Praveshotsav, 4 thousand 3 hundred 18 kindergartens were virtually inaugurated under the second phase of Mukhyamantri Balwadi



With monsoon covering entire state, the farms are now filled up with rainwater and giving good indications.

Intermittent showers continue to lash Ch'garh

Raipur, Jun 26: Intermittent rain showers continued to lash Raipur and several other parts of Chhattisgarh on Monday, causing a significant drop in temperature. According to meteorologists the same condition is going to remain for the next three days.

Pendra and Bemetara districts. Torrential rains accompanied by strong

Koriya, Raipur, Janjgir, Bijapur, Mahasamund, Rajnandgaon and Balod.



There is a possibility of heavy rain with thunder in all those districts. Due to continuous intermittent rains in Raipur, an old banyan tree fell on a house at Gaura Gauri Chowk in the area of ??Pandit Ravi Shankar Shukla Ward No. 35, which comes under Zone No. 4 of Raipur Municipal Corporation. The rains also exposed the ineffective drainage network in the of the city as several areas got water-logged and overflowing drain water spilled over the roads, disrupting normal life.

Meteorological Department has again issued a warning of heavy rains. Yellow and orange alerts have been issued in some districts of the state. According to the Meteorological Department, Orange Alert has been issued for the possibility of heavy rains in Bilaspur, Durg, Kabirdham, Mungeli,

winds are likely in all those districts. It is raining well in some parts of the state. In some places, water levels on rivers and drains are also on the rise due to rains. According to the State Meteorological Department, a yellow alert has also been issued regarding rain in Korba,

Two die as uncontrollable bike collides with a standing truck

Raipur, Jun 26: Two youths have died in a road accident near Boriyakhurd Talab of Raipur late Sunday night. According to information available the accident took place between 10 to 11 pm on Sunday night in front of the petrol pump near Boriyakhurd Talab in Raipur when three youths had gone for a ride on the bike. Meanwhile, the bike went uncontrolled and collided with the standing truck. After the incident, the three youths got trapped under the truck. Mathpuraina resident Amit Sahu and his friend have died. The young man sitting in the middle of the bike was not hurt.

Passers-by who gathered at the spot of the incident brought youths out of the truck. People checked their mobile phones which fell after accident. They contacted relatives of the youths through a phone and informed about the accident. Tikrapara police team also reached the spot and brought the bike of the youth to the police station.

Ch'garh's famous YouTuber-actor Devraj Patel dies in road accident

Raipur, Jun 26: Chhattisgarh's comedy YouTuber Devraj Patel has died in a road accident that took place near Labhandi Chowk, Raipur. Devraj died after his bike was hit by a speeding truck. Devraj Patel had also made a reel and posted it with the Chief Minister. At the same time, a few hours before the death, YouTuber Devraj Patel had posted a photo on social media. He was 21 years old. He had come to Naya Raipur to make a video and was going back after making it. He was a student of BA final year.

Devraj Patel had recently made a video during his meeting with CM Bhupesh Baghel. This video had gone viral on social media. In that viral video, Devraj says that two people are famous in Chhattisgarh- one me and one Mor Kak. CM could not stop laughing after seeing this video. This video was viewed by more than 10 million people.

CM expresses deep sorrow over Devraj's demise
 Chief Minister Mr. Bhupesh Baghel expressed deep sorrow over the demise of popular young YouTuber Devraj Patel. CM Bhupesh Baghel tweeted 'Devraj Patel, who made his place among crores of people left us today. The loss of such a wonderful talent at such a young age is very sad. The untimely demise of such a young talented individual is a tragic event for his family and Chhattisgarh. May God give strength to his family and loved ones to bear this loss. Om Shanti'

Dance and fashion walk by patient after joint transplant surgery



Joint transplant specialist Dr. Ankur Singhal informed How complex surgery is performed by minimum cut technique

Raipur, Jun 26: Recently, a program was organised by Ramakrishna Care Hospital in Bhalai in which joint transplant specialist Dr. Ankur Singhal had called the patients who had benefited from the surgery, in which the patients not only shared their experience but also did a fashion walk and dance to show that their surgery were successful. Some patients who were even 80 to 85 years old informed how they used to walk with a stick before the operation and today they are able to walk well without any support. There were many patients who used to take the help of a wheelchair, but they are now leading a normal life after the operation.

Patients are treated by Minimum Cut Technique (MCT) by renowned joint transplant surgeon Dr. Ankur Singhal of Ramakrishna Care Hospital in which the patient is made to run after three hours and they are also made to climb on the ladder, by this technique their recovery is faster.

Dr. Singhal informed that the minimum cut technique (MCT) is that it involves small incision operation, does not stitch the skin, it reduces pain for the patient, has a fast recovery, does not require blood transfusion. Due to this, the patient gets cured very soon and comes back to normal life in about a month. The patients whose knees were crooked have also been cured and they are walking 4 to 5 kilometers daily, some patients have also got job because they had lost their job due to knee and hip problem. Now all those patients are very happy because now they are not only able to climb stairs easily, but

have also started running, dancing with a cheerful heart and they feel that they are completely fit like before. Their lifestyle has also become the same as before. Dr. Ankur Singhal said that joint arthritis is a common disease but it has become the biggest disease in the world and is increasing day by day. Not only do you need awareness in this, but you also need the right treatment. Dr. Singhal told the patients that this surgery is done at this stage along with joint arthritis and its prevention. Ramakrishna Care Hospital has a large and experienced team for the treatment of bone diseases. In this, patients are treated by HOD Dr. Pankaj Dhawlia, Consultant Trauma and Joint Replacement Dr. Lalit Jain, Consultant Arthroscopy and Sports Medicine Dr. Suman Kumar Nag, Consultant Joint Replacement Dr. Ankur Singhal, Department of Orthopedic and Joint Replacement.




Attention PAN Holders!

Miss it at your own risk




Linking of PAN & AADHAAR is Mandatory

Last date
 30.06.2023

Link online with late fee of Rs. 1000/-

To link PAN with Aadhaar visit <https://www.incometax.gov.in/iec/foportal> and follow on screen instructions after clicking on 'Quick Links' section and selecting 'Link Aadhaar' option.

Consequences of not linking your PAN with Aadhaar

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Your PAN will become inoperative Pending refunds and interest on such refunds will not be issued 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TDS will be required to be deducted at a higher rate TCS will be required to be collected at a higher rate
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For more information, see Rule 114AAA of the Income Tax Rules, 1962 and Notification No. 37/2017 dated 11th May 2017.

Attention

- No person shall obtain more than one PAN
- Penalty of Rs.10,000/- may be levied for obtaining more than one PAN

Deductors may verify status of PAN as under

- For checking status of single PAN, visit <https://www.incometax.gov.in>
- For checking status of PANs in bulk, visit <https://report.insight.gov.in>



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Development projects in Sukma brings positive changes: CM

- Nighttime safety improved significantly
- Konta, a gateway for Ch'garh from South; development projects at Konta bringing significant transformation
- CM inaugurates development projects worth Rs 303 cr in a virtual program; performs bhumi-poojan for various development projects

Central Chronicle News



auguration and bhumi-poojan ceremony, Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel lauded the achievements and highlighted Konta, the Sukma's gateway to enter Chhattisgarh, as the first legislative upon entering Chhattisgarh from South India. He expressed gratitude for the collective efforts in planning and executing the district's development, noting the evident positive transformation.

Notably, Jagargunda welcomed the reopening of a school after a 13-year hiatus, showcasing the

administration's commitment to education. Chief Minister dedicated 131 development projects worth Rs 303.67 crore, including the inauguration of 33 development projects worth Rs 63.56 crore and laid the foundation stones for 98 development projects, marking a significant milestone in the region's progress and infrastructure development.

Chief Minister regrets the inability to meet people in person due to heavy rains but expresses satisfaction in virtually connecting with them. He

highlights the significance of rainfall for the region, considering it a beneficial development. During the virtual meeting, the Chief Minister addressed the demands put forth by Commerce and Industry Minister Kawasi Lakhma for the Sukma district's development.

He shared that the state government has approved the demands of Lakhma for this region and has also laid the foundation stone and performed bhumi-poojan for various development projects. The



Chief Minister's commitment to sorting various issues, including the recruitment of Bastar fighters and ensuring fair rates for Tendupatta collectors, reflects their comprehensive approach to governance.

During the program, Commerce and Industry Minister Kawasi Lakhma highlighted the significant infrastructure development achieved in the state under the leadership of the Chief Minister in the past four and a half years.

The state government's

initiatives included loan waivers and fair prices for farmers' paddy, along with a decision to purchase 20 quintals of paddy per acre. Notably, Sukma district recorded a collection of Tendupatta worth Rs. 50 crore 27 lakh this year, greatly benefiting the forest-dwelling communities in the area.

During the program, Bastar MP Deepak Baij praised the Chief Minister for consistently approving and fulfilling the development plans for Bastar, leading to comprehensive progress in the

CM announces slew of development projects for Bastar

During the program, the Chief Minister made several important announcements for the development of the Sukma district. These included plans for a sports complex in the district headquarters, upgrading the sub-health centre in Bheiji to a primary health centre, and approving the construction of a building for the primary health centre in Kistaram. Additionally, the Chief Minister announced the construction of 28 primary school buildings in the Konta development block, a central library, and a youth hostel for both boys and girls. A 100-seater ashram building was also planned for Bodko and Mankapal. The operation of the Chhindigarh Water Supply Scheme through the Public Health Engineering Department and the approval of a B.Ed./D.Ed College in Sukma was also part of the announcements. The Chief Minister allocated funds of Rs 6 crore for the construction of the Sukma bus stand and Rs 4 crore for the Dornapal bus stand. Furthermore, the construction of the Kundanpal pre-matric children's hostel, the construction of the children's ashram in Dabbakonta, and the establishment of a new high school in Kistaram were also approved.

region. The remarkable development initiatives in Bastar have garnered recognition for the district both nationally and internationally, establishing its unique identity.

President of District Panchayat Harish Kawasi also addressed the program, expressing his views. Collector Mr. Harish S provided a comprehensive overview of the inaugurated projects and foundation stone laying activities. Additionally, Sukma Collector Mr. Harish S presented a detailed report on the Chief Minister's initiatives worth Rs. 303.67 crore in the Sukma district, highlighting their significance and impact on the region.

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'CM Bhupesh Baghel encourages Tripti to speak freely'

- On occasion of Shala Pravesh Utsav
- Children thanked CM Baghel for extending the date of school reopening
- CM directly interacts with school children at 'Shala Pravesh Utsav'

Central Chronicle News



Chief Minister affectionately said, "Dear, everyone here is like family, so speak without any hesitation." Soon after hearing Chief Minister's words, all her hesitation vanished. She explained that she had enrolled in this school due to its high standard of education, and she is truly enjoying her time here.

Baghel heaped praise on

the student saying "You express yourself so well. Well done!" Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel was interacting with the children face-to-face on the occasion of the 'Shala Pravesh Utsav' today.

The children also spoke openly and candidly to Chief Minister. He asked the children how they felt about the reopening of schools on June 26 instead

of June 16. All the children thanked Chief Minister Shri Baghel and expressed that opening the schools on June 26 provided relief from the intense heat conditions.

Chief Minister mentioned that considering the summer season and the children's health, the government decided to open schools from June 26. Prior to the Shala Pravesh

Utsav, the monsoon had already begun in the state. With the showers of rain, the new academic session commenced, he said.

While interacting with Chief Minister, student Rajesh mentioned that we have experienced a surge in our interest in learning. Surbhi Sahu, an eighth-grade student studying at Swami Atmanand BP Pujari School, expressed that the establishment of Swami Atmanand School has provided economically disadvantaged and talented children with an opportunity for quality English education.

In the presence of Chief Minister Baghel, Kashish Anjum Khan, a student in the eighth grade at Swami Atmanand Raja Talab School, also shared her thoughts on the occasion of the 'Shala Pravesh Utsav'.

Gauthan in the state is bestowing better employment opportunities

- Gauthans have developed as a symbol for promoting livelihood activities and economic empowerment
- Women are securing their future by finding employment in the village

Central Chronicle News



Raipur, Jun 26: In accordance with the instructions of Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, Gauthans operating under the Suraji Gaon Yojana have now become a symbol of livelihood enhancement and economic empowerment. Various livelihood-oriented activities carried out in Gauthans have brought more job opportunities.

Rural women are becoming financially independent by finding work close to home. Women are no longer

bound to household responsibilities but are contributing to family finances and making their lives easier. Under the State Government's Suraji Gaon Yojana, the Gauthans established in villages are now presenting a new picture of development. Various activities conducted in these Gauthans include the collection of cow dung and taking care of the animals. Four years ago, ten women from the Kasturba Self-Help Group decided to work in Gauthan of Sirpur village in Mahasamund district of

Saraipali district panchayat. The group now earns lakhs from the sales of cow dung and by making vermicompost. Along with this, income-generating activities such as the cultivation of vegetables and poultry farming are also conducted. A member of the group stated that earlier they were bound to household chores, but after joining the group and working in Gauthan, their self-esteem and confidence have improved, and they are now heading towards self-reliance by working in Gauthan.

Harish, Sahu start 'Booth Chalo' campaign in Sukma



Central Chronicle News

Konta/Sukma, Jun 26: The Congress party has declared victory in the upcoming state elections under the "Booth Chalo Abhiyan" program of Chhattisgarh. Under the leadership of Chief Minister of the state, Bhupesh Baghel, the guidance of Cabinet Minister Kawasi Lakhma and the directions of District Congress Committee President Maheshwari Baghel, all the booth in-charges have reached their booths to strengthen each booth. Konta Vidhan Sabha in-charge Vimal Surana also gave necessary guidelines on polling

booths in Sukma reach wards and rural areas. In this direction, Kawasi Harish reached the booth located at Ward No. 1, Indira Colony of Sukma Municipality and encouraged the present colleagues. Jagannath Raju Sahu also reached village Dabbaras of Gram Panchayat Jirampal to discharge the responsibilities given by the party as booth in-charge and formed the Dabbaras Booth. Congress Committee to take the state and Bhupesh government's public welfare schemes to every house of Dabbaras booth. Made all the comrades determined. Minister Kawasi

Lakhma talked about taking development to the masses in Jiramal, Gadiras and the entire Bastar division and strengthening the Congress in the coming assembly elections. Harish Kawasi and Raju Sahu gave detailed information about this campaign, Harish Kawasi said that in order to make the state strong, every worker at every booth has to vote in the coming assembly elections, the Congress-led Bhupesh government has brought development in the state. After independence, the Congress party has done the work of connecting every section of the state

with public welfare schemes without any discrimination. Raju Sahu told that Bhupesh Baghel government has done the work of bringing respect in the country by taking the state forward through various schemes for the farmers or for the common man, and through these schemes every house in every booth is benefitted. Sukma Nagar Congress Committee President Sheikh Sajjar also went to all the polling booths of Sukma municipality and met the booth president and booth committee members and gave a message to force the Congress.

Villagers got the benefit of Livelihood Country Schemes

Central Chronicle News

Konta, Jun 26: At the inauguration and exhibition program of various development works in Sukma district, Kawasi Lakhma, Commerce-Tax, Industry and Excise Minister, Chhattisgarh Government, observed the stalls of the Livestock Development Department put up for the exhibition by the women of self-help groups.

Layer rearing Kadaknath chickens were kept for demonstration. Necessary information was obtained by discussing about the quantity sale and income of eggs produced from poultry farming from the women of self-help groups benefited by layer and Kadaknath poultry farming.

50 units of backyard chicks to 50 forest rights leased beneficiaries of village Rajamunda under Block-Chhindigarh under Backyard Poultry Farming Scheme in the departmental stall, 4000 to 12 beneficiaries on grant under Male Goat Distribution Scheme and Rs. 18000 and 3 beneficiaries 15000 rupees and 16 beneficiaries for milch cattle rearing under KCC scheme, a loan cheque of

Of Livestock Development Department



Rs 20,40,000.00 (twenty lakh forty thousand) was distributed by Kawasi Lakhma, Minister of Commerce-Tax Industry and Excise, and public mind Animal medicines were provided and departmental schemes were displayed through flex.

Shabri Milk, Curd, Ghee, Khowa and other Shabri milk products manufactured in Shabri Dughd Sagar (Milk Processing Plant) operated with the efforts of District Administration and Livestock Development Department were displayed.

Members of the steering committee of Shabri Dughd Sagar Center, members of Chhattisgarh State Animal Welfare Board, Karan Singh Dev, Collector Harish S. and Dr. S. Zaheeruddin, Deputy Director Veterinary Department, presented the products manufactured in Shabri Dughd Sagar Center to the minister. Chhattisgarh government and their gratitude was expressed by giving form.

In the end, the book of achievements of 4 years was released by Kawasi Lakhma -Commerce-Tax Industry and Excise

Minister and Member of Animal Welfare Board, Karan Singh Dev, in which the excellent works of Livestock Development Department, District Sukma were displayed in cooperation with the district administration. Released. Harish Kawasi, President District Panchayat, Boddu Raja, Vice President District Panchayat, Rajesh Nara Yoga Commission member, Raju Sahu, President Municipal Council, local public representatives and respected citizens were present in the program.

No shortage of funds for devp: Maheshwari

Central Chronicle News

Simga, Jun 26: While performing Bhumi Pujan in Nadaya Upadhyay Ward, MLA Maheshwari while announcing 50 lakhs for various works including lights, said that in the present Bhupesh Baghel government, there will be no shortage of funds for development.

Same way presiding over the program, Municipality President Sunita Gupta said that development is all way round in the present government. Hospital building, pond beautification, CC road are to be done in



the beautification phase.

Maheshwari further said that Bhupesh Baghel's government made new ration cards as well as increased the amount of ration, while

the Raman government made its own and cut off the ration cards of mothers and sisters by calling them fake. Schemes like electricity bill half, unemployment allowance the

benefit is reaching the last person, he said.

Councilor and Chairman Mr. Jangde said that through Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, Minister Shiv Dahria, MLA Sunil Maheshwari and President Sunita Gupta, small to big problems of the ward are resolved and approved. Vice President Trilok Saluja, Labor member Alok Mishra, President Representative Sunil Gupta, Ashok Dhruv, Councilor and Chairman Bhulunram Kurre, Deepak Nirmalkar and a large number of city residents were present.

MMWU members welcome CMD NMDC

Assures him of whole-hearted support

Central Chronicle News

Kirandul, Jun 26: On arrival of NMDC Chairman cum MD Amitabh Mukherjee to Kirandul, the members of Metal Mines Workers' Union (MMWU) (INTUC), Kirandul branch, accorded him warm welcome. The V-P of the Union Prashant Thakur, office secy. Rajendra Yadav, organisation secy. Rakehs Pal welcomed him with a flower bouquet, Union's stole and a cap.

The Project Manager organised a meeting with him at the CGM's meeting hall and in this discus-



sions were held in context of issues in favour of the company.

On behalf of MMWU, the Office Secy. Rajendra Yadav informed that the Company made record 3.71 million tonnes of iron ore production and 3.62 million tonnes of increase in

the sales in the second month of FY 2023-24 and established a record and which is the highest in any month till date. For this he extended greetings to the President of Chairman cum MD NMDC Amitabh Mukherjee and said that for production and pro-

duce, both MMWU (INTUC) would always work shoulder-to-shoulder with the management.

On this occasion Om Kumar Sahu, Biji Pradeep, Nathela Ram Netam, Durga Prasad, K Pawan Kumar, G Rai, Shadab Jalan, Trilok Bandhe, Anupama Badra, Devnarayan, Sayyed Jiya-ul-Hasan, Rajendra Patnaik, Shiv Bhuarya, Tikam Sahu, Devendra Sahu, Abhishek Swarna, Rajendra Nagesh, Srinivasa Rao, Dilip Rana and other members and office bearers of MMWU were present in large number.

First showers bring smile on face of farmers

Brings much required relief from scorching heat

Central Chronicle News

Berla, Jun 26: The first showers in rural areas of Kodawa, near Berla, brought smile on the face of farmers and general public and provided much required relief from scorching heat. It was amidst open skies, light to medium showers between 6:00 am to 1:00 pm brought big relief to denizens of village and farmers. A total of 5.9 mm rainfall was recorded during this time.

As per information in this regard, there are chances of light to moderate rainfall in the region by



June 29 and the maximum temperature is expected to be around 30-32 Deg. Celsius. Whereas the minimum is expected to be around 25-28 deg. celsius. With showers at this juncture, the farmers of the region would get the benefit of falling of 'dhan-ka-bichada' in Kodawa and nearby villages of the district. With these showers the farmers will be benefitted for this work and to prepare their

farms for the next crop. If agriculture experts are to be known, with first monsoon showers, it will not only help the farmers from falling of 'dhan-ka-bichada', but to the vegetable crop farmers as well. The farmers are now harvesting the 'Moong' crop in their farms and the farmers from all over the district are expecting good showers, so that the sowing for paddy crop can be started.

MLA Marwahi offers rich tributes to Martyr Rani Durgawati

On occasion of her Martyrdom day

Central Chronicle News

Kotami, Jun 26: The martyrdom day of India's first Veerangana- Rani Durgawati of Kotami-Sakola was observed at Kotami chowk with rich tributes to the martyr here on Saturday.

On this occasion MLA Marwahi KK Dhruv garlanded the statue of Rani Durgawati in Kotami and offered rich tributes. On this occasion, MLA Dr KK Dhruv along with other tribal leaders and Congress leaders remembered the martyrdom and

sacrifice of Rani Durgawati and offered her rich tributes.

MLA Marwahi Dr KK Dhruv paying tributes to martyr Rani Durgawati said that the valour and dare of Rani Durgawati will be remembered for time immemorial as the way she fought against her enemies and fought till her last breath in order to safeguard the respect and dignity of her mother land.

The recall of her courage and valour would continue to remain alive in the minds of people for time immemorial and would act as source of inspiration for younger generation and would be writ-



ten in golden letter in the Indian history.

It is notable here that Rani Durgawati from 'Gadh Mandala' accepted the challenge or Akbar and defeated his army many a times and achieved martyrdom on 25 June 1564 during a war near Berla, Mandala road and her cemetery lies near 'Nariya Nullah'.

On occasion of her martyrdom day, MLA Marwahi, Dr KK Dhruv, along with, DCC District President Monoj Gupta, tribal leader Daya Vakre, Sampat Singh Marko, Vivek Porte, Malti Vakre, and other local leaders and public representatives were present.

Remain united and ensure party's victory: Rathore

Meeting of ex-public reps, ex-candidates of BJP held

Central Chronicle News

Gaurela, Pendra, Marwahi, Jun 26: As per instructions by the BJP State President Arun Sao and BJP Pichada Varg Morcha (PVM) President Bharat Verma, a sammelan of BJP's ex-representatives, ex-election candidates and party workers was organised by DCC District President Kanhaiya Rathore and State V-P BJPPVM and district in-charge Sunita Manikpuri and in the presence of Rakesh Chandrakar here on Sunday.



The programme began with lighting of traditional lamp by the guests. The welcome speech and importance of the programme and its report

was highlighted by BJPPV District President Sandeep Jaiswal.

Speaking on the occasion, Sunita Manikpuri asked all the public repre-

sentatives to take the forthcoming elections seriously and be ready for it. She asked the public reps to be constantly in touch with the public.

Kanhaiya Rathore reiterated the need to remain united and ensure victory in the next elections to the party with thumping majority. Brijlal Rathore in his powerful speech gave victory tips to party workers and public reps.

District Kosha President Mukesh Dubey termed organisation of such programmes as inspirational and asked to motivate by linking it with elections.

After this the guests welcomed all the existing, ex-public representatives and ex-election candidates with shawl and srifal. The programme was conducted by District Gen. Secy. Durgesh Yadav and vote of thanks was proposed by Abhay Verma.

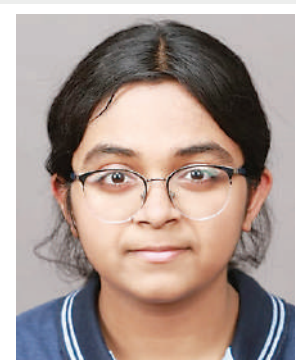
Richa Patel qualifies for NEET-2022-23

Secures 641 marks out of 720

Central Chronicle News

Dabhra, Jun 26: Richa Patel of Gram Jawali under Dabhra block hq's secured 641 marks out of 720 in the NEET-2022-23 exam and brought laurels to her family and village.

It is notable here that Richa Patel is a talented student since childhood and she had her preliminary education from DPS Raipur and secured 97.4% marks in Class 10 Board exam. In Class 12th, she secured 94.6% marks. Her grandfather- Raghuvir Singh Patel is retired lecturer and grand-mother Meera Patel is a house-



Richa Patel

wife. Richa Patel's father is a doctor from Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru Medical Memorial College and is presently posted as

Lecturer in the same college and her mother owner of Srinay Clinic.

On her success and achievement, regional president of Samaj-Kamal Kisohre Patel, along with family members Teklal Patel, Annapurana Patel, Keshav Patel, Nirmala Patel, Ayush Patel, Chirag Patel, Tarun Patel, Jyoti Patel, Abhay Patel, Yatharth Patel, Vijay Patel, Sarita Patel, Ajay Patel, Uma Patel, Raj Patel, Dhruv Patel, Taleshwar Patel and other villagers have expressed happiness and wished her all the best in her future endeavours.

Gauthan collapse causes loss to WSHG



Central Chronicle News

Churikala, Jun 26: The construction and keeping of Lotlota (Churikala) Gram Panchayat Lotlota's Gauthan built two months ago is reportedly in a bad state. Under the Chief Minister's ambitious Narva Garu or Ghuruva Bari scheme, Gauthans were built by spending lakhs in Gram Panchayat Lotlota under Katghora development block.

The villagers have shown their displeasure with the officials after the

repared Gauthan has collapsed and due to the fall of the balcony of the Gauthan, about 600 hundred quintals of cow dung bought by the women's group in Gauthan has dried up and is not suitable for making manure. Due to the lack of attention by the Secretary, 600 hundred quintals of cow dung has dried up and is no longer suitable for making manure.

In this regard, MP Representative Jeevan Yadav told that Gauthans have been built in the vil-

lage under the government's plan, which on April 26, due to the wind, the balcony of the Gauthan was blown away and the walls fell down, and the village Deputy Sarpanch and MNREGA Technical Assistant, rebuilt it without complete checking.

Demand is being made to give compensation for cow dung to the women groups formed for cow dung purchase and fair investigation should be done for the construction of Gauthan.

One nabbed within 2 hrs of crime

Along with cash stolen

Central Chronicle News

Pithora, Jun 26: Thieves striking an abandoned house on the intervening night of Saturday at 10:00 pm, broke open the lock of the main Almirah and ran away with cash worth Rs 27000. A report in this regard was filed by the complainant in the thana and

the police managed to nabbed the accused within 2 hours of the crime.

As per information in this regard from police, the complainant Anurag Agrawal, S/o Rameshchandra Agrawal, filed a complaint on Saturday night at 2:30 pm that he along with his family were out for a marriage ceremony and when they came back, they found the lock of the main door and almirah broken

and cash of Rs 27000 missing.

On this the police filed a complaint and started the investigation and managed to nabbed the accused Rahul Yadav, S/o Mohan Yadav, R/o Sallhedih Thana, Tendukona along with cash of Rs 27000 in his possession and the hammer and screw-driver used to break the lock and gate.

In this action, Addl. SP Mahasamund Aakash Rao Girpunje, SDOP Prem Sahu,

Thenedar-Shivanaand Tiwari along iwth Umesh Sahu, Shailesh Thakur, Thakurram Patel, Sanjay Nishad, Gopal Yadav, Dev Kosaria, constable played an important role.



बैंक ऑफ बड़ोदा
Bank of Baroda

Regional Office : First Floor, Zonal Market, Sector-10, Bhilai- (Chhattisgarh) - 490006
Ph. : 0788-2261056, Website : www.bankofbaroda.com

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF PROPERTIES

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable/movable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 6(2) & 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of Bank of Baroda, Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" for recovery of below mentioned account/s. The details of Borrower(s) / Mortgagor(s) / Guarantor(s) / Secured Asset(s) / Dues / Reserve Price / e-Auction date & Time, EMD and Bid Increase Amount are mentioned below -

Sr / Lot No	Name & Address Of Borrower(S) / Guarantor(S) / Mortgagor(S)	Short Description Of The Immovable Property With Known Encumbrances, If Any	Total Dues	Date & Time Of E-Auction	Reserve Price, Emd Amount, Bid Increase Amount	Status of Possession (Symbolic / Physical)	Property Inspection Date & Time
1	M/s Narmada Enterprises Registered Address : 7A/5 1st Floor Ekta Tower, Dakshin Gangotri Supela Bhillai, C.G. Mr. Kulvir Singh Dhiman (Partner) A75 Street No. 27 Smriti Nagar Bhilai C.G. Mr. Shrinivas Acharya (Partner) MIG 744, Padmanabhpur Durg, C.G. Mr. Prakash Rao (Guarantor) MIG 761 Padmanabhpur Durg, C.G.	All that part & parcel of the property consisting of Residential Lease Hold property /House wide no. MIG 761 admeasuring area 197.49 Sq. Mt. at Padmanabhpur (Chhattisgarh) Griha Nirman Mandal tah. & District Durg C.G. in the name of Shri Prakash Rao S/o Shri A.V. Rao. Bounded : On the North by: Road, On the South by: MIG 766, On the East by: MIG-762, On the West by: MIG: 760.	Rs. 1,61,31,256.77 + unapplied interest and charges	12-07-2023 02:00 PM to 06:00 PM	Rs. 64,80,000.00 Rs. 10,000.00	Symbolic	10-07-2023 11:00 AM to 02:00 PM

For detailed terms and conditions of sale, please refer to the link provided in <https://www.bankofbaroda.in/e-auction.htm> and <https://ibapi.in>. Also, prospective bidders may contact the authorized officer on Mobile 7723024982
Date : 27.06.2023. Place : BHILAI

Authorized Officer Bank of Baroda

BRIEF



WB CM and TMC supremo Mamata Banerjee during an election campaign for the state Panchayat elections, at Chandamari in Cooch Behar district, Monday.

Fire

Mumbai: A 55-year-old man died of burn injuries after a gas stove and cylinder caught fire in a building in Mumbai's Goregaon area on Monday, officials said. The incident took place at around 8 am in a room of the two-storey 'Shree Ganesh Rahivasi Seva Mandal' building, they said.

Watery grave

Sultanpur: Two minor siblings drowned in a pond in the district's Akhand Nagar area, police said on Monday. The incident occurred in the Sajampur Rajbhar village on Sunday. Muskan (8) and her six-year-old brother Veeru had gone to graze livestock when they decided to take a dip in a pond, they said.

Mishap

Ratnagiri: At least eight persons were killed and seven others injured when a speeding truck collided with a passenger vehicle in Maharashtra's Ratnagiri district, police said on Monday.

Shot at

Jabalpur: A 26-year-old woman, who was shot at by a man in his office last week, died during treatment at a hospital in Madhya Pradesh's Jabalpur city on Monday, police said. The incident had taken place when the woman had gone to meet the accused at his office on June 16, an official said.

PM to flag off five Vande Bharat trains today



An undertrial Vande Bharat Express train arrives at Jabalpur Station.

● Launch National Sickle Cell Anaemia Elimination Mission

New Delhi, Jun 26 (PTD):

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be on a day-long visit to Madhya Pradesh on June 27 during which he will flag off five Vande Bharat trains

and launch the National Sickle Cell Anaemia Elimination Mission, his office said on Monday.

The prime minister will reach Rani Kamalapati railway station around 10:30 am and flag off five Vande Bharat trains, a statement issued by the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) said.

Modi will attend a public programme in Shahdol

district around 3 pm. He will honour Rani Durgavati, who ruled Gondwana in the mid-16th century; launch the National Sickle Cell Anaemia Elimination Mission and kickstart distribution of Ayushman cards.

He will also visit Pakaria village in Shahdol, according to the statement.

The five Vande Bharat trains that Modi will flag off are — Rani Kamalapati-Jabalpur Vande Bharat Express, Khajuraho-Bhopal-Indore Vande Bharat Express, Madgaon (Goa)-Mumbai Vande Bharat Express, Dharwad-Bengaluru Vande Bharat Express, and Hatia-Patna Vande Bharat Express.

The Rani Kamalapati-Jabalpur Vande Bharat Express will connect Mahakausal region (Jabalpur) to the Central region (Bhopal) of Madhya Pradesh.

Tourist places like Bheraghat, Pachmarhi, and Satpura, etc. will also be benefitted by the improved connectivity, the statement said.

The train will be about 30 minutes faster than the existing fastest train on the route, it said.

The Khajuraho-Bhopal-Indore Vande Bharat Express will improve connectivity of Malwa region (Indore) and Bundelkhand region (Khajuraho) to Central region (Bhopal), the statement said.

KISAN MAHOTSAV



Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot during Kisan Mahotsav, in Udaipur, Monday.

Man lynched by 'cow vigilantes' on suspicion of transporting beef

● 11 held

Mumbai, Jun 26 (PTD):

A 32-year-old man was lynched allegedly by a group of 'cow vigilantes' on suspicion of transporting beef in Maharashtra's Nashik district, police said on Monday.

This is the second incident in Nashik in nearly

two weeks of killing of a person by 'cow vigilantes'.

The latest incident took place at around 5.30 pm on Saturday near Gambhirwadi on Ghoti-Sinnar Road in Igatpuri area of Nashik, located more than 150 km from Mumbai, an official said.

Eleven persons have been arrested in this connection, the Ghoti police said.

Two men from Kurli area in Mumbai, who were transporting meat in a car were attacked allegedly by a group of 10 to 15 'cow vigilantes' with steel rods and wooden sticks, the official said.

The two men, Afan Ansari (32) and his associate Nasir Qureshi (24), who were on way to Mumbai, received serious injuries in the attack, he said.

ANTILIA BOMB SCARE CASE

SC extends by four weeks interim bail granted to ex-cop Pradeep Sharma

New Delhi, Jun 26 (PTD):

The Supreme Court on Monday extended by four weeks the interim bail granted to former Mumbai Police officer Pradeep Sharma, who was arrested in connection with the Antilia bomb scare case and the killing of businessman Mansukh Hiran, in view of his wife's surgery.

A vacation bench of Justices AS Bopanna and Prashant Kumar Mishra extended the relief to Sharma granted earlier this month after senior advocate Siddharth Dave, appearing for him, said his wife could not be operated upon as the doctor concerned was abroad.

"The doctor was travelling throughout the month of June. Now, he is set to return to India in the first week of July after which the surgery will be conducted", Dave said, requesting the bench to extend the interim bail granted to Sharma, a former encounter specialist of Mumbai Police.

Additional Solicitor General KM Nataraj, op-

posed the application for extension of interim bail saying no specific date of surgery is mentioned and later Sharma will again come and seek for extension of bail period.

"This is a serious case and important witnesses are to be examined. Time and again extension could not be granted", he said.

Justice Bopanna said these are small issues and since the doctor was not in the country, the surgery could not be taken up.

The bench after perusing the last order and the report of the doctor, extended the interim bail period by four weeks and directed the matter be listed after four weeks.

On June 5, the top court had granted three weeks interim bail to Sharma after noting that his wife has to undergo surgery.

The top court had said Sharma will be released on interim bail subject to conditions imposed by the trial court.

"From the medical certificate issued by the Lilavati Hospital and Research Centre, Mumbai, dated May 27, 2023, the

wife of the petitioner has been advised to undergo reversal of gastric bypass surgery.

"Considering the reason for which interim bail is prayed for, we direct that the petitioner shall be released on interim bail on such conditions that the trial court may consider fit and proper, for a period of three weeks, to attend to his wife's treatment," the top court had said.

The top court had posted the matter for hearing on June 26 and directed Sharma to furnish a medical report disclosing the progress in the treatment of his wife.

The top court had on May 18 issued notice on Sharma's plea challenging an order of the Bombay High Court which had refused to grant him bail.

The high court had expressed anguish at the manner in which the National Investigation Agency (NIA) had probed the case.

It had noted that the NIA's probe was silent on the co-conspirators involved with dismissed policeman Sachin Waze in

planting gelatin sticks in an SUV parked outside the residence of industrialist Mukesh Ambani.

On February 25, 2021, an explosives-laden SUV was found near Ambani's residence 'Antilia' in south Mumbai. Businessman Hiran, who was in possession of the SUV, was found dead in a creek in neighbouring Thane on March 5, 2021.

The allegation against Sharma, who along with police officers Daya Nayak, Vijay Salaskar and Ravindranath Angre was a member of the Mumbai Police's encounter squad that killed over 300 criminals in numerous encounters, was that he had helped his former colleague Waze in eliminating Hiran.

Salaskar had died during the 26/11 Mumbai terror attack.

Sharma had approached the high court last year challenging a February 2022 order of a special NIA court rejecting his bail plea. Sharma was arrested in the case in June 2021 and is currently in judicial custody.

Blood Donation Camp marks 90th birth anniversary of Late Singhania

Mumbai, Jun 26:

JK Organisation, with 138 year's of heritage a renowned Indian industrial group, held "Blood Donation Camps" to mark the 90th birth anniversary of Late Hari Shankar Singhania, the former President of the group. The camps were arranged at the various offices and manufacturing facilities owned by the group. Padma Bhushan recipient Late Hari Shankar Singhania actively contributed to the expansion and unification of the JK Organisation by setting up several new ventures along with acquiring and integrating a number of businesses into the group.

The blood donation drive was specifically organized on this day in honour of the former leader, who was always ready to do more for the community in addition to the



group's various social initiatives. Speaking on the occasion, Bharat Hari Singhania, Chairman, JK Organisation mentioned that, "JK Organisation has stood strong for more than a century now committed to enhancing the quality of life for everybody, with the founders' belief in giving back to society ingrained in the company's spirit. On the occasion of the late Shri Hari Shankar Singhania's birth anniversary, the JKO Group com-

panies organised a blood donation drive as an initiative towards contributing to wellbeing of the larger population."

A total of 5712 JK Organisation employees donated blood for this humanitarian cause. Before donating blood, all of the donors underwent blood pressure, haemoglobin, weight check, and other tests at the camps. A certificate of appreciation for contributions was presented to each donor.

'No discussion held on 'PM post' during Oppn meeting'

Pune, Jun 26 (PTD):

NCP president Sharad Pawar said no discussion took place on the "prime ministerial post" in the meeting of opposition parties held in Patna last week ahead of the Lok Sabha elections due next year.

There were discussions on issues like inflation, unemployment and "deliber-



Sharad Pawar

ate attempts" at some places

to encourage communal forces, Pawar told reporters in Baramati town here in Maharashtra. He also hit out at the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party for its criticism of the opposition meeting. Why was the BJP worried about the conclave, Pawar said, claiming there was lack of "political maturity". Drawing the battle lines, over 32 leaders of more than a dozen opposi-

tion parties held a crucial meeting in Patna hosted by Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Friday and resolved to take on the BJP unitedly in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

At a joint press meeting, the opposition parties said they would fight the polls on a common agenda and state-wise strategy, setting aside their differences with a flexible approach.

INT'L DRUG DAY RALLY



Senior officials of Anti Narcotic Task Force (J&K Police) participate in a rally on the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, in Srinagar, Monday.

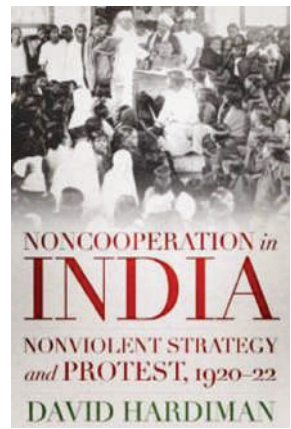
● Of non-cooperation movement

New Delhi, Jun 26 (PTD):

After a book on the history of non-violent resistance in the Indian nationalist movement, historian David Hardiman's latest work takes his study forward to examine the culmination of the first surge of struggle — from its launch in 1920 to its end with Mahatma Gandhi's arrest two years later.

The book, "Non Cooperation in India: Non Violent Strategy and Protest", was released on Monday. It is published by Westland Books.

The non-cooperation movement by the Indian National Congress (INC), organised and led by Gandhi, was the first mass movement organ-



ised nationwide during India's struggle for freedom.

Its aims were to force further concessions from the British government by organising the boycotting of the legislative councils, courts and schools, and other symbolic acts.

"Although the Noncooperation Movement of 1920-22

was one of the greatest mass movements of modern times, hardly any overall accounts of it exist.

"I was inspired to carry out this task through a combination of my interest in Indian nationalism, Gandhi, subaltern history and the theory and practice of nonviolent resistance. I am delighted that Westland Books is now publishing this Indian edition," said Hardiman, founding member of the 'Subaltern Studies Group', in a statement.

The non-violent movement, inspired by Gandhi's satyagraha campaign, degenerated into violence and was called off by Gandhi himself in February 1922 after the murder of a number of policemen by a mob at Chauri Chaura in the United

Provinces. According to the publishers, the book, comprising seven chapters, is a detailed account of India's first mass movement organised as a part of India's freedom struggle.

"It looks at fractious all-India debates over strategy, the major grievances that drove local-level campaigns, the ways leaders braided together these streams of protest within a nationalist agenda, and the distinctive features of popular non-violence for a righteous cause," they added.

Currently an emeritus professor of the department of History at the University of Warwick, Hardiman's previous books include "Gandhi in His Time and Ours: The Global Legacy of His Ideas" and "Peasant Resistance in India".

BRIEF

NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg, left, and Lithuania's President Gitanas Nausėda arrive for their meeting at the Presidential palace in Vilnius, Lithuania, Monday.

Backup trip

Wellington: The United States has Air Force One, a plane that can refuel in mid-air and act as a presidential command centre. New Zealand has Betty, an aging Boeing 757 that officials on Monday acknowledged was so prone to breakdowns they had sent an empty backup to ensure Prime Minister Chris Hipkins didn't get stranded in China, where he is leading a trade delegation.

Public appearance

Moscow: Russian Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu made his first public appearance since a mercenary uprising demanded his ouster, inspecting troops in Ukraine Monday in a video released by his ministry. He's the first of three powerful Russian leaders whose diverging interests led to the Wagner Group occupying a Russian city and marching on the capital to be seen since the revolt ended Saturday. Wagner Group chief Yevgeny Prigozhin and General Staff chief Gen. Valery Gerasimov also have made no public statements since then. Russian President Vladimir Putin hasn't made any public appearances either.

Koreans march

Seoul: Tens of thousands of North Koreans marched in anti-US rallies in the nation's capital over the weekend, pledging "merciless" revenge against "US imperialists," as the country marked the 73rd anniversary of the start of the Korean War, state media said Monday. More than 120,000 people participated in Sunday's mass rallies in Pyongyang, North Korea's official Korean Central News Agency said.

Student dies

London: A 25-year-old student from Tamil Nadu who was pursuing his post-graduate degree in the UK died after being pulled from a canal in the city of Birmingham, police said on Monday. Jeevanth Sivakumar, a student at Aston University in Birmingham, was found in the Worcester and Birmingham canal at Matrons Walk, Selly Oak, by West Midlands Police in the early hours of Wednesday. The West Midlands Ambulance Service was called in but they later said in a statement that "it sadly became apparent nothing could be done to save the man".

Pro-reform Mitsotakis wins second term in Greek election

Athens, Jun 26 (AP)

Greece's centre-right leader Kyriakos Mitsotakis was formally sworn in as prime minister Monday after easily winning a second term with a record-high margin over the left-wing opposition, in an election that also ushered new far-right parties into Parliament.

With 99.70 per cent of the vote counted, Mitsotakis' New Democracy party had 40.55 per cent more than twice the main opposition Syriza's 17.84 per cent. It was the largest margin of victory seen in half a century and slightly expanded ND's 20-percentage-point lead in a previous election five weeks before.

Mitsotakis, 55, was



Kyriakos Mitsotakis leader of the center-right New Democracy makes statements at the headquarters of the party in Athens, Greece.

sworn in after being formally handed the mandate to govern by Greek President Katerina

Sakellariopoulou, and was due later Monday to name his new cabinet that's to assume its duties on Tuesday.

"My aim was to secure a stable government with a parliamentary majority. Unfortunately, two elections were needed for that," he said in a televised meeting with Sakellariopoulou, who as head of state holds a mainly ceremonial role.

"I have committed to implement major, deeply-needed reforms over the next four years, (and) have a strong mandate to do that," he said. Mitsotakis spoke with Sakellariopoulou about the "surprise" entry of marginal parties, which raises the number represented in Parliament from five to eight, but added: "I think our democracy is mature enough to handle whatever temporary turbulence (ensues)."

Lightning strikes kill 10 as pre-monsoon rains lash



Drivers push their motorcycle rickshaws through a flooded road caused by heavy rainfall, in Lahore, Pakistan, Monday.

Islamabad, Jun 26 (AP)

Lightning strikes across Pakistan's eastern Punjab province killed at least 10 people, officials said Monday as heavy pre-monsoon rains lashed the region. The strikes on Sunday mainly took place in the Sialkot and Sheikhupura districts of Punjab. Lightning strikes are frequent across Pakistan, especially in Punjab's mountainous areas and plains. The

Pakistan Meteorological Department said more rains were expected this week, bringing some respite from the ongoing heatwave. The National Disaster Management Authority warned the ongoing rains could trigger flash flooding.

Every year, many areas of Pakistan struggle with the annual monsoons, drawing criticism for poor government planning. The season runs from July through September.

Lebanon's group says it shot down an Israeli drone

Beirut, Jun 26 (AP) Lebanon's militant Hezbollah group said its fighters shot down Monday an Israeli drone that was flying near the border and over southern Lebanon.

The group gave no further details about the type of the drone that it claimed was downed near the village of Zibqine just north of the border with Israel. There was no immediate comment from Israel.

The incident comes after weeks of tensions along the Lebanon-Israel border, mainly in a disputed area known as Chebaa Farms. Earlier this month, Israeli soldiers fired tear gas to disperse scores of Lebanese protesters who pelted the troops with stones along the border. Some of the demonstrators and Lebanese troops suffered breathing problems. The protest took place on the edge of Kfar Chouba hills, which Beirut says is Lebanese land occupied by Israel.

US-India friendship among 'most consequential' in world: President Biden

Washington, Jun 26 (PTI)

The US-India relationship is among the "most consequential" in the world with bilateral ties more dynamic than ever, US President Joe Biden has said after the two countries elevated their strategic technology partnership during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's historic state visit.

Prime Minister Modi on Friday concluded his maiden state visit to the US during which he held wide-ranging talks with President Biden. Modi also addressed the joint session of the US

Congress, becoming the first Indian leader to do so twice.

The visit included an impressive welcome ceremony attended by a record 7,000 people on the South Lawn of the White House, a state dinner attended by some 500 people, and a round table with honchos of technology companies, entrepreneurs, officials and CEOs.

"The friendship between the United States and India is among the most consequential in the world. And it's stronger, closer, and more dynamic than ever," US President Biden tweeted on Sunday.

Responding to Biden's remarks, Modi said the friendship between India and the US is a force for global good and will make the planet better as well as more sustainable.

Tagging Biden's tweet, Modi said on Twitter, "I fully agree with you, @POTUS @JoeBiden! Friendship between our countries is a force of global good. It will make a planet better and more sustainable."

"The ground covered in my recent visit will strengthen our bond even more," he said.

The White House, in its weekly email update, said

Friday, June 23, 2023."

"Our hearts go out to the family of the deceased, and we remain focused on supporting our employees on the ground and ensuring they are being taken care of during this time," it said.

"From our initial investigation, this incident was unrelated to Unifi's operational processes, safety procedures and policies. Out of respect for the deceased, we will not be sharing any additional information," it added.

San Antonio firefighters and police officers were the first to respond to the worker's death late on Friday. The NTSB has since joined the investigation and could release a preliminary report with more details in the coming days.

Indian woman jailed for fatally abusing maid gets 3-year additional term for destroying evidence

Singapore, Jun 26 (PTI)

A 64-year-old Indian-origin woman in Singapore, serving a 14-year jail term for fatally abusing her daughter's Myanmar maid, was on Monday sentenced to additional three years in jail for removing crucial evidence in the case.

Prema S Narayanasamy will now serve a 17-year sentence for her role in abusing 24-year-old Myanmar national Piang Ngaih Don, who died of a

brain injury with severe blunt trauma to her neck in 2016 after 14 months of repeated abuse.

Prema was given an additional three-year jail term for asking her son-in-law to remove a Closed-Circuit Television (CCTV) recorder that held evidence of her 43-year-old daughter Gaiyathiri Murugayan and her crimes involving Piang's abuse. Prema pleaded guilty to one count of instigating her son-in-law Kevin Chelvam to cause

evidence of the offences to disappear, Channel News Asia reported on Monday.

The offence, involving the CCTV recorder, occurred when Prema knew the authorities were heading to their house.

When Chelvam arrived home, Prema directed him to dismantle the CCTV recorder to dispose of it, as she did not want police to get hold of the footage.

Chelvam, 44, then a police officer, was initially reluctant to do so but allegedly complied with his

mother-in-law's insistence.

Prema later slipped the recorder into her daughter-in-law's bag while the police were in the house and told her in Tamil, "I have kept something in your bag, do something with it." The daughter-in-law gave Prema's son the recorder, who then asked a friend to keep it.

Despite the CCTV recorder passing from her daughter-in-law's hands to her son's friend, the police managed to recover it after questioning Prema's son.

Chinese hostilities against Taiwan will have serious global impact: Taiwanese Minister

Taipei, Jun 26 (PTI)

China's threat against Taiwan is much more serious than what is visible and any attempt by Beijing to change the status quo by force will have severe consequences for the world including on the supply of semiconductors, Taiwanese Foreign Minister Jauhsieh Joseph Wu has said.

In an interaction with an international media group, Wu said that Taiwanese people are firmly determined to protect Taiwan's sovereignty and that their resolve has been further emboldened by the "in-

credible determination" displayed by the Ukrainians in the face of Russian aggression.

China has been main-

taining that Taiwan is a breakaway province that must be reunified with the mainland, and if necessary by force.

Guatemalans choose new president after a tumultuous electoral season

Guatemala City, Jun 26 (AP)

Guatemalans voted Sunday to elect a new president and vice president as well as fill all congressional seats and hundreds of local posts after one of the most tumultuous electoral seasons in the Central American nation's recent history.

Many Guatemalans expressed disappointment with their presidential choices after three opposition candidates were excluded by authorities. A large number of null ballots were expected, and experts said it could depress turnout.

With none of the 22 presidential candidates polling near the required 50% threshold for winning outright, a second



Police fire tear gas at a polling station after clashes erupted when electoral authorities delayed its opening to voters due to alleged electoral violations during general elections.

round of voting on Aug. 20 between the top two finishers was almost certain.

At the Mixed Urban School No. 2, a combined elementary and middle

school in Sumpango, voters began lining up outside its walled wall an hour before voting began. The town of about 37,000 sits in the mountains less

than an hour west of the capital. Voting appeared orderly. Walter Alfredo Hernandez, a 61-year-old lawyer and notary from Sumpango, was one of the first to vote. He was in and out in about 20 minutes. He drew a clear line between how he thinks things are going in his town pretty well and nationally a disaster.

Guatemala "is immersed in misfortune, in corruption," Hernandez said, before going on to list the co-opted institutions, especially in the country's justice system.

"The citizen wants to lift himself up and he can't. The rich have our heads," he said, demonstrating his foot pressing something to the ground.

CENTRAL UNIVERSITY OF RAJASTHAN
Kishangarh, District-Ajmer (Rajasthan)
Advt. : R/F.148/2023/803 Date : 16.06.2023

REQUIREMENT

Applications are invited from eligible candidates for the post of:
TRAINING AND PLACEMENT OFFICER
purely on contractual basis for a period of one year
For complete details, visit website: www.curaj.ac.in
CBC 21361/12/0004/2324 Registrar

I/5586/2023 K-15015/15/2022-SP-V ANNEXURE-I

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS DEPARTMENT OF SPORTS
INVITING APPLICATIONS UNDER THE SCHEME OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT IN SPORTS (HRDS)

The Department of Sports under the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (MYAS), Government of India, invites applications under the Scheme of Human Resource Development in Sports for Fellowship Programmes, Exchange of knowledge / Research / Ideas, Assistance to Match Officials, Coaches and Supporting Personnel, Assistance for Research and Publication of Outstanding Works on Sports related subjects.

2. The Scheme has following components:

- (i) Fellowship Programmes for advanced/specialized training of short term (upto 3 to 6 months) and long-term (upto 2 years) modules/ workshops/ course/ programmes in India as well as abroad in various sports science disciplines having relevance to sports;
- (ii) Exchange of Knowledge / Research / Ideas:-
a) For attending seminars/workshops/conferences of repute in India or abroad;
b) For holding Training Programmes, Seminars, Workshops/ Clinics and Conferences within the country.
- (iii) Assistance to Match Officials, Coaches and Support Personnel for appearing in qualifying examinations organized by international bodies or National Sports Federations (recognized by the Department of Sports on the date of application)/ IOA and for undergoing specialized training in the relevant disciplines/ areas;
- (iv) Assistance for Research projects in sports-related disciplines;
- (v) Publications/e-Publications of Outstanding Works/Journals/e-Journals/web-based applications (apps) having significance for sports and games.

3. Interested individuals/organizations must submit their applications well before time of the scheduled meeting of Designated Committee and not later than 20th day of preceding month of the scheduled meeting of the Designated Committee.

Kindly visit this Ministry's website link <https://yas.nic.in/sports/scheme-human-resources-development-sports-0> for further details.

Sd/-
Vimal Anand
Director (Sports)
vimal.anand@nic.in

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A Strategic Partnership Strengthening India-Egypt Relations

In a significant development, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President of Egypt Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi elevated the bilateral relationship between their nations to a "strategic partnership." This move reflects the growing ties and shared interests between India and Egypt, as they seek to deepen cooperation in various sectors. During their meeting in Cairo, the leaders identified key areas for collaboration, including trade and investment, IT, defence and security, renewable energy, agriculture, health, culture, and people-to-people exchanges. This broad range of sectors highlights the intention to forge a comprehensive and multifaceted partnership that encompasses economic, social, and cultural aspects. The significance of this partnership was further underscored when President Al-Sisi conferred upon Prime Minister Modi the prestigious Order of the Nile, the highest civilian award in Egypt. This gesture of recognition symbolizes the warmth and goodwill that the Egyptian government and its people hold towards India. To institutionalize and facilitate collaboration, the establishment of an "India Unit" within the Egyptian Cabinet was highlighted as a valuable mechanism. This dedicated unit, established after President Sisi's visit to India earlier this year, aims to streamline and catalyze bilateral initiatives. The leaders acknowledged the positive impact of this unit and emphasized the need to leverage its potential for enhanced cooperation. Looking ahead, both leaders will have an opportunity to further review and strengthen bilateral ties during the upcoming G20 summit, where President Al-Sisi has been invited as a special guest during India's Presidency. This platform will provide an avenue for deeper engagement and the exploration of new avenues for partnership. During his visit, Prime Minister Modi also undertook significant cultural engagements, showcasing the shared heritage and historical connections between India and Egypt. His visit to the Al-Hakim Mosque, a revered 11th-century monument, symbolizes the centuries-old cultural exchange between the two nations. Additionally, paying homage at the Heliopolis Commonwealth War Cemetery, where Indian soldiers sacrificed their lives during World War I, serves as a reminder of the deep-rooted historical bonds and the contributions made by Indian soldiers. In discussions with various stakeholders, including the Bohra community leaders and renowned author Tarek Heggy, Prime Minister Modi highlighted the strong people-to-people ties that exist between India and Egypt. These interactions exemplify the role of cultural exchanges and diaspora communities in fostering mutual understanding and building bridges between nations. Moreover, the talks also addressed the imperative of countering extremism and radicalization. This shared concern underscores the importance of collaborative efforts in promoting peace, tolerance, and inclusivity in both societies. The elevation of India-Egypt relations to a strategic partnership signifies a milestone in the bilateral relationship, emphasizing the mutual desire to forge a comprehensive and enduring alliance. By leveraging their respective strengths and synergizing their efforts, India and Egypt can unlock immense potential for growth, development, and prosperity. As these two nations embark on this new chapter of collaboration, it is imperative that both governments sustain the momentum and translate their commitments into tangible outcomes. Strengthening economic ties, promoting investments, facilitating people-to-people exchanges, and addressing common challenges will be key to realizing the full potential of this strategic partnership. India and Egypt share a rich history and a promising future. By nurturing this partnership and capitalizing on their shared values and aspirations, both nations can pave the way for regional stability, progress, and mutual prosperity.

Shopian Saga

Seeking Truth and Closure

In a significant development, the Jammu and Kashmir administration has finally taken action by terminating the services of two doctors involved in the infamous 2009 Shopian twin 'rape and murder' case. This decision brings a sense of closure to the victims and their families after enduring more than a decade of legal battles and uncertainties. Dr. Bilal Ahmad Dalal and Dr. Nighat Shaheen Chilloo, who conducted the autopsy of the victims, have been accused of fabricating evidence and providing a false report, misleadingly categorizing the deaths as rape and murder instead of accidental drowning. It is alleged that these doctors were working in collusion with Pakistani agents, further exacerbating the gravity of their actions. The 2009 Shopian case sparked public outrage when the doctors initially reported that the women had been 'raped and murdered.' This declaration ignited violent protests that lasted for nearly six weeks, with demonstrators led by Majlis-e-Mushawarat, an amalgamation of separatist groups, pointing fingers at security personnel for these alleged heinous crimes. The widespread unrest in Jammu and Kashmir even posed a threat to the stability of the then ruling NC-Congress coalition government, led by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah. In connection with the case, five policemen were arrested. The doctors' falsification of evidence aimed to create disaffection against the Indian state, falsely accusing security forces of rape and murder—an insidious strategy that seemed to momentarily succeed. To address the escalating situation, the case was handed over to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), which uncovered inconsistencies in the conspirators' narrative. The high court also intervened, ordering the exhumation of the victims' bodies for a second post-mortem examination, which was conducted by doctors from AIIMS-Delhi in September 2009. This examination revealed that Asiya Jan's hymen was intact, decisively establishing that the women had not been subjected to sexual assault. In December 2009, the CBI concluded that the women were neither raped nor murdered. The investigation exposed the manipulative role of external agencies utilizing locals to spread hatred and misinformation. The termination of the two doctors responsible for fabricating evidence signifies an essential step towards justice and closure for the victims and their families. It highlights the commitment of the Jammu and Kashmir administration to hold those accountable for their wrongful actions, even after several years have passed. This decision also sends a powerful message that the authorities will not tolerate the misuse of professional positions to fuel social unrest and create animosity towards the Indian state. While the termination of the doctors is a significant milestone, it should not overshadow the trauma endured by the victims' families throughout this protracted legal process. They have had to endure years of uncertainty, public scrutiny, and emotional distress. It is crucial for the government to provide the necessary support and assistance to help them rebuild their lives and heal from the wounds inflicted by this case. The closure of the 2009 Shopian case should serve as a reminder that justice can prevail, albeit with time. It highlights the importance of a fair and impartial investigation, conducted by independent agencies, to ensure that truth and accountability prevail. This case also exposes the vulnerabilities that exist in society, where external forces attempt to exploit local grievances and manipulate public sentiment for their ulterior motives. It is essential for the authorities to remain vigilant and take proactive measures to safeguard the integrity of investigations and prevent the recurrence of such incidents. As the 2009 Shopian case comes to a conclusion, it is imperative for society to reflect on the importance of upholding justice, truth, and the rule of law. The termination of the two doctors involved serves as a stepping stone towards closure for the victims and their families, but it is crucial to acknowledge that the effects of this case extend beyond individual lives. The repercussions of false accusations and the manipulation of public sentiment can have far-reaching consequences for communal harmony and the overall fabric of society.

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 editorcentralchronicle@gmail.com.

WORLD DRUG DAY



Students of Queen Mary's College take part in a demonstration on the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, near Marina beach, in Chennai, Monday, June 26.

Public libraries promote literacy and reading culture



DR. PRIYANKA SAURABH

Public libraries are not mere repositories of books; they are influential pillars of society. They command an essential role as gateways to knowledge and culture, shaping the very fabric of our communities. Through their abundant resources and services, public libraries foster creative learning opportunities, bolster literacy and education, and ignite the flames of imagination. They serve as vital catalysts for the birth of new ideas and perspectives, essential for a vibrant and innovative society. Additionally, public libraries stand as guardians of the past, preserving the invaluable wisdom and knowledge accumulated by preceding generations. Without these bastions of learning, the advancement of research and human knowledge, as well as the preservation of our collective heritage, would be severely hindered. Let us recognize and embrace the profound power of public libraries in nurturing knowledge, fostering cultural growth, and shaping a brighter future for all.

A public library is a library that is accessible to the general public regardless of any differences and is usually funded by public sources such as community contributions. Public libraries provide free access to a wide range of books, journals, and research papers to a person belonging to different educational backgrounds and age groups. Public libraries collaborate with schools and universities to organize debates, storytelling competitions, and educational activities for youth, children, and adults. Libraries are synonymous with education and provide countless learning opportunities that can foster economic, social, and cultural development. The inspiring story of William Kamkwamba from Malawi underscores the difference a library can make. Borrowing a book about windmills from his local library, Mr. Kamkwamba learned how to build an energy-producing turbine for his village. On the strength of this experience, he went to study at a leading university in America. That one book not only changed his life; it also changed the lives of the people in his village communi-

ty. Stories like these explain why many countries are keen to ensure that libraries continue to provide access to knowledge, learning, and ideas.

During COVID, public libraries supported their members by offering e-books to access information online. This has helped books reach the remotest places and fostered a reading culture in small towns. Public libraries are places that bring communities together and host events related to educational programs. Such community outreach programs help in inculcating reading values and promoting literacy among people from marginalized communities. Public libraries have played an important role in developing reading as a leisure activity. Books in multiple languages have brought new readers to libraries who prefer to read books in the original languages with different socio-political dimensions.

3A. The National Library Policy will ensure the availability, accessibility, and affordability of books across India. Since libraries are a State subject, the need of the hour is to pay attention to the modernization of public libraries in the State. State libraries suffer from a paucity of financial funds and the non-availability of books in English and other vernacular languages. There is ambiguity regarding the number of functional libraries functioning at the state and national levels. As per the National Library Policy, there will be accurate data regarding operational and non-functional libraries in the public domain.

Recognizing the cultural importance of sharing, Mahatma Gandhi said, "No culture can survive if it tries to be exclusive". The motivation to share

and reuse information and knowledge comes in many forms. Perhaps the most deeply rooted in our human instincts is the desire to preserve our culture for future generations. It is one of the most important functions of libraries.

Libraries are rich repositories of historically and culturally significant collections, many of which are not available anywhere else in the world. Without an appropriate copyright exception, a library may not preserve or replace a damaged work while it is still covered by copyright. For example, it cannot legally copy or digitize an old newspaper or a unique sound recording to preserve it. Without proper library exceptions, this cultural heritage will be lost to future generations.

Today, many works are "born digital" only, such as websites or electronic journals, and are not available in print format. Without legal means of preserving and replacing works in various media and formats—including format transfer and moving electronic material from obsolete storage formats—many of these works will inevitably be lost to future generations of historians.

The National Library Policy will help in strengthening the efforts of NGOs working in remote areas of the country. The need of the hour is to formulate a National Library Policy to adopt new and modern practices from the best libraries across the world and to formulate standardized practices to preserve this cultural heritage of India.

(Writer is a Research Scholar in Political Science, Poetess, Independent journalist and columnist. Views are personal)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Monsoon Brings Relief

After a scorching summer, the monsoon has finally reached Delhi, Haryana, and other parts of northern India, bringing a sigh of relief. In a rare occurrence, both Delhi and Mumbai experienced monsoon showers on the same day after 62 years. Typically, Mumbai receives rainfall by June 11, but this year it arrived two weeks late, while Delhi was graced with showers two days earlier than expected. While Mumbai suffered from the delayed monsoon and high temperatures, Delhi and other parts of northern India experienced cooler temperatures compared to previous years. As an agrarian nation, India heavily relies on the monsoon for agricultural production. Fortunately, the monsoon, which had a slow start, is now progressing rapidly and is expected to cover the entire country, providing hope for grain production. However, it is important to remain cautious as isolated areas may experience cloudy weather with light to moderate rainfall in the next few days. The recent deluge in Assam following the arrival of the full monsoon serves as a reminder of the potential rise in water levels in the Brahmaputra and its tributaries. All state Disaster Management Authorities should remain vigilant, as flood-affected areas, as well as cities and towns, have suffered damage to infrastructure such as embankments, roads, bridges, and more.

Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee, Faridabad

Balanced Cooperation

During Prime Minister Modi's state visit to the US, it is crucial for India to recognize the essence of the India-US relationship. Rather than solely focusing on defense partnerships and technology transfers, India must acknowledge that the US is primarily driven by business interests and will always prioritize its own gains. The 2005 India-US civil nuclear deal serves as a reminder that India received minimal benefits while US companies reaped substantial profits. Instead of blindly appeasing the US, India should demand equal treatment across all aspects of the partnership while maintaining cordial relations with its long-standing ally, Russia. Achieving an equitable and balanced cooperation is imperative.

MK Nair, Raipur

Giant leap

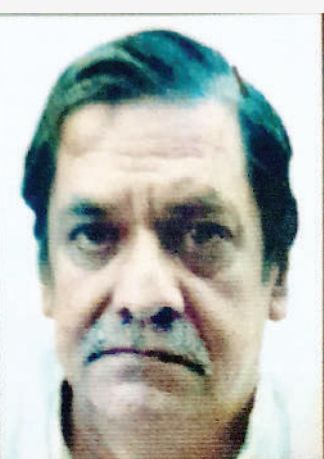
The burgeoning India-US relationship is not merely a new-found love affair, but one built on deep-rooted foundations. Current political and economic necessities have further solidified this bond, as the shared democratic values of both nations hold the potential for a harmonious and prosperous world. While there may be occasional obstacles, these minor issues cannot undermine the profound trust that underpins the India-America alliance. As we move forward, it is crucial to nurture and strengthen this partnership, as it promises great advancements and opportunities for both nations and reinforces their commitment to a brighter future.

Sandeep Warrier, Kolkata

India's Democracy Under Scrutiny: The Litmus Test Ahead

Yash Pal Rathan

India, with its status as the world's largest democracy, stands alongside the United States, known for its longstanding democratic traditions. However, both nations are facing questions and challenges that put their democratic values to the test. Recent incidents and political debates highlight the complexities and depth of democracy in both countries. This article delves into the examination of India's democracy, both on the international stage and within the country, with upcoming elections serving as a critical litmus test.



Unveiling the Depth of Indian Democracy

During a press conference, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed a question on minority issues, reaffirming the commitment to uphold the principles of

the Indian Constitution, which prohibits discrimination based on caste, creed, or religion. The satisfactory response from the press reporter indicated that the issue was addressed adequately. Similarly, former

U.S. President Barack Obama raised concerns about attacks on Christians in Delhi during his visit to India. Subsequent investigations revealed that the incidents were driven by criminal motives rather than communal tensions. It is worth noting that such questions raised during interviews can sometimes be politically motivated, especially considering the upcoming presidential elections.

Changing Election Strategies and Political Alignments

Recognizing the changing dynamics and voter sentiments, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has been adapting its election strategies. The party is actively seeking political alliances in various states, including partnerships with the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) in Andhra Pradesh, the Rajbhar Party in Uttar Pradesh, a Christian front in Kerala, smaller parties in Bihar, and Dravidian parties in Tamil Nadu. These strategic realignments highlight the evolving political landscape and the BJP's efforts to strengthen its position ahead of the upcoming assembly elections.

The Perceived Threats and Political Narratives

During Prime Minister Modi's visit to the United States, opposition parties in India attempted to create an impression that democracy was under threat. However, these claims have often resulted in failed attempts to sway public opinion, as witnessed in previous election cycles. In 2019, the opposition failed to secure enough seats to elect a leader of the opposition in the Lok Sabha,

while in 2014, no leader of the opposition was appointed. It is crucial to analyze the motives behind such narratives, particularly as the election season approaches.

The Litmus Test: State and National Elections

The forthcoming assembly elections in five states, scheduled for October and November, will serve as a crucial litmus test for the BJP. The outcomes of these state elections will significantly impact the parliamentary elections slated for March and April 2024. It is during these elections that the strength and vitality of Indian democracy will be put to the ultimate test. India's democracy is facing examinations both on the international stage and within the country. As political narratives unfold, alliances shift, and voter sentiments evolve, the fate of Indian democracy hangs in the balance. It is a time for citizens, political parties, and stakeholders to engage actively and shape the future of this vibrant democracy. The results of these elections will not only shape the political landscape but also reaffirm the resilience and endurance of India's democratic values.

BRIEF

New vehicles



Mumbai: Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari has said new vehicles will be introduced that run entirely on ethanol. Speaking at an event in Nagpur on Sunday, the minister recalled that he recently met the chairman of Mercedes Benz company which launched an electric vehicle. "He (the chairman) told me they would make electric vehicles only in future," Gadkari said. "We are bringing new vehicles that will run entirely on ethanol."

Ongoing projects



Hyderabad: UAE-based Lulu Group will be investing Rs 10,000 crore in India on various ongoing projects over the next three years and the UAE-based conglomerate has invested over Rs 20,000 crore in the country, Lulu Chairman Yusuf Ali MA said here on Monday.

Quits



New Delhi: The Chief Executive Officer of Bharti Airtel's enterprise arm Airtel Business, Ajay Chitkara, has resigned from the company, according to a filing. Following the resignation, Bharti Airtel has restructured leadership in the enterprise arm by dividing it into three segments.

Investment proposals



Greater Noida: The Uttar Pradesh government has received investment proposals worth about Rs 36 lakh crore that emerged out of a memorandum of understanding signed during the state's investor summit a year ago, chief minister Yogi Adityanath said. During his speech at an inaugural function of the Rs 200 crore-robot manufacturing plant of Reliance group firm Addverb, the chief minister said for the first time, the state has received investment proposals for all 75 districts and a maximum number of proposals have come for Gautam Buddha Nagar district.

India appears to be 'silver lining' amid global challenges: Paranjpe

New Delhi, Jun 26:

India appears to be the silver lining amid global headwinds and is poised to leapfrog into the future, but the country must address challenges like employment and agriculture productivity, said HUL Chairman Nitin Paranjpe. Addressing the AGM of the company on Monday, Paranjpe said India has been the fastest-growing economy in the last decade and is touted to become the world's third-largest economy by 2027, surpassing Japan and Germany. It is emerging steadily from the shadows of being a poor nation, and taking 'centre stage'.

"The country's ambition of becoming a high-middle income country by 2047, when the nation celebrates 100 years of independence, is a definite possibility," Paranjpe said in his speech titled Transforming to Win in



the New India. This would be led by factors like favourable demographics, rising consumption, enviable digital public infrastructure, investments and a culture of innovation and enterprise. According to HUL Chairman, a growing young population can often translate into a growing economy, and India, with one of the world's largest populations of youth, can reap the benefits of its demographic dividend in the years to come. About 66 per cent of the country's population

today is below 35 years of age, with 40 per cent of the population in the age bracket of 13-35.

"The country is predicted to become home to one-fifth of the global workforce, making it a go-to destination for employers from across the world," Paranjpe said, adding "While the population of other developed economies is ageing rapidly, India's population is expected to stay young for longer". Moreover, with this growing young population, India is also witnessing a significant rise in consumption. This is helped by growing affluence, urbanisation and nuclear family structure. On India's growth in digital space, Paranjpe said it is already the world's largest and fastest growing market for digital consumers with over 750 million internet users, which is expected to increase to 900 million by 2025.

Meta, CAIT to upskill 10 lakh traders on WhatsApp Business app

New Delhi, Jun 26:

Meta on Monday announced it has partnered with the Confederation of All India Traders to upskill 10 lakh traders on how to use the WhatsApp Business App over the next three years in a bid to reach more customers and scale up their businesses. The owner of WhatsApp, Instagram and Facebook also announced the launch of Meta Small Business Academy, a new programme to enable emerging entrepreneurs to learn digital marketing skills and earn a certification. "A certification by Meta Small Business Academy will especially help new entrepreneurs and mar-

eters gain critical digital marketing skills to grow on the Meta apps. To enable the programme to reach MSMEs across India, the course module and the examination are available in seven languages - English, Hindi, Marathi, Bengali, Kannada, Tamil, and Telugu," a release stated. Secretary General of the Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) Praveen Khandelwal said with businesses of all sizes using WhatsApp to communicate, coordinate, and connect with their customers effectively, there is an urgent need to equip them with timely skills needed to drive business growth.

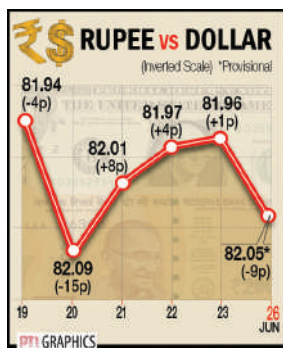
India to remove retaliatory customs duties on eight US products

New Delhi, Jun 26:

India will remove additional duties on eight US products, including chickpeas, lentils and apples, which were imposed in 2019 in response to America's measure to increase tariffs on certain steel and aluminium products, government sources said.

During the recent state visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the US, both countries decided the termination of six WTO (World Trade Organisation) disputes and the removal of these retaliatory tariffs on certain US products. In 2018, the US imposed an import duty of 25 per cent on steel

Rupee declines 9 paise to 82.05 against dollar amid geopolitical worries



Mumbai, Jun 26: The rupee declined by 9 paise to close at 82.04 (provisional) against the US dollar on Monday amid geopolitical concerns and firming crude oil prices. Volatility in equity markets and FII outflows also weighed on the market sentiment, analysts said. After opening lower, the rupee staged a recovery to hit the day's high of 81.94 in morning trade amid early gains in equities and a weaker greenback in the overseas markets. However, the local currency retreated from early highs amid volatile stock markets and touched a low of 82.05 in afternoon trade at the interbank foreign exchange market.

Sensex, Nifty settle on a mixed note in volatile trade

Mumbai, Jun 26:

Benchmark equity indices Sensex and Nifty closed on a mixed note in a volatile trade on Monday amid weak trends in the global markets. While auto, IT and pharma shares advanced in a restricted trade, selling in index heavyweight Reliance Industries, HDFC twins and Tata Consultancy Services capped the gains. In a lacklustre trading, the 30-share BSE Sensex dipped 9.37 points or 0.01 per cent to settle at 62,970, logging its third day of decline. During the day, it hit a high of 63,136.09 and a low of 62,853.67.

The NSE Nifty edged up by 25.70 points or 0.14 per cent to settle at 18,691.20. It moved between 18,722.05 points and 18,646.70 in the day trade. "The global market exhibited a negative bias as concerns regarding economic growth emerged in light of the political instability in Russia. This instability led to an increase in oil prices, driven by worries over po-



tential supply disruptions, given Russia's status as one of the largest oil producers," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services. On the domestic front, the market experienced limited downside as the pharma and auto sectors provided support, he added. From the Sensex pack, Tata Consultancy Services, Reliance Industries, NTPC, Bharti Airtel, Power Grid, Larsen & Toubro, HDFC Bank, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Tech Mahindra and HDFC were the major laggards.

On the other hand, Maruti rose the most by 1.67 per cent. Tata Motors, Titan, UltraTech Cement, Bajaj Finserv, Mahindra & Mahindra, State Bank of India and IndusInd Bank were the top gainers.

In Asian markets, Seoul ended in the green, while Tokyo, Shanghai and Hong Kong settled lower. Equity markets in Europe were trading lower. The US markets ended in negative territory on Friday. "Weak Asian and European cues dampened the domestic market sentiment, as benchmarks ended mixed in a range-bound session amid selective buying in key sectoral stocks.

Global markets are dictating trends back home and investors don't want to be in a hurry to take long positions in times of high uncertainty," said Shrikant Chouhan, Head of Research (Retail), Kotak Securities Ltd. In the broader market, the BSE midcap gauge climbed 1.04 per cent and smallcap index jumped 0.71 per cent.

Krishan Gurjar urges industry to adopt advance tech to become competitive



New Delhi, Jun 26: Union Minister Krishan Pal Gurjar on Monday urged the industry to adopt advanced technologies for their operations in order to compete at the global level. The Minister of State (MoS) for Power was speaking at the inauguration of 'Advance Industrial Technology Demonstration Centre' at

National Power Training Institute (NPTI) at Badarpur here. "Advance technology is a must for the growth of the country. Today, if we have to compete with the world, we will have to adopt advanced technologies," Gurjar, who is also the MoS for Heavy Industries, said. Reduced consumption of energy will bring the production cost of various industries and help them to compete in the market, he said. NPTI Director General (DG) Tripta Thakur said industries like iron and steel, cement, pulp & paper, and textile together contribute around 30 per cent to the total commercial energy consumption in India.

Priya driving Quality Assurance and inspiring excellence for a decade

Mumbai, Jun 26:

Over the past decade, Amazon India has been at the forefront of revolutionizing e-commerce in the country, and one of the driving forces behind its success are its passionate employees. Priya Chavan, Quality Assurance Manager in the Grocery & Food Tech team at Amazon India, is an invaluable contributor to the company's success journey since its launch 10 years ago. Her unwavering commitment to excellence and her ability to adapt to new challenges have made her an exceptional leader within Amazon. Throughout her tenure, Priya has em-

braced continuous learning and growth driven by the freedom to explore different roles and address new challenges. Her journey with Amazon India began in 2009, right after finishing college, when she joined as a Quality Assurance Engineer in the Advertising division, and today, over a decade later, she herself leads a team of Quality Assurance Engineers.

In her own words, Priya shares, "My role has evolved over the years presenting me with exciting and challenging projects. One of the most memorable projects I worked on was testing Amazon Ads on Kindle Devices. This

project had an ambitious deadline, and I worked relentlessly to meet it while ensuring the delivery of a world-class product. I'm happy to say that this was one of the projects that exemplified our commitment to excellence and the collaborative spirit that define Amazon's culture."

She further adds, "In my current role as a Quality Assurance Manager, I engage in a wide range of activities such as creating test strategies for large projects, defining test automation roadmap, identifying, measuring and reporting key software quality metrics, while developing the growth path for my team members.

PW's NEET batches achieve record-breaking success in NEET UG 2023 results

Mumbai, Jun 26:

Physics Wallah, India's leading ed-tech platform which is democratizing education at scale has delivered outstanding success in the NEET UG Results 2023. A total of 15 students from PW's NEET Batches scored more than 700, setting a benchmark. Furthermore, an impressive count of more than 20,000 students from PW's batches got qualified in the NEET 2023 with good scores.

Physics Wallah's top scorers include Samuel Harshith AIR-24, Nishant Sharma AIR-28, Sumegha Sinha AIR-39, Prayas Rout AIR-67, MD Rejaullah

AIR-134, and Pranjal Singh AIR-150. Over 20 lakh students registered for the exam, and out of the 11,45,976 candidates who qualified.

This year, over 20,000 students trained by PW educators cleared the exam with flying colors and secured seats in medical colleges. More than 9,000 PW students scored above 600 marks, while over 1,500 PW students scored above 650 marks.

More than 125 PW students secured ranks under AIR 1000. PW's commitment to providing accessible and cost-effective education of the highest standards has significantly benefited students

preparing for NEET. The faculty members at PW have been readily available to address doubts through the doubt engine and also provided lecture and test planners, along with daily practice tests featuring video solutions, to offer comprehensive support to the students.

Alok Pandey, CEO & Founder of PW said, "We are immensely proud of the outstanding results achieved by our students in the NEET UG 2023. The remarkable ranks they have secured fill us with great pride and serve as a testament to their unwavering commitment and the relentless efforts of our talented educators.

The performance of our NEET batches demonstrates the effectiveness of our impactful education approach. There has been a 100% surge in selections this year compared to last year.

As a company, we remain steadfast in our commitment to delivering outstanding learning outcomes, and we continue to innovate our content delivery to enhance the understanding and success of our students across all test prep categories. In addition to the outstanding results achieved by PW students in the NEET UG 2023, it continues to transform the landscape of education in India.

Adishwar Auto Ride India set to Localise the Keeway SR 250 and SR 125

Mumbai, Jun 26:

Adishwar Auto Ride India Pvt. Ltd (AARI), an established manufacturer in the Indian Superbike Industry, recently introduced two Neo-Retro motorcycles to serve the entry-level premium segment. These include the Uber Cool SR 250 and the Unpretentious SR 125, from the Hungarian marque KEEWAY, which has presence in over 98 countries. The motorcycles come across as a strong reminder of the old school days, allowing customers to enjoy the nostalgic experience of the 80's and 90's, without having to compromise on modern day performance and reliability.

While the Keeway SR 125 is already on sale, deliveries of the Keeway SR 250 commence from 17th June onwards.



Adishwar Auto Ride India is also planning to localise the two Neo-Retro rides by the end of 2023. The move towards localisation is a result of the incredible response being received for the SR 250 and

the SR 125. AARI has announced a lucky draw for the first five hundred deliveries of the Keeway SR 250,

wherein Five lucky customers will get 100% cash-back on the ex-showroom price. The company is also set to introduce the 'My SR My Way' platform, allowing customers to showcase their unique personalities

through their SR models, making the SR model range unique to their riders. The platform will be available on all new purchases from September 2023 onwards.

However, the Keeway SR 250 and the Keeway SR 125 will be readily available at the dealerships in the 3 existing standard colours - Glossy White, Glossy Red and Glossy Black.

The colour customisation through the new platform, will be made by AARI on order basis.

To enquire about 'My SR My Way', and to place an order for colour customisation, customers can contact the nearest Benelli | Keeway authorised dealers.

Roff, Pidilite announced launch of consumer awareness campaign

Raipur, Jun 26:

Pidilite, a leading manufacturer of construction and specialty chemicals, has announced the launch of a new campaign aimed at increasing customer awareness regarding the consequences of using traditional options for tile fixing. The campaign describes the customer's frustration with cracked tiles, debonding, falling tiles, and unaesthetic appearance resulting from traditional tile fixing methods, including cement. The usage of tiles has undergone significant transformation over the past few decades, and adhering to traditional tile-fixing methods may not align with the evolving needs of the new-

age customers. While ceramic tiles have a clay surface at the back that bonds well with cement, vitrified tiles, which are the most used tiles today, have a smooth & non-porous surface at the back which is difficult to bond with cement alone. Also tile sizes are becoming bigger. The traditional method provides low bond strength. Modern day tiles and stones require adhesives with higher bond strength that spread evenly for proper fixing. Commenting on the new campaign, Sudhanshu Vats, Deputy Managing Director of Pidilite Industries Ltd., said, At Pidilite, pioneering in emerging categories is a core value that drives us. Our brand Roff is aimed at

transforming the way tiles are fixed in India. The nationwide launch of our campaign underscores our unwavering commitment to raising awareness and enhancing customer experiences. Roff products embody cutting-edge technology, blending global expertise with local intelligence. They enable contractors, architects to create long-lasting beautiful tile and stone creations without any worry.

Through this initiative our objective is to inform and empower customers to make well-informed choices. With its cutting-edge technology and sustainable formulation, Roff stands at the forefront of eco-friendly tile adhesive solutions.

Actress Sakshi Chopra alleges sexual harassment

Sakshi Chopra, the great-granddaughter of Bollywood director Ramanand Sagar, has come forward with allegations of sexual harassment during her participation in a game show. Taking to Instagram, the actress shared her disturbing experience and accused the show's producers of condoning inappropriate behavior.

In her post, Chopra claimed that after signing the contract, a contestant openly made derogatory comments about her body, discussing her breasts and buttocks. Shockingly, she alleged that the producers encouraged such behavior, suggesting that controversial remarks would boost ratings, dismissing it all as part of the game.

The actress further stated that she felt trapped during the show, describing it as a suffocating experience.

Netflix, the platform airing the program, reportedly imposed strict monitoring and restricted her contact with her mother. Chopra alleged that when she tried to inform her mother about the tasks and sexual harassment, the producers intercepted her calls and messages, preventing her from speaking out.

Chopra criticized Solproductions, the production company, and Netflix for their complicity in the alleged misconduct. She claimed that the companies were aware of everything that transpired and manipulated chats and blurred messages to control the narrative. Expressing her disappointment, she questioned how these female producers could engage in such behavior and emphasized that she takes responsibility for her decision to work with them.

In a direct address to showrunner Chad, Chopra accused him of disregarding the well-being of contestants, despite being a father to two daughters. Frustrated and angered by her experience, she bid farewell to the show, vowing never to participate in such nonsense again.

Sakshi Chopra's allegations shed light on the pervasive issue of sexual harassment and misconduct in the entertainment industry. It serves as a reminder of the importance of creating safe and respectful environments for all individuals, regardless of their profession. It is crucial that such allegations are thoroughly investigated to ensure justice and prevent the perpetuation of such unacceptable behavior.



Darshan Dave as Randheer Sharma in 'Doosri Maa'

Stepping into the realm of &TV's family drama, Doosri Maa, actor Darshan Dave captivates audiences again with his remarkable portrayals across various television shows. With his latest role as Randheer Sharma, Darshan will inject a fresh wave of intrigue into the show, leaving viewers eager for more. In this interview, he opens about his approach to the character, revealing his determination to captivate audiences and the meticulous preparations he underwent to bring Randheer's personality to life.

Excerpts of interview:

What attracted you to the role of Randheer Sharma?

This role offers a refreshing change and promises to infuse the show with many unexpected twists, turns, and dramatic moments. I was eager to embark on something distinct, and seizing this opportunity seemed a perfect choice. In the show, I essay the role of Randheer Sharma. As a lawyer, Randheer rivals Ashok. Despite that, after Ashok's disappearance and during Yashoda's difficult phase, he helps her. Randheer aims to impress Yashoda with his kindness while harbouring a complex and multi-layered personality. I was thrilled and excited to take on this character, as it allowed me to explore the depths



opportunity to film in my hometown, ensuring my parents are not left alone. There is an undeniable sense of comfort and familiarity when shooting in one's city. The sheer joy of being a part of this production is further amplified by its place in my beloved hometown, Jaipur. I find immense happiness knowing that I no longer have to dine alone and that someone eagerly awaits my return home. I am grateful for this, and my parents are equally delighted, often accompanying me to the set to spend quality time together. This level of comfort is something any actor would cherish, particularly those who are not from Mumbai. I consider myself truly fortunate to have had such a wonderful experience.

Watch Darshan Dave as Randheer Sharma in Doosri Maa, airing every Monday to Friday at 8:00 pm only on &TV!

of this incredibly layered character. In addition to my character, I am intrigued by the show's storyline. I have been a dedicated viewer since it started and am thrilled to be a part of it.

How does shooting for a show in your city provide you with a sense of comfort or familiarity?

Being a part of this show has been an absolute blessing. It marks the first time I have had the



Mohit Kumar joins the cast of 'Vanshaj'

Sony SAB's family drama, Vanshaj, gives viewers a glimpse into the extravagant and larger-than-life lifestyle of the Mahajan family. The show takes the audience on a captivating journey through the world of a legacy business empire. Mohit Kumar will soon be introduced to the show as the rebellious son of Vidur (played by Aliraza Namdar). Vidur is the right-hand man of the Mahajan family, known for his loyalty to them throughout

the years. In contrast, despite being raised amidst the Mahajan family, Neil harbors a deep-rooted hatred towards them. While Vidur is Neil's sole blood relative, they hold contrasting opinions. Yuvika (Anjali Tatrari) and Neil's paths had crossed in Rishikesh, but what will happen when Neil comes to know that Yuvika now lives with the Mahajan family?

Keep watching Vanshaj every Monday to Saturday on Sony SAB at 10 PM.

Amber Heard shines on Red Carpet comeback

Amber Heard made a dazzling return to the red carpet, marking her first public appearance since her high-profile trial with ex-husband Johnny Depp concluded over a year ago. The Aquaman actress attended the world premiere of her latest film, In the Fire, at the Taormina Film Festival in Italy on June 23. The event showcased Heard's radiant smile and positive demeanor, signaling her triumphant comeback to the spotlight. Dressed in a stunning black caped maxi dress and matching platform sandals, Heard gracefully posed for photos on the teal carpet. Alongside her co-stars Luca Calvani, Eduardo Noriega, Yari Gugliucci, and director Conor Allyn, she exuded confidence and elegance. Actor William "Billy" Baldwin, present at the festival to promote the animated comedy Billie's Magic World, also joined her for memorable moments. Engaging with fans, Heard enthusiastically took selfies and signed autographs, radiating joy throughout the evening. Her role in In the Fire casts her as a doctor who embarks on a journey to a remote plantation in the 1890s to treat a boy believed to be possessed by the Devil—a riveting portrayal sure to captivate audiences. While the movie awaits



its release date, it stands as Heard's final acting project filmed in early 2022, months before her highly publicized defamation trial with Depp commenced in April. Fans can also anticipate her reprisal of the character Mera in the upcoming Aquaman sequel, set to hit theaters on December 20, 2023, further showcasing her talent and versatility. Following the trial's conclusion in June 2022, Heard deliberately kept a low profile. However, this May, she began

making appearances in Madrid, Spain, expressing her affection for the city in Spanish during encounters with local paparazzi. The trial resulted in a victory for Depp, who recently graced the Cannes Film Festival's red carpet in May for the premiere of Jeanne du Barry. Depp had filed a \$50 million lawsuit against Heard, alleging defamation after she penned a 2018 op-ed in The Washington Post that hinted at domestic abuse without explicitly naming him. The trial's jury found Heard liable for defamation and ordered her to pay Depp over \$10 million in damages. In turn, the jury also ruled that Depp pay Heard \$2 million due to his lawyer's accusations of her perpetrating a "hoax." Amidst the legal battles, Heard views the trial as a setback for women, yet she did secure a modest victory through her \$100 million countersuit against Depp. The legal saga has now paved the way for her triumphant return to the public eye, showcasing her resilience and commitment to her craft. Amber Heard's radiant presence at the Taormina Film Festival signals her resilience as she resumes her passion for acting, leaving behind the courtroom drama to once again shine on the silver screen.

Akangsha Rawat embraces challenging role in 'Shiv Shakti'

Prominent television actress Akangsha Rawat, recognized for her notable performances in TV serials like "Solah Singaar" and "RadhaKrishn," is currently captivating audiences with her portrayal of Diti, the mother of Asuras, in the gripping drama series "Shiv Shakti."

Reflecting on her experience, Rawat describes the role as a challenging endeavor that pushed her boundaries. "I wanted to challenge myself this time. I took a significant risk, knowing that failure could lead to being written off! Personally, I was already grappling with self-doubt and confidence due to various challenges. This was the first time I would play a villain, and so far, everyone has appreciated my portrayal of Diti. I believe it

was worth it!" shares the talented actress. Delving further into her character, Rawat reveals, "I portray the negative lead, Diti, Asur Mata, who marks the beginning of the Asura lineage on Earth. She is the daughter of Earth's first king and the wife of Sage Kashyap. Diti feels injustice has plagued her life since childhood, and now, she fights against the Devas for the rights, respect, and acceptance she has always yearned for. It is by far the most challenging character I have ever played."

Rawat highlights that the complexity of her role stems not only from portraying a negative character but also from the multiple shades that make up Diti's persona. "You

may despise Diti, yet somehow, you will still love her! Her pain is genuine, but her methods and actions to seek justice are flawed." "Shiv Shakti," based on the revered "Shiva Purana," weaves a mythological love story centered around the Earth's king, Daksh, and his daughters Aditi, the mother of Devas, and Diti, the mother of Asuras. Produced by Swastik Productions, the series premiered on JioCinemas on June 19, captivating audiences with its enchanting narrative.

Akangsha Rawat's portrayal of the complex and multifaceted character Diti adds depth and intrigue to "Shiv Shakti," further enthralled viewers as they witness the unfolding mythological tale of love, power, and destiny.



Garima Jain speaks about balancing between dancing and acting

Garima Jain, known for her role as Sakshi in Star Bharat's 'Na Umr Ki Seema Ho,' portrays a grey character with a desire to disrupt Dev and Vidhi's lives alongside Jai, who is infatuated with Vidhi. Besides being a skilled actress, Garima is also a trained dancer specializing in Bharatnatyam and various other dance forms. Garima's expertise extends to more than nine

professional dance styles, and she is eager to expand her repertoire further. Despite her busy schedule, she manages to pursue her passion for dance and dedicates her day-offs to practicing. Notably, Garima holds a Guinness World Record for completing 1000 spins in 10 minutes, surpassing her own record by achieving it within a shorter time frame. Expressing her pro-

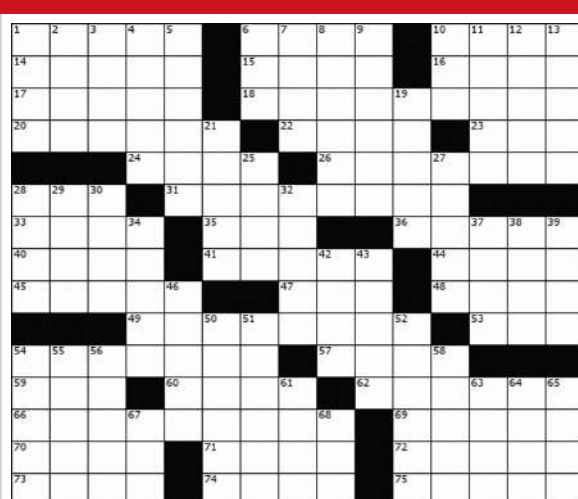
found love for dance, Garima shares, "I have been learning the art of dance since childhood and even participated in a reality show when I was a kid. I thoroughly enjoy exploring new dance forms, and I have acquired knowledge in a wide range of styles."

Stay tuned to watch 'Na Umr Ki Seema Ho' every Monday-Friday at 8:00 PM only on Star Bharat.



CROSSWORD

685



ACROSS

1. Rent
6. Pear type
10. Operated
14. Rock star ___ John
15. Washstand item
16. Papa's partner
17. Airborne
18. Electricity source
20. Go away
22. Extinct bird
23. Lunched

DOWN

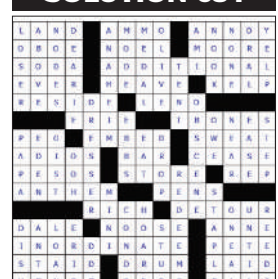
24. Genuine
26. Matured
28. Horse's mouthpiece
31. Imitated
33. Prepare copy
35. ___ and con
36. Goes by bus
40. Quality of sound
41. Fable writer
44. Coastal bird
45. San Antonio shrine
47. Compass reading (abbr.)
48. Courageous person

49. High blood ___
53. Vane dir.
54. Gymnast's kin
57. Fine fabric
59. Bombshell ___ West
60. Article
62. Soup bean
66. Unchanged
69. Stop
70. Hindu garb
71. Critic Rex ___
72. Narrates
73. Besides
74. Oxen's harness
75. Winter forecast

DOWN

1. Guide
2. She, to Pierre
3. On the peak
4. As yet (2 wds.)
5. Main course
6. Implore
7. Had debts
8. Madrid matron
9. Debit's opposite
10. ___ Thurman of "Kill Bill"
11. Lucifer
12. Overact
13. Ventured
19. Lariat user
21. Florida bay
25. Tempt
27. Mrs. Bunker
28. Greek letter
29. False god
30. Vocalist ___ Turner

SOLUTION 684



'Chess has taught me to stay patient with my cricket'

Dubai, Jun 26 (PTI):

India leg-spinner Yuzvendra Chahal, who knows a thing or two about chess, says playing the sport at a competitive level has helped him to stay patient while dealing with challenges in his cricket career.

Chahal, who has represented India in the World Youth Chess Championship, has joined SG Alpine Warriors as their ambassador in the ongoing Global Chess League.

"My first jerseys came from playing chess, and the sport has taught me patience over the years. And that helps me in my cricket because sometimes you may bowl well but not get a wicket, and it is then that patience is really

needed," Chahal said in a press release on Monday.

A well-known chess aficionado, Chahal explained that the sport has similarities with cricket because it is essential to plan your way through the game in both.

"Chess and cricket are similar; but in cricket, you can show your aggression, but in chess, you can't. It is all about how calm you are in chess.

"For example, if I am bowling, I can say something to the batter, but in chess, you must stay calm and focused. And it will eventually help you in your life as well," the Indian cricketer said on the sidelines of the Global Chess League here.

The 32-year-old Chahal, who said he didn't expect to be playing for the Indian



cricket team when he stepped away from chess, noted that the Global Chess League is a shot in the arm for the sport.

"In India, we always follow cricket, but the Global Chess League is the IPL of chess. This is the first edition of this tournament,

so a comparison with the IPL isn't fair. But it is a great initiative as people will learn more about chess and the league.

"And the new format of mixed teams is a fantastic thing too. I am waiting for about 10-15 years, and then you will see new players coming through, and people will talk about the Global Chess League. I will be very happy when it comes to that stage."

The likes of world champions Magnus Carlsen and Viswanathan Anand are among those who have praised the tournament.

The inaugural edition of the Global Chess League began on the June 21 and will end on July 2.

Chahal said a couple of members of the Indian cricket contingent would

play chess while travelling.

"In the Indian team, there is no one who can beat me (laughs). Sometimes I play with R Ashwin, and then there is Shanker Basu, our trainer with whom I used to play. We used to play quite a bit during the flights and when we were travelling."

Chahal, who finds time to indulge in a round of chess on the internet every now and then, said, "I play chess sometimes during the journey before a game as it helps make me calm. And especially during the flights, I play chess.

"Chess is growing now, and it has been two decades since I connected with the sport like this, and this (chess) is my first love," he signed off.

Jhulan Goswami joins MCC World Cricket Committee

London, Jun 26 (PTI):

Legendary Indian woman cricketer Jhulan Goswami and two English players in Heather Knight and Eoin Morgan have joined the MCC World Cricket Committee (WCC) ahead of its meeting at the Lord's, the club said on Monday.

Besides Goswami, England women's team skipper Knight and 2019 ODI World Cup winning captain Morgan too have joined the WCC, which is an independent body comprised of current and former international cricketers, umpires, and officials from across the world.

Often regarded as one of the fastest bowler in the women's game, Goswami retired from international cricket last year, and fittingly her final appearance was at



Lord's in the ODI against England, where she was given a guard of honour.

The seamer enjoyed a career spanning two decades, taking over 300 wickets in white-ball cricket across 272 appearances, as well as 44 wickets in 12 Test matches.

She was made an Honorary Life Member of MCC in April this year.

"We are thrilled to welcome Jhulan, Heather and Eoin to the World Cricket committee," Chair of the MCC World

Cricket committee Mike Gatting, said in a release.

"These are three players who have excelled at the very top of the international game and their knowledge of how the elite level of cricket works will be an advantage to the committee.

"It is also important that we are growing the female representation on the committee with the growth that women's cricket has enjoyed in recent years. Jhulan and Heather join Clare Connor and Suzie Bates who can all offer first-hand insight into the women's game."

The WCC will meet on Monday and Tuesday at Lord's ahead of the second Ashes Test between England and Australia, with various outputs from the meeting to be communicated after the conclusion of the match.

Injured Williamson not giving up on World Cup

Wellington, Jun 26 (PTI):

Kane Williamson remains hopeful of taking part in the ODI World Cup in India later this year as he continues his recovery from an Anterior Cruciate Ligament (ACL) injury he had suffered in the IPL.

New Zealand's limited overs captain had ruptured his ACL while fielding for Gujarat Titans in the IPL opener against Chennai Super Kings on March 31.

Williamson is not looking too far ahead and is assessing his recovery on a weekly basis. The ICC event will be played in October-November.

"Very much just trying to keep it week-to-week at the moment. I haven't had such a long-term injury before but talking to other people that have, the journey is a bit of a long one so if you look too far



ahead, it probably can become a little bit daunting," Williamson was quoted as saying by ESPNcricinfo.com on Monday.

"Whereas, one week at a time, ticking off those small markers, those little wins that are nice to expe-

rience. But also knowing that the journey won't be completely smooth and you have a few setbacks along the way that you have to navigate."

Williamson had played part a crucial role in New Zealand's campaign in 2015 and 2019 editions when they reached successive finals.

"Probably more for sanity and changing things up... just nice to mix up all the gym work and the physio work and rehab specific stuff to spend a bit of time with some of the other guys that are training. Super keen to get back in the nets, for sure," he added.

The 32-year-old is among the best batters in the world, having amassed 17142 internationals runs across formats. He has represented New Zealand in 94 Tests, 161 ODIs and 87 T20 Internationals.

Thakur inaugurates hockey astro turf ground at BSF headquarters

Jalandhar: Union Sports Minister Anurag Thakur on Monday inaugurated a state-of-the-art astro turf for hockey at the BSF headquarters here.

On the occasion, Thakur highlighted the government's commitment to promoting sports in India under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

An official release quoting Thakur said, "Sports are a catalyst for holistic development, and the government of India is fully committed to providing the necessary infrastructure and opportunities for our talented athletes. "This astro turf inauguration symbolises our dedication to promoting sports and nurturing the immense potential of our sporting community." Thakur said that the newly constructed stadium received all necessary approvals from the Hockey India, ensuring compliance with international standards. He also mentioned about the rich legacy of Punjab, which produced exceptional athletes and contributed significantly to India's sporting heritage.

India women's team head coach steps down

New Delhi, Jun 26 (PTI):

Months ahead of the Asian Games, Bhaskar Bhatt has left the women's head coach's post to concentrate on his new role as the High Performance Director at the Sports Authority of India (SAI).

The development comes a little over two months before the Asian Games in September, which is also the first Olympic qualifiers for the boxers from the continent.

Earlier this month, Bhatt had been appointed as boxing HPD at SAI. In his new role, he will be overseeing both men's and women's boxing across all SAI National Centres of Excellence (NCOEs).

"When I was named the SAI HPD for boxing a few days back it came with a lot of responsibilities. I wanted to do justice to my new role," Bhatt, who is in Kazakhstan with a second string Indian team for the Elorda Cup, told PTI. "At the national camp (in NIS



India women's boxing head coach Bhaskar Bhatt with Nikhat Zareen.

Patiala), the HPD (Bernard Dunne) is there and the foreign coach (Dmitry Dmitruk) is also there to assess and guide the girls so I requested that I be allowed to concentrate on the my new

role full time," he added. Indian boxing has been going through a lot of changes since Irishman Bernard Dunne's arrival as the High Performance Director in October last year. In February,

Dronacharya awardee CA Kuttappa returned as the head coach of the Indian men's boxing team for a second stint, a decision made by the Boxing Federation of India (BFI) on the advice of Dunne.

Kuttappa replaced Narendra Rana, who was appointed as the chief coach in October 2021.

Soon after, Dmitry Dmitruk was brought in as the foreign coach for both the men's and women's teams.

And now, Bhatt has left his position as the women's team head coach. He had been named the women's head coach in November 2021. Before that, he was with the youth team since 2017 and had served as assistant coach in the senior women's camp from 2005 to 2012.

Under his tutelage, Indian boxers brought home three medals - one gold and two bronze - from the 2022 World Championships in Istanbul.

'Sarfaraz has never been disrespectful towards anyone'



New Delhi, Jun 26 (PTI): Sarfaraz Khan's omission from the Indian team has been linked to fitness and disciplinary issues but sources in Mumbai cricket insisted that there was no truth in the claims. While it is perceived in BCCI circle that Sarfaraz needs to work on his fitness and also be a bit more disciplined both on and off the field, people

associated with Mumbai cricket defended the middle-order batter. Sarfaraz's gesture of pointing finger towards the dressing room after scoring a crucial hundred against Delhi in the previous season was not appreciated. It was perceived as a dig at one of the selectors watching the match. "Sarfaraz's celebration during a Ranji match in Delhi was meant for his teammates and coach Amol Mujumdar, who had doffed his hat. The selector present was Salil Ankola and not Chetan Sharma. Sarfaraz took the team out of pressure situation and the celebration was one of relief," a sources close to cricketer told PTI on Monday.

Kvitova warms up for Wimbledon with German Open title



Czech Republic's Petra Kvitova reacts after winning the final WTA singles match against Croatia's Donna Vekic at the Berlin Tennis Open, in Berlin.

Berlin, Jun 26 (AP): Two-time Wimbledon champion Petra Kvitova showed she's ready to try for a third title on Sunday by beating Donna Vekic 6-2, 7-6 (6) to win the Berlin Open for

her 31st career victory. Kvitova saved three of the four break points she faced and converted four of her five opportunities as she won the match in 1 hour, 41 minutes for her sixth title on grass. She has won 12 of her last 13 matches on the surface going back to her title run in Eastbourne last season. The 33-year-old Kvitova wrapped up the first set in 33 minutes on her debut in Berlin, but the second wasn't as straightforward. Her double-fault gave Vekic the chance to break for a 2-1 lead. Kvitova managed to break Vekic's serve at 5-4 as she won three games in a row, leaving Vekic serving at 6-5 down to stay in the match. She did, leading to the tiebreak. But Kvitova fought back again despite falling behind in the tiebreak.

Samsonova, Errani advance at Bad Homburg Open

Bad Homburg, Jun 26 (AP): Second-seeded Liudmila Samsonova eased into the second round of the Bad Homburg Open with a 6-1, 6-4 win over Viktoriya Tomova.

Sara Errani claimed her first tour-level grass-court victory since the 2016 edition of Wimbledon, beating Belgian qualifier Maryna Zanevska 6-2, 6-3. Ninth-seeded Anna Blinkova rallied to beat home favorite Sabine Lisicki 3-6, 6-1, 7-5, and Russian player Evgeniya Rodina beat American Katie Volynets 6-0, 6-4.

There were wins too for Aliz Cornet and Rebeka Masarova.

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12 bunkers destroyed in violence-hit Manipur

Imphal, Jun 26 (PTI):

Twelve bunkers have been destroyed in Manipur and six mortar shells seized during search operations by security forces, police said. The bunkers were destroyed in the last 24 hours during the search operations in Tamenglong, Imphal East, Bishnupur, Kangpokpi, Kakching and Churachandpur districts, police said on Sunday night.

"The situation is tense but under control with some sporadic incidents," a police statement said. During the search operations, three 51 mm and as many 84 mm mortar shells were found in a paddy field in Sahumphai and one IED was recovered in the vicinity of Kangvai and S Kotlian villages in Bishnupur district, it said. The mortar shells and IED were defused at the spot by bomb disposal teams.

Altogether, 1,100 arms, 13,702 ammunitions and 250 bombs have been recovered since the ethnic clashes broke out in the northeastern state last month. The state police had arrested 135 people for curfew violations, theft in abandoned houses and arson. More than 100 people have lost their lives in the ethnic violence between Meitei and Kuki communities in Manipur so far.

Clashes first broke out on May 3 after a 'Tribal Solidarity March' was organised in the hill districts to protest against the Meitei community's demand for Scheduled Tribe (ST) status. Meiteis account for about 53 per cent of Manipur's population and live mostly in the Imphal Valley. Tribals — Nagas and Kukis — constitute another 40 per cent of the population and reside in the hill districts.

Puri cops help elderly, specially abled devotees get darshan of deities

Puri, Jun 26 (PTI):

Puri police is winning the hearts of the elderly and specially abled devotees by helping them get a glimpse of the deities - Lord Jagannath, Lord Balbhadr and Lady Subhadra - with the help of trained volunteers. Puri SP Kanwar Vishal Singh said following his regular interactions with the public, he came to know that many elderly, demented and specially abled people, who were keen to have a darshan of the deities, are unable to visit Sri Mandir (Jagannath Temple) or

Gundicha Temple, because of age-related ailments. "We facilitated the darshan of at least 300 elderly and specially abled devotees, aged between 70-100 years, till date," Singh said. "We engaged Yuva Shakti volunteers to help the elderly and specially abled persons get a smooth darshan. Our personnel, who are posted at Gundicha Temple, are also helping them," added Singh. The Yuva Shakti programme was launched by Singh on May 4 ahead of the Rath Yatra. "They

were properly trained and sensitised by us on behavioural aspects and crowd control," he said. In a bid to inculcate a sense of discipline and team work among the volunteers, a carrom tournament with police was also organised. "I had never imagined that I could make the darshan, thanks to Puri Police for making it possible," said 80-year-old Sarangadhar Sarangi. "I want to thank Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik and Puri Police for their efforts," said 100-year-old Jhumpi Prusty.

"My sons are away. Without the volunteers, it wouldn't have been possible for me to visit Sri Mandir. I would also like to thank the Odisha CM for such an initiative," 90-year-old Basant Kumar Das said. Disabled rights activist Jitendra Biswal also praised Puri Police for its initiative. About 12 lakh devotees had flocked to the Grand Road outside Shree Jagannath Temple on June 20 to witness the annual ride of the deities in their chariots to Gundicha Temple, which is their birthplace.

Kamakhya temple doors open for devotees



Devotees gather to offer prayers at the Kamakhya temple which reopened after the end of the annual Ambubachi Mela, in Guwahati, Monday.

● After four days

Guwahati, Jun 26 (PTI):

The doors of the Kamakhya temple were reopened to devotees on Monday after four days of the annual Ambubachi Mela. The doors of the temple, located atop the Nilachal hill here, were closed from the intervening night of June 22-23, marking the belief in the annual menstrual cycle of Goddess Kamakhya during the period. "Worshipping in the temple was stopped from pravriti and the doors were reopened to the devotees

this morning after 'nivriti,' a temple official said. The annual Ambubachi Mela is held in the temple premises during this period and is one of the major tourist events in the state. The Mela this year commenced on June 22 amidst elaborate security and other arrangements. It attracted several lakh visitors, an official of Kamrup Metropolitan district said. To accommodate the large number of devotees, three temporary camps have been set up at Pandu Port, Kamakhya railway station and Sonaram Higher Secondary School field.

HC refuses permission to minor girl to abort pregnancy

● As doctors say baby will be born alive

Mumbai, Jun 26 (PTI):

The Aurangabad bench of the Bombay High Court has refused to permit a 15-year-old rape victim to abort her 28-week pregnancy as doctors have opined the baby would be born alive even if forcible delivery is performed at this stage. The baby would require neonatal care, as per the doctors. A division bench of Justices R V Ghuge and Y G Khobragade in its order of June 20 said if a child is going to be born even with

forcible delivery, then they might as well let the baby be born full-term keeping its future in mind. The court was hearing a petition filed by the rape victim's mother seeking permission to abort the girl's 28-week pregnancy. The woman in the plea said her daughter went missing in February this year and was found with a man in Rajasthan three months later by police. A case was lodged against the man under relevant sections of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act. A medical board after examining the girl said even if the

Vigilance wing intensifies probe against KPCC chief

● In two-year-old graft complaint

Kozhikode (Ker), Jun 26 (PTI):

The Vigilance Wing of the Kerala Police has intensified its probe against KPCC chief K Sudhakaran on a complaint of graft and misappropriation of funds filed by his former driver two years ago. As part of its investigation, the Vigilance and Anti-Corruption Bureau (VACB) has sought the



K Sudhakaran

service particulars and salary details of Smitha Sudhakaran from the school authorities where she was working. The Vigilance bureau has sought details like the net salary, including Pay/DA, leave surrender, and other details, for a period starting in 2001. According to the complaint lodged by his former driver, Prashanth Babu, in 2021, Sudhakaran allegedly siphoned off Rs 32 crore from the funds received by the K Karunakaran Trust

for building a memorial to Congress stalwart and former Kerala chief minister Karunakaran — a project that never took off. The complaint also alleges that the KPCC president swindled funds collected for the construction of the Kannur DCC office. Talking to reporters in New Delhi, where he reached to meet senior Congress leaders, Sudhakaran said the Left government has started investigating his financial sources.

'Wagner group' will dislodge BJP govt: Sena (UBT)

Mumbai, Jun 26 (PTI):

The Shiv Sena (UBT) on Monday claimed the "Wagner group" in India, a reference to opposition parties, will dislodge the Narendra Modi government through the ballot box by using the path of non-violence. In a dramatic development last week, Wagner mercenary group chief Yevgeny Prigozhin called

for an armed rebellion and claimed his forces had military facilities in Russia's southern city of Rostov-on-Don under their control. It also started its march to Moscow. Russian President Vladimir Putin called the rebellion a betrayal and an act of treason. Later, Prigozhin said he has ordered his mercenaries to halt their march on Moscow and retreat to

their field camps in Ukraine to avoid shedding Russian blood, following negotiations carried out by the Belarusian president. An editorial in the Sena (UBT) mouthpiece 'Saamana' drew a parallel between Wagner mercenary group's "revolt against Russian President Putin" and the meeting of opposition parties in Patna last week. Drawing the battle lines,

child and its physical and mental development need to be considered," the high court said. "When a live child is going to be born even today, we might as well let the child be born after 12 weeks and under medical advice. If later the petitioner desires to give away the child to an orphanage, she shall have the liberty to do so," it said. The disadvantage of permitting forcible delivery of the child today is that the child who would have naturally developed into a well grown baby will have to be brought into this world at a premature stage and that too forcibly, the court said.

CBI registers disproportionate assets case against railway engineer

● Arrested for bribery

New Delhi, Jun 26 (PTI):

A deputy chief engineer of the Northeast Frontier Railway arrested over bribery charges has been booked by the CBI along with his family members for amassing assets disproportionate to income, officials said on Monday. The CBI has booked Rampal, his wife and mother-in-law in the fresh case registered under IPC sections related to criminal conspiracy, and provisions of the Prevention of Corruption Act related to disproportionate assets and abetment to the crime, they said. During the searches conducted after registering the bribery FIR against Rampal and others in February this year, the CBI had recovered Rs 1.10 crore in cash from his premises while Rs 67 lakh was found at the in-laws' place, they said. This became the basis of the fresh FIR, the officials said. In an unusual move, the agency has not made public with the FIR the exact amount of illicit as-

sets as it may adversely affect the ongoing investigation. The CBI had arrested three persons: Senior Section Engineer Santosh Kumar and his superior Deputy Chief Engineer Rampal, both posted in Silchar; and contractor Sajjan Chaudhary, who is the owner of Tribeni Constructions. Kumar was arrested while allegedly receiving a part payment of Rs 8 lakh from the construction company, they said. In the bribery FIR registered against nine people in February, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) had alleged that Tribeni Constructions had submitted a bill of Rs 19 crore in one of the projects. The amount included the inflated sum of Rs two crore by manipulation in collusion with Rampal, Kumar and other accused public servants, out of which Rs 20 lakh was already given to the deputy chief engineer, Rs 35 lakh to Assistant Executive Engineer B U Laskar (another accused), and Rs 36 lakh of bribe money was to be handed over to Kumar, the FIR alleged.

Gujarat IAS officer points out flaws in education system

● Minister seeks report

Ahmedabad, Jun 26 (PTI):

An IAS officer in Gujarat has claimed students of some primary schools in Chhotaudepur district cannot even read a word or do simple mathematical calculations, promoting the state education department to seek a report on it from authorities. Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer Dhaval Patel, serving as the commissioner of geology and mining in Gandhinagar, expressed shock and anguish over the state of education in the tribal-dominated Chhotaudepur district. In a letter sent to the education department on June

16, Patel termed the education being imparted to tribal children as "rotten" and claimed such education will only ensure the next generation of tribals continues to work as labourers and never progress in life. State Education Minister Kuber Dindor, who also has charge of the tribal development portfolio as cabinet minister, on Monday said he has sought a report from officials about the observations made by Patel. "I have asked officials of my department to give a detailed report so that we can make required changes. There are some issues in the remote tribal areas. I also belong to that region. There is lack of awareness even among the parents of students. We will try to make them

aware and fill the gaps wherever required," Dindor told reporters at an event in Godhra. Patel was one of the several IAS officers in the state government who were sent to different districts as part of the 'Shala Praveshotsav' drive to evaluate the overall education scenario in government primary schools assigned to them. Asked about Patel's observations, Gujarat Minister of State for Education Praful Pansheriya said the purpose of sending IAS officers as well as other senior officials in the field is to find flaws so that they can be corrected. In the letter sent to education secretary Vinod Rao on June 16, Patel said he visited six different gov-

ernment-run primary schools of the tribal-dominated Chhotaudepur district on March 13 and 14 as part of the 'Shala Praveshotsav' drive. Patel said he felt guilty after seeing the "extremely low level of education" in five out of six schools. Recalling his visit to Timla primary school, Patel in the letter said "students of standard-8 were reading every letter of a word separately as they could not read an entire word. They were finding it difficult to do simple mathematical calculations." At Bodgam primary school, students could not give antonyms for simple Gujarati words, like "day". Moreover, a girl student of Class-8 could not show where

the Himalayas and Gujarat were on the Indian map, Patel mentioned. "At Wadhwan primary school, the level of education was extremely pathetic. Class-5 students cannot do a simple subtraction of 42 minus 18.

ANTIQUÉ GUNS



Administrator General and Official Trustee of West Bengal Biplab Roy shows 15 antique guns received from Royal Bengal Arms for State Judicial Museum and Research Centre, in Kolkata, Monday.

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BRIEF



A devotee prepares to take a holy dip as part of rituals on the commencement of the 'Kharchi Puja' festival, on the outskirts of Agartala, Monday.

Condole

New Delhi: President Droupadi Murmu on Monday condoled the death of BJP Rajya Sabha MP Hardwar Dubey. Dubey breathed his last at the Fortis Escorts Heart Institute here, the hospital sources said. He was 74.

Recuse

New Delhi: Supreme Court judge Justice K V Viswanathan on Monday recused himself from hearing the pleas, including those filed by the Enforcement Directorate (ED), in connection with a money laundering case linked to real estate firm IREO. The ED has moved the apex court against the Delhi High Court's June 9 order granting M3M Group owners Basant Bansal and Pankaj Bansal interim protection from arrest till July 5 in connection with the case.

Suicide

Nagapuram: A three-year medical student was found dead at Vishwa Bharathi Medical College in Kurnool district, Andhra Pradesh, police said on Monday. According to the police, Denteperthi Lokesh, 22, hanged himself around 10 pm on Sunday night in his hostel room at Panchikalapadu village, around 25 km from Kurnool town, where the medical college is located.

Arrested

Medininagar: Three Naxals belonging to the banned Tritiya Sammelan Prastuti Committee (TSPC) have been arrested in Jharkhand's Palamu district, police said on Monday. Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP) Rishab Garg said the trio, including a self-styled area commander, was arrested in Patan police station area, around 185 km from Ranchi, during an overnight operation.

Run over

Dehradun: Two teenagers were run over by a train while they were taking selfies on a railway bridge in the Roorkee town of Uttarakhand's Haridwar district. The accident occurred on Saturday evening, Laksar police station in-charge Mamta Gola said on Monday.

Lightning

Jaipur: Four people were killed and as many others injured in incidents of lightning strikes in Rajasthan as first monsoon rains were received in some parts of the state, officials said Monday. The deaths were reported from Pali, Baran and Chittorgarh districts, they said.

Weather
High 26 Low 24

MARKET
NIFTY 18,691.20
SENSEX 62,970.00

BULLION
GOLD 58,418
SILVER 68,971

NAT'L SECURITY CONCLAVE

'Never let the sanctity of our borders be violated'

Jammu, Jun 26 (PTI): India will procure MQ-9B drones from the US by following the established procedure and will compare the "best price" offered by manufacturer General Atomics to other nations before concluding the purchase, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on Monday.



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh with Union Minister Jitendra Singh during a 'National Security Conclave', at Zorawar Singh Auditorium in Jammu, Monday.

On the eastern Ladakh standoff with China, Singh reiterated that India wants to resolve the border issue through dialogue and in a peaceful manner while asserting that the government will never compromise on the country's border and its self-respect.

"We will never let the sanctity of our borders be violated," the defence minister said at a national security conclave in Jammu, adding that the talks are continuing at military and diplomatic levels to resolve the dispute.

On the drone deal with the US, Singh said the de-

fence ministry will compare the acquisition cost of the drones with the best price General Atomics offered to other countries, adding the acquisition will be made only by following the established procurement procedure.

India and the US firmed up the drone deal during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's high-profile visit to Washington.

Singh rejected speculative reports on the price and other terms of pur-

chase relating to the procurement of 31 MQ-9B drones from the US.

His comments came a day after the defence ministry said it is yet to finalise the cost and specific terms of purchase of the MQ-9B long endurance drones from the US.

Strongly trashing reports in a section of social media on the price as well as the acquisition process, the ministry said it will examine the "best price" offered by the manufacturer

'Armed forces equipped with latest weaponry'

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Monday said the armed forces of the country are being equipped with latest weaponry, asserting that national security is the government's topmost priority and it is committed to protect the sovereignty, unity and integrity of the country. Singh also said the country does not want to depend on imported weapons.

to other nations before concluding the procurement. The defence minister described the overall border situation with China as a matter of perceptual difference but noted that there are agreements and protocols based on which the armies of the two countries carry out the patrolling.

Referring to the standoff in eastern Ladakh, he said the Chinese Army ignored the agreed protocols and unilaterally tried to

change the status quo on the Line of Actual Control. He lauded the valour and dedication of the Indian Army which prevented the attempts by China's PLA (People's Liberation Army) to change the status quo, according to a statement by the defence ministry.

On Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK), the defence minister said Pakistan does not have a locus standi there as it has illegally occupied the area.

"The Indian Parliament has unanimously passed at least three resolutions which state that PoK is a part of India," he said.

Singh also mentioned the deal between US defence major General Electric Aerospace and Hindustan Aeronautics Limited to co-produce F-414 fighter jet engines in India.

"With this deal, we will become the fourth country to manufacture jet engines. Tejas aircraft will be fitted with these Made in India engines," he said.

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NH MMI Narayana Superspecialty Hospital, Lalpur, Raipur

MHA asks why additional troops needed in Bengal

Sends letter to SEC

Kolkata, Jun 26 (PTI): The ministry of home affairs (MHA) on Monday sent a letter to the West Bengal State Election Commission (SEC) seeking details of the need for additional 485 companies of central forces, for which it has sent a requisition, an official said. The MHA, in its letter, also sought details of the deployment of the 337 companies of central forces which have been sent so far for the coming panchayat election in the state, he said.

Sinha has written thrice to the MHA seeking more central forces for the panchayat election in the state, slated to be held on June 8. The SEC has asked for total 822 companies of central forces from the MHA for the rural poll. "The MHA has sent a letter to the SEC asking for reasons behind the requisition of additional 485 companies of central forces, for which State Election Commissioner Rajiva Sinha had written to it. It has also inquired how the central forces sent so far have been utilised.

PM TO NADDA

'What's happening in India'

New Delhi, Jun 26 (PTI): After returning to India from his foreign visit, Prime Minister Narendra Modi asked BJP president J P Nadda and other leaders what was happening in India, party leaders, who had gone to receive him at the airport here, said.



PM chairs a meeting with senior ministers and officials after his return from state visit to US and Egypt, in New Delhi, Monday.

Modi returned to India in the early hours of Monday after his six-day visit to the US and Egypt during which several landmark agreements were signed.

He was received at the Delhi airport by Union Minister of State for External Affairs Meenakashi Lekhi and BJP chief Nadda. BJP leaders and party MPs

from Delhi such as Harsh Vardhan, Hans Raj Hans and Gautam Gambhir were also present.

"He asked Nadda ji how it is going here, and Nadda ji told him that party leaders were reaching out to people with the

report card of the nine years of his government, and the country is happy," BJP MP Manoj Tiwari told reporters when asked what the prime minister asked them after meeting them at the airport.

12 members of marriage party killed

TRAGIC MISHAP

Berhampur, Jun 26 (PTI): Twelve members of a marriage party were killed and seven others injured as two buses collided head-on in Odisha's Ganjam district, police said on Monday. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik expressed grief over the death of people in the accident and announced ex gratia to the next of kin of each deceased. They wished for the speedy recovery of those injured in the accident. "Pained by the bus accident in Ganjam district, Odisha. Condolences to those who lost their loved ones. May the injured recover soon. An ex-



A damaged bus after a collision between two buses near Digapahandi area on Berhampur-Taptapani road, in Ganjam district, Sunday night.

gratia of Rs 2 lakh from PMNRF will be given to the next of kin of each deceased. The injured would

be given Rs 50,000," the Prime Minister's Office tweeted. Patnaik also announced ex gratia of Rs 3

Ex-gratia announced

"Pained by the bus accident in Ganjam district, Odisha. Condolences to those who lost their loved ones. May the injured recover soon. An ex-gratia of Rs 2 lakh from PMNRF would be given to the next of kin of each deceased. The injured would be given Rs 50,000," the Prime Minister's Office tweeted. Patnaik also announced ex gratia of Rs 3 lakh to the next of kin of each deceased and free treatment of injured persons.

RUN FOR SHELTER



Pedestrians cross a road amid monsoon rain, in Kolkata, Monday.

On camera, armed men rob car at gunpoint

DRAMATIC FOOTAGE

Inside Pragati Maidan tunnel

New Delhi, Jun 26 (PTI): The Delhi Police has received a dramatic CCTV footage that captured the alleged gunpoint robbery inside the busy Pragati Maidan tunnel where four motorcycle-borne men intercepted a car and looted about Rs 2 lakh from a delivery agent and his associate.



Motorcycle-borne robbers loot a delivery agent and his associate inside Pragati Maidan tunnel at gunpoint, in New Delhi.

Officials said on Monday the purported incident was caught in one of the CCTV cameras installed inside the 1.5-km tunnel that connects New Delhi with Sarai Kale Khan and Noida.

Police said they are also questioning the complainants, their employer

and other staffers to ascertain if it was an insider job. The 22-second video appears to show that the four men were trailing the cab on two motorcycles and intercepted it inside the tunnel as other vehicles passed by. As the cab

stopped, the two men riding pillion got down from their respective motorcycles, one quickly going to the driver's seat and the other to the rear gate, both apparently whipping out their pistols. All four were wearing helmets.

'Probe into 17-year-old bank scam' has resumed after court order

RAIPUR

Raipur, Jun 26: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel on Monday said police have resumed probe into a 17-year-old "scam" in the Indira Priyadarshini Mahila Nagrik Sahakari Bank after a court in Raipur gave the go-ahead.

The alleged irregularities of Rs 22 crore were unearthed in 2006 when the Bharatiya Janata Party was in power and 11 persons were arrested at the time, as per police. Promising stern action against those who had embezzled hard-earned money of account holders, the CM said, "The court has ordered for further investigation into it. Our police officials have been looking into case related files and will take further action accordingly." "The important thing is



that labourers, farmers, small businessmen who had lost their hard earned money should get it back. The entire embezzled money will be recovered and returned to account holders," he added.

The irregularities were unearthed when Raman Singh was chief minister and a narco test was also conducted on the accused but the probe did not move forward and nor was

money returned to depositors, Baghel alleged. In a tweet last week, Baghel had said, "The court has allowed investigation into the Indira Priyadarshini bank. In narco test, one of the prime accused and then bank manager Umesh Sinha had said he had given crores of rupees to then Chief Minister Raman Singh and his cabinet colleagues Amar Agrawal, Brijmohan Agrawal and Ramvihar Netam.

Other people, including the bank operators were also given money."

What CM said....

Promising stern action against those who had embezzled hard-earned money of account holders, the CM said, "The court has ordered for further investigation into it. Our police officials have been looking into case related files and will take further action accordingly." "The important thing is that labourers, farmers, small businessmen who had lost their hard earned money should get it back.

6 dead in Himachal rains, tourists stranded on NH-21

FLASH FLOODS

Shimla/Mandi, Jun 26 (PTI): Hundreds of commuters were stranded in Himachal Pradesh's Mandi district as the Chandigarh-Manali national highway was blocked following flash floods and landslides, officials said on Monday.

The 70-km Mandi-Pandoh-Kullu stretch has been badly affected, they said. A total of 301 roads are closed in the state following heavy rains, while 140 power transformers are disrupted.

Flash floods were witnessed in Khotinallah near Aut, about 40 km from Mandi town, on the Pandoh-Kullu stretch due to a heavy downpour and

the commuters have been stranded since Sunday evening. The alternative Mandi-Kullu route via Katola, blocked due to landslide, has been opened after almost 20 hours and small vehicles are now being diverted through this stretch, said the officials of the Mandi administration. The Mandi-Pandoh stretch was blocked near 6 Miles after a landslide. The officials said restoration work is underway and explosives are being used to blast heavy boulders blocking roads on this stretch. One way traffic is expected to be restored on this stretch in an hour or two, they said. However, rains have

started again and reports of landslides are coming from other places in the district. The commuters have been advised not to move towards Mandi until the road is opened, the officials added. "It is a nightmarish experience as we have been stuck here since yesterday evening. There are limited hotels and other accommodations available nearby," said Mohit, a tourist from Chandigarh.

There are over two km of jam on both the sides even though the police and administration have stopped traffic at several points on the stretch as the road is blocked, he added.

lakh to the next of kin of each deceased and free treatment of injured persons.

After Jamul and Bilaspur; Mahadev Book branch busted in Visakhapatnam

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Jun 26: Durg Police continued its operation against online cricket betting and busted a branch of Mahadev Book in Visakhapatnam. In the past two days, Durg Police had busted two other branches of online cricket betting rackets in Jamul and Bilaspur. In all the three cases, most of the accused hail from Bhilai-Durg.

In Visakhapatnam, the accused were doing transactions through various bank accounts. 01 laptop, 10 mobiles, 03 ATM Cards, 03 Cheque Books, one wifi router and other documents were recovered from the possession of seven accused.

Police are going to conduct micro analysis of obtained bank accounts and

mobile numbers. The accused are being quizzed to collect information in respect of persons conducting this illegal activity in other states.

Superintendent of Police (Durg) Shalabh Kumar Sinha informed that Durg Police had busted other branches of online cricket betting in Jamul and Bilaspur. Several other branches were busted in the past also. Durg Police quizzed the accused and conducted technical analysis of the evidence to find other persons associated with the online betting.

In this sequel, the joint team of Anti Crime and Cyber Unit and Old Bhilai Police Station got information about some people who were operating a branch of Reddy Anna Book 186 in



Madhurawada area of Visakhapatnam.

Under the guidance of SP Shalabh Sinha and supervision of ASP (City) Sanjay Dhruv, DSP (Cyber) Prabhat Kumar, DSP (Crime) Rajeev Sharma and CSP (Chhawani) Ashish Banchhor, the joint team led by Inspector Santosh Mishra (I/c ACCU) and

Inspector Manish Sharma (SHO, Old Bhilai) acted on this tip off and conducted a raid at a rented house in Madhurawada of Visakhapatnam. The team arrested six persons red handed while operating the online betting racket.

The accused are identified as Pintu Rai (35) son of KP Rai a resident of South Vasundhara Nagar, Old

Bhilai; Prashant Kori (23) son of Ajay Kori a resident of Risali Bhilai; Vikas Sahu (24) son of Bharat Lal Sahu a resident of HSCL Colony, Ruabandha Bhilai; Saurabh Jaiswal (23) son of Gopal Jaiswal a resident of Power House Bhilai; Rohit Rohra (22) son of Panjaldas Rohra a resident of Kadambari Nagar Durg and Jagdeesh Konatala (32) son of Sanjeev Rai a resident of A n a k a p a l l i , Visakhapatnam (AP).

ASI Shamit Misra, Constable Pradeep Thakur, Jagjeet Singh, Arvind Mishra, Rakesh Anna, Keshav Sahu, Vikrant Kumar from ACCU and SI LR Dhruv and Head Constable Rajesh Sahu from Old Bhilai Police Station played a vital role in busting the racket.

Bhilai Steel Plant organises free Medical camp at Village Pahandor

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Jun 26: Bhilai Steel Plant, conducts several public welfare activities as part of its organizational social responsibility towards the community in and around its areas of operations. The Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Department of the Plant organized a one-day free Health Camp, at Village Pahandor on June 24, 2023.

The Medical Team from CSR department, comprising of Dr Isha Kujur, Pharmacist, Khilawan Kumbhkar, Firoza Joseph for Blood-Sugar and BP examination, Kedarnath Yadav for registration, volunteered their services for the camp. Sita Sinha from the CSR department was



also present during the Health Camp.

A total of 31 villagers from village Pahandor, including 11 men, 16 women and 04 Children, availed free health services at the day long Health Camp and free medicines were distributed to them. It is noteworthy that Health Camp is one of the prime initiatives, through which BSP's CSR

Department has contributed substantially towards Public Health & Medicine.

The CSR Department of Bhilai Steel Plant, conducts health camps on regular basis in the adjoining areas or mines, with the aim of ensuring adequate medical & Health facilities to the communities within which it works.

Summer Camp concludes at Uday Mahavidyalaya

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Jun 26: The summer camp concluded at Uday Mahavidyalaya on June 23. The summer camp was organised under the guidance of Dr TR Sahu (Director, Uday Mahavidyalaya and Uday Public School) from June 05 to June 14.

The students received training of cricket from international cricketer Rajesh Chauhan (Founder, Govind Chauhan Cricket Academy) while training of Karate was imparted by Anjana Rajveer Singh (Self Defence Trainer, Creative Karate Academy). The students also learnt Lathi Sports and Self Defence.

The closing ceremony



was held on the occasion of World Olympics Day on June 23. Principal Dr Alipa Sahu distributed the certificates among the participants. The closing ceremony was organised on World Olympics Day to encourage the students in sports and partake in Olympics.

Teachers including Kalavati Rao, Neelam Chauhan, Roopkala Yadav, Tasneem Fatima, Anjali Jaiswar, Aprupa Pathak, Chetna Nirmalkar, Kalpana Gupta, Satnam Singh and GCCA Cricket Trainer Durgesh Kumar and children were present.

Girl reaches Jandarshan, gets admission in hostel immediately

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Jun 26: Collector Pushpendra Kumar Meena met the common people during the Collector Jandarshan program on Monday and listened to their problems and complaints. He tried to redress most of the problems on the spot and directed the concerned officers to take necessary initiative for quick disposal of the applications.

On Monday, 110 applications were received in the Jandarshan, including applications related to illegal possession, partition, financial assistance, demarcation, admission in Swami Atmanand School, ration card, etc.

The woman of Durg, who reached Collector Jandarshan with an application, was very happy

when Collector Pushpendra Kumar Meena took prompt action and got both her daughters admitted in Atmanand School. She said that after the death of her husband, she is facing financial problems and is unable to spend for education of her children.

A resident of village Pathariya reached Jandarshan with an application for admission in the hostel. The applicant Anamika has taken admission in Government Girls College to study B.Com. After the death of her parents, her grandfather is the only one to take care of her.

She further informed that her grandfather is not financially strong and hence she had applied for admission in SC, ST and OBC girls' hostel. Taking quick action on her appli-



cation, the Collector got her admitted in the girls' hostel.

Dharam Kumar Yadav, a resident of Loharpara, reached jandarshan regarding the problem of water drainage and submitted an application for construction of a drain. He said that in the absence of a drain near the house, the dirty water flows on the road and the passage in front of his house always

remains unpleasant. Similarly, residents of Gayatri Mandir ward also submitted applications for construction of drains.

Residents said that during the rainy season, the water of Station Road fills the houses of the locality in the absence of drains. Earlier the drain was constructed, but now the drain has been broken due to the construction of a house. Due to lack of drains, rain

water enters the houses. On this the Collector instructed the Municipal Corporation Durg to take necessary action.

A resident of village Jangaon M, who reached with a complaint about the encroachment of agricultural land, said that a person of his village has encroached on his agricultural land. He had submitted an application against him at Tehsil Office Patan.

The Court of Sub-Divisional Officer Patan as well as Commissioner of Durg Division have passed orders in his favour. The applicant stated that till now the encroachment has not been removed by the concerned person. On this, the Collector directed Tehsildar Patan to take immediate action and provide possession of the said land to the farmer.

39 couples tie nuptial knots at mass marriage

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Jun 26: Under the Mukhyamantri Samuhik Kanya Vivah Yojna, the Department of Women and Child Development organised a mass marriage programme within the limits of Bhilai Municipal Corporation on Monday at Sarva Samaj Manglik Bhavan.

Chief Minister's OSD Manish Banchore, Mayor Neeraj Pal, Chief Minister's daughter Dr Shweta Baghel, Bhilai Municipal Corporation Commissioner Rohit Vyas, Antyavasayi Corporation Vice President Neeta Lodhi, BMC Speaker Girwar Bunt Sahu, MiC members Meera Banjare and Rita Singh Gera congratulated the newly married couples and wished them a happy life ahead.



39 couples tied the nuptial knots in the mass marriage program. Mayor Neeraj Pal described the Chief Minister Kanya Vivah Yojana as an ambitious scheme of the government. The girls from underprivileged families get benefit from this marriage scheme.

The special aspect of

this scheme is that all the necessary items of marriage like clothes, almirah, box, rack, utensils, drum, cooker, silver, mangalsutra, rings, wrist watch set and 21000 rupees are given through cheque.

All these arrangements are made under the Chief Minister's scheme. The mass marriage was con-

ducted with traditional and vedic rituals. The marriage procession was also taken out with great pomp and gaiety.

The bride and groom were seen very happy in the mass marriage, while their acquaintances and relatives also participated in the marriage ceremony in large numbers.

Students welcomed at schools in new academic session

Free books, uniforms, bicycles distributed by public representatives

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Jun 26: Shala Pravesh Utsav was celebrated with enthusiasm in the schools of all the development blocks of Durg district. Public representatives also participated in the events.

Durg MLA Arun Vora and Mayor Dhiraj Bakliwal attended the programme at Government Girls Higher Secondary School, Government Higher Secondary School Titurdih and SAGES Government Higher Secondary School Deepak Nagar Durg.

Free text books, uniforms and bicycles were distributed to the students. Apart from this, District



Education Officer Abhay Jaiswal and Statistics Officer Amit Ghosh were present in Government High School SAGES Jangaon R and SAGES Ranitarai of Development Block Patan. Free text books, uniforms and bicycles were distributed to the children. District Mission Coordinator Surendra Pandey was present in the schools of Bhendsar, Dandesara and Ganiyari.

Vivek Sharma and IK Ramteke (APC) attended the programme at Gayabai

Government Primary School Urla and Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel English Medium School.

According to the District Education Officer, all the newly admitted children were welcomed by the guests by applying tilak, offering sweets and aarti. The attendance of the children in all the schools was satisfactory. Slate, chalk, pencils were distributed in all the primary schools.

Shala Pravesh Utsav was celebrated in development block Patan in the presence of public representatives, school management committee officials, Anganwadi workers, Navyuvak Mandal, Mahila Mandal and parents.

Defensive Driving Training organised at Plate Mill

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Jun 26: Defensive Driving Training was organized at SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant's Plate Mill under the Joint-collaboration of Behavioural Interventions Cross Functional Team (BICFT) and Rail & Road Safety on June 24, 2023. The one Day Training was provided to the Plate Mill employees under the guidance of Anirban Dasgupta, Director I/c (BSP), Anjani Kumar, ED (Works) and Tapas Dasgupta, CGM I/c (Iron) to make the Plant-employees aware about the rules of safety.



an act of paramount importance whether we work at the Plant or at home. Similarly, commuting from home to the plant and back to home is also an integral part of Rail & Road Safety which cannot be ignored at any cost. Senior Officials of the Department Shailendra Kumar Verma, GM (Electrical), Hemant Kumar Bahurupi, GM (Operations), J Sudhakar, GM (Mechanical) and Devdutt

Sarang, GM & DSO were present on this occasion. Defence Driving Trainers Shweta Jha and Vikas Patra imparted knowledge on Defensive Driving to the trainees.

On this occasion the trainees also took part in the Road Trials, and congratulated the Plate Mill collective for organizing such an event. The program was coordinated by Sunil Mitra, GM(Operations), Plate Mill.

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Jun 26: Under the aegis of Shree Jagannath Samiti, Sector 4, a 9 days festival of Mahaprabhu Shree Jagannath Swami ji's 54th Rath Yatra is being celebrated. In this episode, various cultural programs are being organized daily in the grand pandal of Mahaprabhu Shri Jagannath Swami ji sitting in Gundicha Mandap Sector 10. At the beginning of the program, the Maha Aarti program of Mahaprabhu Shri Jagannath Swamy was performed.

As part of the cultural evening, the singers of "Neelima Swaranjali

Musical Group" performed devotional songs in such a way that the present devotees were overwhelmed with emotion. This program of devotional music was very successful.

Shree Jagannath Bhajan rendered in Hindi and Odia by singers enthralled the audience. The present audience got drenched in devotion. Chief General Manager (Safety and Fire Services) of Bhilai Steel Plant, GP Singh, president of the Committee, Virender Satpathy and General Secretary, Satyawan Nayak were specially present on the occasion. Chief General



Manager (Security and Fire Services) GP Singh who was present as the chief guest, and President of the Committee Virender Satpathy and General Secretary Satyawan Nayak, honored 17 artists by giving mementos and citations. GP Singh, present as the chief guest, congratulated the

artists for their excellent performance and wished them a bright future. On this occasion, the president of the committee Virender Satpathy presented the welcome speech and the program was conducted and the vote of thanks was done by the general secretary of the committee Satyawan

Nayak.

In making this festival successful, Jagannath Committee President Virender Satpathy and General Secretary Satyawan Nayak along with the office bearers of the committee Trinath Sahu, Bhim Swain, BC Biswal, Anam Nahak, D Trinath, Brindavan Swain, Prakash Das, Kalu Behera, Niranjan Maharana, Ranjan Mahapatra, Prakash Swain, Basant Pradhan, Sushant Satpathy, SC Patro, Jagannath Patnaik, Ravi Swain, Bees Keshan Sahu, Kavi Biswal, Ravindra Raul, Seemanchal Behera, VK Hota, S Dalai, Kailash Patro contributed significantly.

Sports and discipline are equally important as the formal education: CM

Students should learn the value and importance of time
CM sanctions Rs 5 cr for the renovation of Prof. JN Pandey Govt Excellent Hindi Medium School



Yojana (MBY). In these kindergartens, children of age group five to six years will be imparted basic education, taught to play and will be prepared for the school. In the first phase of this scheme, 5 thousand 1 hundred 73 kindergartens were inaugurated on 5 September 2022.

Prof. JN Pandey Govt Excellent Hindi Medium School is a historic school that gave us four CMs and one Vice President. Pro. JN Pandey School was established in the year 1864 and this school has also been affiliated with Calcutta University and Allahabad University. This school has given four chief ministers to the state. Late Pt. Ravi Shankar Shukla, Late Shri Dwarka Prasad Mishra, Late Shri Shyama Charan Shukla and Late Shri Moti Lal Vora have

been students of this school. Moreover, former Vice President of the country Late Shri Hidayatullah has also been a student of this school.

On the occasion, Chairman Chhattisgarh Housing Board and MLA Kuldeep Juneja, Mayor Raipur Municipal Corporation Ejaz Dhebar, Chairman Chhattisgarh Mineral Development Corporation Girish Dewangan, Chairman Chhattisgarh Gau Seva Aayog Mahant Ramsunder Das, Principal Secretary Education Department Alok Shukla, Secretary Education Department Dr. S. Bhartidasan along with officials of the department and students, teachers, principals and guardians were present at the programme.

children.

CM welcomes the students to the school with 'Tilak' and sweets

On the occasion of Shala Praveshotsav, Chief Minister welcomed the new students to the school with tilak, garlands and sweets. On this occasion, Chief Minister also distributed uniforms, books and school bags to the school children. He congratulated the students, teachers, principals and parents on the commencement of the new academic session. Chief Minister said that these children are our future and it is our responsibility to provide them proper environment so that they may focus better on their studies.

An amount of Rs 5 cr has been approved for the renovation of the school. Chief Minister sanc-

tioned an amount of Rs. 5 crore for the renovation of the historical Prof. JN Pandey Government Excellent Hindi Medium School, and said that funds will never come in the way of making the temples of education strong, well-equipped and beautiful. Chief Minister said that he had sanctioned an amount of Rs 1200 crore in the budget for the renovation and repair of schools in the state and at present, renovation work of 23 thousand schools is in progress.

Inauguration of 4318 Kindergartens under the second phase of MBY

On the occasion of Shala Praveshotsav, 4 thousand 3 hundred 18 kindergartens were virtually inaugurated under the second phase of Mukhyamantri Balwadi



With monsoon covering entire state, the farms are now filled up with rainwater and giving good indications.

Intermittent showers continue to lash Ch'garh

Raipur, Jun 26: Intermittent rain showers continued to lash Raipur and several other parts of Chhattisgarh on Monday, causing a significant drop in temperature. According to meteorologists the same condition is going to remain for the next three days.

Pendra and Bemetara districts. Torrential rains accompanied by strong



Koriya, Raipur, Janjgir, Bijapur, Mahasamund, Rajnandgaon and Balod.

There is a possibility of heavy rain with thunder in all those districts. Due to continuous intermittent rains in Raipur, an old banyan tree fell on a house at Gaura Gauri Chowk in the area of ??Pandit Ravi Shankar Shukla Ward No. 35, which comes under Zone No. 4 of Raipur Municipal Corporation. The rains also exposed the ineffective drainage network in the of the city as several areas got water-logged and overflowing drain water spilled over the roads, disrupting normal life.

Raipur, June 26: Creating a positive environment for the students in schools is extremely important and it is equally important to teach the importance of sports and discipline. Value of time should be learned from student life itself. Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel expressed these views today at Professor JN Pandey Government Excellent Hindi Medium School on the occasion of the inauguration of Shala Praveshotsav. Congratulating the students, parents and teachers on commencement of the academic session 2023-24, Chief Minister said that every school is a temple of education and this temple should be kept neat and clean. With the opening of Swami Atmanand schools, the quality of education has significantly improved and people of every section of society are trying to get admission in these schools for their

Two die as uncontrollable bike collides with a standing truck

Raipur, Jun 26: Two youths have died in a road accident near Boriyakhurd Talab of Raipur late Sunday night. According to information available the accident took place between 10 to 11 pm on Sunday night in front of the petrol pump near Boriyakhurd Talab in Raipur when three youths had gone for a ride on the bike. Meanwhile, the bike went uncontrolled and collided with the standing truck. After the incident, the three youths got trapped under the truck. Mathpuraina resident Amit Sahu and his friend have died. The young man sitting in the middle of the bike was not hurt.

Passers-by who gathered at the spot of the incident brought youths out of the truck. People checked their mobile phones which fell after accident. They contacted relatives of the youths through a phone and informed about the accident. Tikrapara police team also reached the spot and brought the bike of the youth to the police station.

Ch'garh's famous YouTuber-actor Devraj Patel dies in road accident

Raipur, Jun 26: Chhattisgarh's comedy YouTuber Devraj Patel has died in a road accident that took place near Labhandi Chowk, Raipur. Devraj died after his bike was hit by a speeding truck. Devraj Patel had also made a reel and posted it with the Chief Minister. At the same time, a few

hours before the death, YouTuber Devraj Patel had posted a photo on social media. He was 21 years old. He had come to Naya Raipur to make a video and was going back after making it. He was a student of BA final year. Devraj Patel had recently made a video during his meeting with CM Bhupesh Baghel. This video had gone viral on social media. In that viral video, Devraj says that two people are famous in Chhattisgarh- one me and one Mor Kak. CM could not stop laughing after seeing this video. This video was viewed by more than 10 million people.

CM expresses deep sorrow over Devraj's demise
 Chief Minister Mr. Bhupesh Baghel expressed deep sorrow over the demise of popular young YouTuber Devraj Patel. CM Bhupesh Baghel tweeted 'Devraj Patel, who made his place among crores of people left us today. The loss of such a wonderful talent at such a young age is very sad. The untimely demise of such a young talented individual is a tragic event for his family and Chhattisgarh. May God give strength to his family and loved ones to bear this loss. Om Shanti'

Dance and fashion walk by patient after joint transplant surgery



Joint transplant specialist Dr. Ankur Singhal informed How complex surgery is performed by minimum cut technique

Raipur, Jun 26: Recently, a program was organised by Ramakrishna Care Hospital in Bhalai in which joint transplant specialist Dr. Ankur Singhal had called the patients who had benefited from the surgery, in which the patients not only shared their experience but also did a fashion walk and dance to show that their surgery were successful. Some patients who were even 80 to 85 years old informed how they used to walk with a stick before the operation and today they are able to walk well without any support. There were many patients who used to take the help of a wheelchair, but they are now leading a normal life after the operation.

Patients are treated by Minimum Cut Technique (MCT) by renowned joint transplant surgeon Dr. Ankur Singhal of Ramakrishna Care Hospital in which the patient is made to run after three hours and they are also made to climb on the ladder, by this technique their recovery is faster.

Dr. Singhal informed that the minimum cut technique (MCT) is that it involves small incision operation, does not stitch the skin, it reduces pain for the patient, has a fast recovery, does not require blood transfusion. Due to this, the patient gets cured very soon and comes back to normal life in about a month. The patients whose knees were crooked have also been cured and they are walking 4 to 5 kilometers daily, some patients have also got job because they had lost their job due to knee and hip problem. Now all those patients are very happy because now they are not only able to climb stairs easily, but

have also started running, dancing with a cheerful heart and they feel that they are completely fit like before. Their lifestyle has also become the same as before. Dr. Ankur Singhal said that joint arthritis is a common disease but it has become the biggest disease in the world and is increasing day by day. Not only do you need awareness in this, but you also need the right treatment. Dr. Singhal told the patients that this surgery is done at this stage along with joint arthritis and its prevention. Ramakrishna Care Hospital has a large and experienced team for the treatment of bone diseases. In this, patients are treated by HOD Dr. Pankaj Dhawlia, Consultant Trauma and Joint Replacement Dr. Lalit Jain, Consultant Arthroscopy and Sports Medicine Dr. Suman Kumar Nag, Consultant Joint Replacement Dr. Ankur Singhal, Department of Orthopedic and Joint Replacement.




Attention PAN Holders!

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To link PAN with Aadhaar visit <https://www.incometax.gov.in/iec/foportal> and follow on screen instructions after clicking on 'Quick Links' section and selecting 'Link Aadhaar' option.

Consequences of not linking your PAN with Aadhaar

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Your PAN will become inoperative Pending refunds and interest on such refunds will not be issued 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TDS will be required to be deducted at a higher rate TCS will be required to be collected at a higher rate
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For more information, see Rule 114AAA of the Income Tax Rules, 1962 and Notification No. 37/2017 dated 11th May 2017.

Attention

- No person shall obtain more than one PAN
- Penalty of Rs.10,000/- may be levied for obtaining more than one PAN

Deductors may verify status of PAN as under

- For checking status of single PAN, visit <https://www.incometax.gov.in>
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Development projects in Sukma brings positive changes: CM

- Nighttime safety improved significantly
- Konta, a gateway for Ch'garh from South; development projects at Konta bringing significant transformation
- CM inaugurates development projects worth Rs 303 cr in a virtual program; performs bhumi-poojan for various development projects



Central Chronicle News

Sukma, Jun 26: Sukma district has witnessed significant development over the past four years with extensive infrastructure projects. Strengthening education, healthcare, and road networks has boosted the region's progress while enhancing security measures. Once plagued by nighttime fears, people now travel freely without apprehension.

During the virtual inauguration and bhumi-poojan ceremony, Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel lauded the achievements and highlighted Konta, the Sukma's gateway to enter Chhattisgarh, as the first legislative upon entering Chhattisgarh from South India. He expressed gratitude for the collective efforts in planning and executing the district's development, noting the evident positive transformation.

Notably, Jagargunda welcomed the reopening of a school after a 13-year hiatus, showcasing the

administration's commitment to education. Chief Minister dedicated 131 development projects worth Rs 303.67 crore, including the inauguration of 33 development projects worth Rs 63.56 crore and laid the foundation stones for 98 development projects, marking a significant milestone in the region's progress and infrastructure development.

Chief Minister regrets the inability to meet people in person due to heavy rains but expresses satisfaction in virtually connecting with them. He

highlights the significance of rainfall for the region, considering it a beneficial development. During the virtual meeting, the Chief Minister addressed the demands put forth by Commerce and Industry Minister Kawasi Lakhma for the Sukma district's development.

He shared that the state government has approved the demands of Lakhma for this region and has also laid the foundation stone and performed bhumi-poojan for various development projects. The

Chief Minister's commitment to sorting various issues, including the recruitment of Bastar fighters and ensuring fair rates for Tendupatta collectors, reflects their comprehensive approach to governance.

During the program, Commerce and Industry Minister Kawasi Lakhma highlighted the significant infrastructure development achieved in the state under the leadership of the Chief Minister in the past four and a half years.

The state government's

initiatives included loan waivers and fair prices for farmers' paddy, along with a decision to purchase 20 quintals of paddy per acre. Notably, Sukma district recorded a collection of Tendupatta worth Rs. 50 crore 27 lakh this year, greatly benefiting the forest-dwelling communities in the area.

During the program, Bastar MP Deepak Baij praised the Chief Minister for consistently approving and fulfilling the development plans for Bastar, leading to comprehensive progress in the

CM announces slew of development projects for Bastar

During the program, the Chief Minister made several important announcements for the development of the Sukma district. These included plans for a sports complex in the district headquarters, upgrading the sub-health centre in Bheiji to a primary health centre, and approving the construction of a building for the primary health centre in Kistaram. Additionally, the Chief Minister announced the construction of 28 primary school buildings in the Konta development block, a central library, and a youth hostel for both boys and girls. A 100-seater ashram building was also planned for Bodko and Mankapal. The operation of the Chhindigarh Water Supply Scheme through the Public Health Engineering Department and the approval of a B.Ed./D.Ed College in Sukma was also part of the announcements. The Chief Minister allocated funds of Rs 6 crore for the construction of the Sukma bus stand and Rs 4 crore for the Dornapal bus stand. Furthermore, the construction of the Kundanpal pre-matric children's hostel, the construction of the children's ashram in Dabbakonta, and the establishment of a new high school in Kistaram were also approved.

region. The remarkable development initiatives in Bastar have garnered recognition for the district both nationally and internationally, establishing its unique identity.

President of District Panchayat Harish Kawasi also addressed the program, expressing his views. Collector Mr. Harish S provided a comprehensive overview of the inaugurated projects and foundation stone laying activities. Additionally, Sukma Collector Mr. Harish S presented a detailed report on the Chief Minister's initiatives worth Rs. 303.67 crore in the Sukma district, highlighting their significance and impact on the region.

'CM Bhupesh Baghel encourages Tripti to speak freely'

- On occasion of Shala Pravesh Utsav
- Children thanked CM Baghel for extending the date of school reopening
- CM directly interacts with school children at 'Shala Pravesh Utsav'



Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Jun 26: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel not only understands the concerns of the general public but also holds a profound affection for children. When Tripti Jagat, a student of Prof. JN Pandey Atmanand School stood up to express her views, she was a little hesitant while sharing her thoughts in front of everyone.

Chief Minister affectionately said, "Dear, everyone here is like family, so speak without any hesitation." Soon after hearing Chief Minister's words, all her hesitation vanished. She explained that she had enrolled in this school due to its high standard of education, and she is truly enjoying her time here.

Baghel heaped praise on

the student saying "You express yourself so well. Well done!" Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel was interacting with the children face-to-face on the occasion of the 'Shala Pravesh Utsav' today.

The children also spoke openly and candidly to Chief Minister. He asked the children how they felt about the reopening of schools on June 26 instead

of June 16. All the children thanked Chief Minister Shri Baghel and expressed that opening the schools on June 26 provided relief from the intense heat conditions.

Chief Minister mentioned that considering the summer season and the children's health, the government decided to open schools from June 26. Prior to the Shala Pravesh

Utsav, the monsoon had already begun in the state. With the showers of rain, the new academic session commenced, he said.

While interacting with Chief Minister, student Rajesh mentioned that we have experienced a surge in our interest in learning. Surbhi Sahu, an eighth-grade student studying at Swami Atmanand BP Pujari School, expressed that the establishment of Swami Atmanand School has provided economically disadvantaged and talented children with an opportunity for quality English education.

In the presence of Chief Minister Baghel, Kashish Anjum Khan, a student in the eighth grade at Swami Atmanand Raja Talab School, also shared her thoughts on the occasion of the 'Shala Pravesh Utsav'.

Gauthan in the state is bestowing better employment opportunities

- Gauthans have developed as a symbol for promoting livelihood activities and economic empowerment
- Women are securing their future by finding employment in the village



Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Jun 26: In accordance with the instructions of Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, Gauthans operating under the Suraji Gaon Yojana have now become a symbol of livelihood enhancement and economic empowerment. Various livelihood-oriented activities carried out in Gauthans have brought more job opportunities.

Rural women are becoming financially independent by finding work close to home. Women are no longer

bound to household responsibilities but are contributing to family finances and making their lives easier. Under the State Government's Suraji Gaon Yojana, the Gauthans established in villages are now presenting a new picture of development. Various activities conducted in these Gauthans include the collection of cow dung and taking care of the animals. Four years ago, ten women from the Kasturba Self-Help Group decided to work in Gauthan of Sirpur village in Mahasamund district of

Saraipali district panchayat. The group now earns lakhs from the sales of cow dung and by making vermicompost. Along with this, income-generating activities such as the cultivation of vegetables and poultry farming are also conducted. A member of the group stated that earlier they were bound to household chores, but after joining the group and working in Gauthan, their self-esteem and confidence have improved, and they are now heading towards self-reliance by working in Gauthan.

Harish, Sahu start 'Booth Chalo' campaign in Sukma



Central Chronicle News

Konta/Sukma, Jun 26: The Congress party has declared victory in the upcoming state elections under the "Booth Chalo Abhiyan" program of Chhattisgarh. Under the leadership of Chief Minister of the state, Bhupesh Baghel, the guidance of Cabinet Minister Kawasi Lakhma and the directions of District Congress Committee President Maheshwari Baghel, all the booth in-charges have reached their booths to strengthen each booth. Konta Vidhan Sabha in-charge Vimal Surana also gave necessary guidelines on polling

booths in Sukma reach wards and rural areas. In this direction, Kawasi Harish reached the booth located at Ward No. 1, Indira Colony of the Sukma Municipality and encouraged the present colleagues. Jagannath Raju Sahu also reached village Dabbaras of Gram Panchayat Jirampal to discharge the responsibilities given by the party as booth in-charge and formed the Dabbaras Booth Congress Committee to take the state and Bhupesh government's public welfare schemes to every house of Dabbaras booth. Made all the comrades determined. Minister Kawasi

Lakhma talked about taking development to the masses in Jiramal, Gadiras and the entire Bastar division and strengthening the Congress in the coming assembly elections. Harish Kawasi and Raju Sahu gave detailed information about this campaign, Harish Kawasi said that in order to make the state strong, every worker at every booth has to vote in the coming assembly elections, the Congress-led Bhupesh government has brought development in the state. After independence, the Congress party has done the work of connecting every section of the state

with public welfare schemes without any discrimination. Raju Sahu told that Bhupesh Baghel government has done the work of bringing respect in the country by taking the state forward through various schemes for the farmers or for the common man, and through these schemes every house in every booth is benefitted. Sukma Nagar Congress Committee President Sheikh Sajjar also went to all the polling booths of Sukma municipality and met the booth president and booth committee members and gave a message to force the Congress.

Villagers got the benefit of Livelihood Country Schemes

Central Chronicle News

Konta, Jun 26: At the inauguration and exhibition program of various development works in Sukma district, Kawasi Lakhma, Commerce-Tax, Industry and Excise Minister, Chhattisgarh Government, observed the stalls of the Livestock Development Department put up for the exhibition by the women of self-help groups.

Laying rearing Kadaknath chickens were kept for demonstration. Necessary information was obtained by discussing about the quantity sale and income of eggs produced from poultry farming from the women of self-help groups benefited by layer and Kadaknath poultry farming.

50 units of backyard chicks to 50 forest rights leased beneficiaries of village Rajamunda under Block-Chhindigarh under Backyard Poultry Farming Scheme in the departmental stall, 4000 to 12 beneficiaries on grant under Male Goat Distribution Scheme and Rs. 18000 and 3 beneficiaries 15000 rupees and 16 beneficiaries for milch cattle rearing under KCC scheme, a loan cheque of

Of Livestock Development Department



Rs 20,40,000.00 (twenty lakh forty thousand) was distributed by Kawasi Lakhma, Minister of Commerce-Tax Industry and Excise, and public mind Animal medicines were provided and departmental schemes were displayed through flex.

Shabri Milk, Curd, Ghee, Khowa and other Shabri milk products manufactured in Shabri Dughd Sagar (Milk Processing Plant) operated with the efforts of District Administration and Livestock Development Department were displayed.

Members of the steering committee of Shabri Dudh Sagar Center, members of Chhattisgarh State Animal Welfare Board, Karan Singh Dev, Collector Harish S. and Dr. S. Zaheeruddin, Deputy Director Veterinary Department, presented the products manufactured in Shabri Dudh Sagar Center to the minister. Chhattisgarh government and their gratitude was expressed by giving form.

In the end, the book of achievements of 4 years was released by Kawasi Lakhma -Commerce-Tax Industry and Excise

Minister and Member of Animal Welfare Board, Karan Singh Dev, in which the excellent works of Livestock Development Department, District Sukma were displayed in cooperation with the district administration. Released. Harish Kawasi, President District Panchayat, Boddu Raja, Vice President District Panchayat, Rajesh Nara Yoga Commission member, Raju Sahu, President Municipal Council, local public representatives and respected citizens were present in the program.

No shortage of funds for devp: Maheshwari

Central Chronicle News

Simga, Jun 26: While performing Bhumi Pujan in Nadaya Upadhyay Ward, MLA Maheshwari while announcing 50 lakhs for various works including lights, said that in the present Bhupesh Baghel government, there will be no shortage of funds for development.

Same way presiding over the program, Municipality President Sunita Gupta said that development is all way round in the present government. Hospital building, pond beautification, CC road are to be done in



the beautification phase. Maheshwari further said that Bhupesh Baghel's government made new ration cards as well as increased the amount of ration, while the Raman government made its own and cut off the ration cards of mothers and sisters by calling them fake. Schemes like electricity bill half, unemployment allowance the

benefit is reaching the last person, he said.

Councilor and Chairman Mr. Jangde said that through Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, Minister Shiv Dahria, MLA Sunil Maheshwari and President Sunita Gupta, small to big problems of the ward are resolved and approved. Vice President Trilok Saluja, Labor member Alok Mishra, President Representative Sunil Gupta, Ashok Dhruv, Councilor and Chairman Bhulunram Kurre, Deepak Nirmalkar and a large number of city residents were present.

Central Chronicle News

Kirandul, Jun 26: On arrival of NMDC Chairman cum MD Amitabh Mukherjee to Kirandul, the members of Metal Mines Workers' Union (MMWU) (INTUC), Kirandul branch, accorded him warm welcome. The V-P of the Union Prashant Thakur, office secy. Rajendra Yadav, organisation secy. Rakehs Pal welcomed him with a flower bouquet, Union's stole and a cap.

The Project Manager organised a meeting with him at the CGM's meeting hall and in this discus-



sions were held in context of issues in favour of the company. On behalf of MMWU, the Office Secy. Rajendra Yadav informed that the Company made record 3.71 million tonnes of iron ore production and 3.62 million tonnes of increase in

duce, both MMWU (INTUC) would always work shoulder-to-shoulder with the management.

On this occasion Om Kumar Sahu, Biji Pradeep, Nathela Ram Netam, Durga Prasad, K Pawan Kumar, G Rai, Shadab Jalan, Trilok Bandhe, Anupama Badra, Devnarayan, Sayyed Jiya-ul-Hasan, Rajendra Patnaik, Shiv Bhuarya, Tikam Sahu, Devendra Sahu, Abhishek Swarna, Rajendra Nagesh, Srinivas Rao, Dilip Rana and other members and office bearers of MMWU were present in large number.

First showers bring smile on face of farmers

Brings much required relief from scorching heat

Central Chronicle News

Berla, Jun 26: The first showers in rural areas of Kodawa, near Berla, brought smile on the face of farmers and general public and provided much required relief from scorching heat. It was amidst open skies, light to medium showers between 6:00 am to 1:00 pm brought big relief to denizens of village and farmers. A total of 5.9 mm rainfall was recorded during this time.

As per information in this regard, there are chances of light to moderate rainfall in the region by



June 29 and the maximum temperature is expected to be around 30-32 Deg. Celsius. Whereas the minimum is expected to be around 25-28 deg. celsius. With showers at this juncture, the farmers of the region would get the benefit of falling of 'dhan-ka-bichada' in Kodawa and nearby villages of the district. With these showers the farmers will be benefitted for this work and to prepare their farms for the next crop.

On occasion of her Martyrdom day

Central Chronicle News

Kotami, Jun 26: The martyrdom day of India's first Veerangana- Rani Durgawati of Kotami-Sakola was observed at Kotami chowk with rich tributes to the martyr here on Saturday.

On this occasion MLA Marwahi KK Dhruv garlanded the statue of Rani Durgawati in Kotami and offered rich tributes. On this occasion, MLA Dr KK Dhruv along with other tribal leaders and Congress leaders remembered the martyrdom and

sacrifice of Rani Durgawati and offered her rich tributes.

MLA Marwahi Dr KK Dhruv paying tributes to martyr Rani Durgawati said that the valour and dare of Rani Durgawati will be remembered for time immemorial as the way she fought against her enemies and fought till her last breath in order to safeguard the respect and dignity of her mother land.

The recall of her courage and valour would continue to remain alive in the minds of people for time immemorial and would act as source of inspiration for younger generation and would be writ-

MLA Marwahi offers rich tributes to Martyr Rani Durgawati



ten in golden letter in the Indian history.

It is notable here that Rani Durgawati from 'Gadh Mandala' accepted the challenge or Akbar and defeated his army many a times and achieved martyrdom on 25 June 1564 during a war near Berla, Mandala road and her cemetery lies near 'Nariya Nullah'.

On occasion of her martyrdom day, MLA Marwahi, Dr KK Dhruv, along with, DCC District President Monoj Gupta, tribal leader Daya Vakre, Sampat Singh Marko, Vivek Porte, Malti Vakre, and other local leaders and public representatives were present.

Remain united and ensure party's victory: Rathore

Meeting of ex-public reps, ex-candidates of BJP held

Central Chronicle News

Gaurela, Pendra, Marwahi, Jun 26: As per instructions by the BJP State President Arun Sao and BJP Pichada Varg Morcha (PVM) President Bharat Verma, a sammelan of BJP's ex-representatives, ex-election candidates and party workers was organised by DCC District President Kanhaiya Rathore and State V-P BJPPVM and district in-charge Sunita Manikpuri and in the presence of Rakesh Chandrakar here on Sunday.



The programme began with lighting of traditional lamp by the guests. The welcome speech and importance of the programme and its report was highlighted by BJPPV District President Sandeep Jaiswal. Speaking on the occasion, Sunita Manikpuri asked all the public repre-

Kanhaiya Rathore reiterated the need to remain united and ensure victory in the next elections to the party with thumping majority. Brijlal Rathore in his powerful speech gave victory tips to party workers and public reps.

District Kosha President Mukesh Dubey termed organisation of such programmes as inspirational and asked to motivate by linking it with elections.

After this the guests welcomed all the existing, ex-public representatives and ex-election candidates with shawl and srifal. The programme was conducted by District Gen. Secy. Durgesh Yadav and vote of thanks was proposed by Abhay Verma.

Richa Patel qualifies for NEET-2022-23

Secures 641 marks out of 720

Central Chronicle News

Dabhra, Jun 26: Richa Patel of Gram Jawali under Dabhra block hq's secured 641 marks out of 720 in the NEET-2022-23 exam and brought laurels to her family and village.

It is notable here that Richa Patel is a talented student since childhood and she had her preliminary education from DPS Raipur and secured 97.4% marks in Class 10 Board exam. In Class 12th, she secured 94.6% marks. Her grandfather- Raghuvir Singh Patel is retired lecturer and grand-mother Meera Patel is a house-



Richa Patel

wife. Richa Patel's father is a doctor from Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru Medical Memorial College and is presently posted as

Lecture in the same college and her mother owner of Srinay Clinic.

On her success and achievement, regional president of Samaj-Kamal Kisohre Patel, along with family members Teklal Patel, Annapurana Patel, Keshav Patel, Nirmala Patel, Ayush Patel, Chirag Patel, Tarun Patel, Jyoti Patel, Abhay Patel, Yatharth Patel, Vijay Patel, Sarita Patel, Ajay Patel, Uma Patel, Raj Patel, Dhruv Patel, Taleshwar Patel and other villagers have expressed happiness and wished her all the best in her future endeavours.

Gauthan collapse causes loss to WSHG



Central Chronicle News

Churikala, Jun 26: The construction and keeping of Lotlota (Churikala) Gram Panchayat Lotlota's Gauthan built two months ago is reportedly in a bad state. Under the Chief Minister's ambitious Narva Garu or Ghuruva Bari scheme, Gauthans were built by spending lakhs in Gram Panchayat Lotlota under Katghora development block.

The villagers have shown their displeasure with the officials after the

repared Gauthan has collapsed and due to the fall of the balcony of the Gauthan, about 600 hundred quintals of cow dung bought by the women's group in Gauthan has dried up and is not suitable for making manure. Due to the lack of attention by the Secretary, 600 hundred quintals of cow dung has dried up and is no longer suitable for making manure.

In this regard, MP Representative Jeevan Yadav told that Gauthans have been built in the vil-

One nabbed within 2 hrs of crime

Along with cash stolen

Central Chronicle News

Pithora, Jun 26: Thieves striking an abandoned house on the intervening night of Saturday at 10:00 pm, broke open the lock of the main Almirah and ran away with cash worth Rs 27000. A report in this regard was filed by the complainant in the thana and the police managed to nabbed the accused within 2 hours of the crime.

As per information in this regard from police, the complainant Anurag Agrawal, S/o Rameshchandra Agrawal, filed a complaint on Saturday night at 2:30 pm that he along with his family were out for a marriage ceremony and when they came back, they found the lock of the main door and almirah broken and cash of Rs 27000 missing. On this the police filed a complaint and started the



investigation and managed to nabbed the accused Rahul Yadav, S/o Mohan Yadav, R/o Salhedih Thana, Tendukona along with cash of Rs 27000 in his possession and the hammer and screw-driver used to break the lock and gate. In this action, Addl. SP Mahasamund Aakash Rao Girpunje, SDOP Prem Sahu, Thenedar-Shivanand Tiwari along iwth Umesh Sahu, Shailesh Thakur, Thakurram Patel, Sanjay Nishad, Gopal Yadav, Dev Kosaria, constable played an important role.

सेन्ट्रल बैंक ऑफ इंडिया Central Bank of India
शाखा : कर्गी रोड Branch : Kargi Road

APPENDIX IV Rule-3(1) POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Property)

Whereas The undersigned being the authorized officer of the Central Bank of India, under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice as below mentioned date calling upon the borrower/s to repay the amount mentioned in the notice with interest and expenses thereon within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules on the date mentioned below. The borrower, guarantor/s in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Central Bank of India for the due amount as mentioned below with subsequent interest and expenses thereon.

The borrower's/guarantors attention is invited to provisions of sub-section 8 of section 13 of the act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets.

S. N.	Name of Borrower/ Guarantor & Address	Description of the Immovable property	Demand Notice Amount / Date
1.	Mrs. Rekha Agrawal W/o. Mr. Venkat Lal Agrawal. & Guarantor- Mr. Venkat Lal Agrawal S/o. Mr. Banwari Lal Agrawal, Both Address: Main Road, Kargi Road, Kota, District- Bilaspur (C.G.) 495113	All that Part & Parcel Residential Land & Building situated at Plot No. 36/1, PH No. 14/33, Sheet No. 31, Chetana Para, Priyadarshini Ward No. 9, RNM Kota, Teh. Kota, Dist- Bilaspur (C.G.) admeasuring 390.71 sq.mtr. (4204 sq. ft.) in the name of Mrs. Rekha Agrawal. Boundaries: North- House of Rekha Agrawal, South- House of Gita Dubey, East- Street, West- House of Seller.	₹ 35,01,731.50 with subsequent interest and expenses thereon 19.01.2023 Date of Possession 22.06.2023
2.	Mrs. Maa Bhagwati Traders Prop. Mr. Venkat Lal Agrawal and 2. Mr. Venkat Lal Agrawal S/o. Mr. Banwari Lal Agrawal. Address of Both: Main Road, Kargi Road, Kota, District- Bilaspur (C.G.) 495113.	All that Part & Parcel Residential Land & Building situated at Plot No. 36/3, PH No. 14/33, Sheet No. 31, Lormi Road, Chetana Para, Priyadarshini Ward No. 9, RNM Kota, Teh. Kota, Dist- Bilaspur (C.G.) admeasuring 90.71 sq. mtr. (976 sq. ft.) in the name of Mr. Venkat Lal Agrawal S/o. Banwarilal Agrawal. Boundaries: North- Road of Purchaser, East- Street, West- Open Plot of Purchaser.	₹ 22,36,910.00 with subsequent interest and expenses thereon 19.01.2023 Date of Possession 22.06.2023
3.	M/s. Uma Centering Plate And Mixture Machine Prop. Mrs. Uma Singh Kshatri and 2. Mrs. Uma Singh Kshatri W/o. Mr. Purushottam Singh Kshatri. Guarantor- Mr. Purushottam Singh Kshatri S/o. Mr. Setbandhu Singh Kshatri, All of Address: 163, Pipartarai, Kargi Road, Kota, District- Bilaspur (C.G.) 495112	All that Part & Parcel of Commercial Shop (Lease hold) situated at Shop No. 10, PH No. 431 & 433/1 (part), premises of Community Health Center, Station Road, Kargi Road Kota, Teh. Kota, Dist- Bilaspur (C.G.) admeasuring 168 sq.mtr. (12 ft x 14 ft) in the name of Mr. Purushottam Singh Kshatri S/o. Mr. Setbandhu Singh Kshatri. Boundaries: North- Shop No. 9, South- Hospital Entry, East- Community Health Center, West- Station road.	₹ 3,01,013.00 with subsequent interest and expenses thereon 19.01.2023 Date of Possession 22.06.2023

Date : 26.06.2023. Place : Kargi Road (C.G.) AUTHORISED OFFICER, CENTRAL BANK OF INDIA

BRIEF



WB CM and TMC supremo Mamata Banerjee during an election campaign for the state Panchayat elections, at Chandamari in Cooch Behar district, Monday.

Fire

Mumbai: A 55-year-old man died of burn injuries after a gas stove and cylinder caught fire in a building in Mumbai's Goregaon area on Monday, officials said. The incident took place at around 8 am in a room of the two-storey 'Shree Ganesh Rahivasi Seva Mandal' building, they said.

Watery grave

Sultanpur: Two minor siblings drowned in a pond in the district's Akhand Nagar area, police said on Monday. The incident occurred in the Sajampur Rajbhar village on Sunday. Muskan (8) and her six-year-old brother Veeru had gone to graze livestock when they decided to take a dip in a pond, they said.

Mishap

Ratnagiri: At least eight persons were killed and seven others injured when a speeding truck collided with a passenger vehicle in Maharashtra's Ratnagiri district, police said on Monday.

Shot at

Jabalpur: A 26-year-old woman, who was shot at by a man in his office last week, died during treatment at a hospital in Madhya Pradesh's Jabalpur city on Monday, police said. The incident had taken place when the woman had gone to meet the accused at his office on June 16, an official said.

PM to flag off five Vande Bharat trains today



An undertrial Vande Bharat Express train arrives at Jabalpur Station.

● Launch National Sickle Cell Anaemia Elimination Mission

New Delhi, Jun 26 (PTD):

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be on a day-long visit to Madhya Pradesh on June 27 during which he will flag off five Vande Bharat trains

and launch the National Sickle Cell Anaemia Elimination Mission, his office said on Monday.

The prime minister will reach Rani Kamalapati railway station around 10:30 am and flag off five Vande Bharat trains, a statement issued by the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) said.

Modi will attend a public programme in Shahdol

district around 3 pm. He will honour Rani Durgavati, who ruled Gondwana in the mid-16th century; launch the National Sickle Cell Anaemia Elimination Mission and kickstart distribution of Ayushman cards.

He will also visit Pakaria village in Shahdol, according to the statement.

The five Vande Bharat trains that Modi will flag off are — Rani Kamalapati-Jabalpur Vande Bharat Express, Khajuraho-Bhopal-Indore Vande Bharat Express, Madgaon (Goa)-Mumbai Vande Bharat Express, Dharwad-Bengaluru Vande Bharat Express, and Hatia-Patna Vande Bharat Express.

The Rani Kamalapati-Jabalpur Vande Bharat Express will connect Mahakaushal region (Jabalpur) to the Central region (Bhopal) of Madhya Pradesh.

Tourist places like Bheraghat, Pachmarhi, and Satpura, etc. will also be benefitted by the improved connectivity, the statement said.

The train will be about 30 minutes faster than the existing fastest train on the route, it said.

The Khajuraho-Bhopal-Indore Vande Bharat Express will improve connectivity of Malwa region (Indore) and Bundelkhand region (Khajuraho) to Central region (Bhopal), the statement said.

KISAN MAHOTSAV



Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot during Kisan Mahotsav, in Udaipur, Monday.

Man lynched by 'cow vigilantes' on suspicion of transporting beef

● 11 held

Mumbai, Jun 26 (PTD):

A 32-year-old man was lynched allegedly by a group of 'cow vigilantes' on suspicion of transporting beef in Maharashtra's Nashik district, police said on Monday.

This is the second incident in Nashik in nearly

two weeks of killing of a person by 'cow vigilantes'.

The latest incident took place at around 5.30 pm on Saturday near Gambhirwadi on Ghoti-Sinnar Road in Igatpuri area of Nashik, located more than 150 km from Mumbai, an official said.

Eleven persons have been arrested in this connection, the Ghoti police said.

Two men from Kurli area in Mumbai, who were transporting meat in a car were attacked allegedly by a group of 10 to 15 'cow vigilantes' with steel rods and wooden sticks, the official said.

The two men, Afan Ansari (32) and his associate Nasir Qureshi (24), who were on way to Mumbai, received serious injuries in the attack, he said.

ANTILIA BOMB SCARE CASE

SC extends by four weeks interim bail granted to ex-cop Pradeep Sharma

New Delhi, Jun 26 (PTD):

The Supreme Court on Monday extended by four weeks the interim bail granted to former Mumbai Police officer Pradeep Sharma, who was arrested in connection with the Antilia bomb scare case and the killing of businessman Mansukh Hiran, in view of his wife's surgery.

A vacation bench of Justices AS Bopanna and Prashant Kumar Mishra extended the relief to Sharma granted earlier this month after senior advocate Siddharth Dave, appearing for him, said his wife could not be operated upon as the doctor concerned was abroad.

"The doctor was travelling throughout the month of June. Now, he is set to return to India in the first week of July after which the surgery will be conducted", Dave said, requesting the bench to extend the interim bail granted to Sharma, a former encounter specialist of Mumbai Police.

Additional Solicitor General KM Nataraj, op-

posed the application for extension of interim bail saying no specific date of surgery is mentioned and later Sharma will again come and seek for extension of bail period.

"This is a serious case and important witnesses are to be examined. Time and again extension could not be granted", he said.

Justice Bopanna said these are small issues and since the doctor was not in the country, the surgery could not be taken up.

The bench after perusing the last order and the report of the doctor, extended the interim bail period by four weeks and directed the matter be listed after four weeks.

On June 5, the top court had granted three weeks interim bail to Sharma after noting that his wife has to undergo surgery.

The top court had said Sharma will be released on interim bail subject to conditions imposed by the trial court.

"From the medical certificate issued by the Lilavati Hospital and Research Centre, Mumbai, dated May 27, 2023, the

wife of the petitioner has been advised to undergo reversal of gastric bypass surgery.

"Considering the reason for which interim bail is prayed for, we direct that the petitioner shall be released on interim bail on such conditions that the trial court may consider fit and proper, for a period of three weeks, to attend to his wife's treatment," the top court had said.

The top court had posted the matter for hearing on June 26 and directed Sharma to furnish a medical report disclosing the progress in the treatment of his wife.

The top court had on May 18 issued notice on Sharma's plea challenging an order of the Bombay High Court which had refused to grant him bail.

The high court had expressed anguish at the manner in which the National Investigation Agency (NIA) had probed the case.

It had noted that the NIA's probe was silent on the co-conspirators involved with dismissed policeman Sachin Waze in

planting gelatin sticks in an SUV parked outside the residence of industrialist Mukesh Ambani.

On February 25, 2021, an explosives-laden SUV was found near Ambani's residence 'Antilia' in south Mumbai. Businessman Hiran, who was in possession of the SUV, was found dead in a creek in neighbouring Thane on March 5, 2021.

The allegation against Sharma, who along with police officers Daya Nayak, Vijay Salaskar and Ravindranath Angre was a member of the Mumbai Police's encounter squad that killed over 300 criminals in numerous encounters, was that he had helped his former colleague Waze in eliminating Hiran.

Salaskar had died during the 26/11 Mumbai terror attack.

Sharma had approached the high court last year challenging a February 2022 order of a special NIA court rejecting his bail plea. Sharma was arrested in the case in June 2021 and is currently in judicial custody.

Blood Donation Camp marks 90th birth anniversary of Late Singhania

Mumbai, Jun 26:

JK Organisation, with 138 year's of heritage a renowned Indian industrial group, held "Blood Donation Camps" to mark the 90th birth anniversary of Late Hari Shankar Singhania, the former President of the group. The camps were arranged at the various offices and manufacturing facilities owned by the group. Padma Bhushan recipient Late Hari Shankar Singhania actively contributed to the expansion and unification of the JK Organisation by setting up several new ventures along with acquiring and integrating a number of businesses into the group.

The blood donation drive was specifically organized on this day in honour of the former leader, who was always ready to do more for the community in addition to the



group's various social initiatives. Speaking on the occasion, Bharat Hari Singhania, Chairman, JK Organisation mentioned that, "JK Organisation has stood strong for more than a century now committed to enhancing the quality of life for everybody, with the founders' belief in giving back to society ingrained in the company's spirit. On the occasion of the late Shri Hari Shankar Singhania's birth anniversary, the JKO Group com-

panies organised a blood donation drive as an initiative towards contributing to wellbeing of the larger population."

A total of 5712 JK Organisation employees donated blood for this humanitarian cause. Before donating blood, all of the donors underwent blood pressure, haemoglobin, weight check, and other tests at the camps. A certificate of appreciation for contributions was presented to each donor.

'No discussion held on 'PM post' during Oppn meeting'

Pune, Jun 26 (PTD):

NCP president Sharad Pawar on Monday said no discussion took place on the "prime ministerial post" in the meeting of opposition parties held in Patna last week ahead of the Lok Sabha elections due next year.

There were discussions on issues like inflation, unemployment and "deliber-



Sharad Pawar

ate attempts" at some places

to encourage communal forces, Pawar told reporters in Baramati town here in Maharashtra. He also hit out at the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party for its criticism of the opposition meeting. Why was the BJP worried about the conclave, Pawar said, claiming there was lack of "political maturity". Drawing the battle lines, over 32 leaders of more than a dozen opposi-

tion parties held a crucial meeting in Patna hosted by Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Friday and resolved to take on the BJP unitedly in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

At a joint press meeting, the opposition parties said they would fight the polls on a common agenda and state-wise strategy, setting aside their differences with a flexible approach.

INT'L DRUG DAY RALLY



Senior officials of Anti Narcotic Task Force (J&K Police) participate in a rally on the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, in Srinagar, Monday.

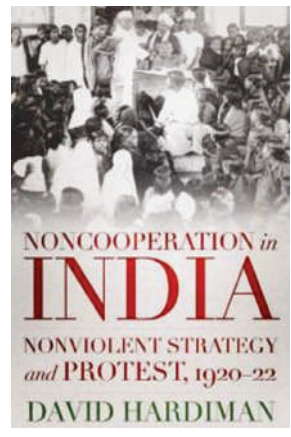
● Of non-cooperation movement

New Delhi, Jun 26 (PTD):

After a book on the history of non-violent resistance in the Indian nationalist movement, historian David Hardiman's latest work takes his study forward to examine the culmination of the first surge of struggle — from its launch in 1920 to its end with Mahatma Gandhi's arrest two years later.

The book, "Non Cooperation in India: Non Violent Strategy and Protest", was released on Monday. It is published by Westland Books.

The non-cooperation movement by the Indian National Congress (INC), organised and led by Gandhi, was the first mass movement organ-



ised nationwide during India's struggle for freedom.

Its aims were to force further concessions from the British government by organising the boycotting of the legislative councils, courts and schools, and other symbolic acts.

"Although the Noncooperation Movement of 1920-22

was one of the greatest mass movements of modern times, hardly any overall accounts of it exist.

"I was inspired to carry out this task through a combination of my interest in Indian nationalism, Gandhi, subaltern history and the theory and practice of nonviolent resistance. I am delighted that Westland Books is now publishing this Indian edition," said Hardiman, founding member of the 'Subaltern Studies Group', in a statement.

The non-violent movement, inspired by Gandhi's satyagraha campaign, degenerated into violence and was called off by Gandhi himself in February 1922 after the murder of a number of policemen by a mob at Chauri Chaura in the United

Provinces.

According to the publishers, the book, comprising seven chapters, is a detailed account of India's first mass movement organised as a part of India's freedom struggle.

"It looks at fractious all-India debates over strategy, the major grievances that drove local-level campaigns, the ways leaders braided together these streams of protest within a nationalist agenda, and the distinctive features of popular non-violence for a righteous cause," they added.

Currently an emeritus professor of the department of History at the University of Warwick, Hardiman's previous books include "Gandhi in His Time and Ours: The Global Legacy of His Ideas" and "Peasant Resistance in India".

BRIEF



NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg, left, and Lithuania's President Gitanas Nausėda arrive for their meeting at the Presidential palace in Vilnius, Lithuania, Monday.

Backup trip

Wellington: The United States has Air Force One, a plane that can refuel in midair and act as a presidential command centre. New Zealand has Betty, an aging Boeing 757 that officials on Monday acknowledged was so prone to breakdowns they had sent an empty backup to ensure Prime Minister Chris Hipkins didn't get stranded in China, where he is leading a trade delegation.

Public appearance

Moscow: Russian Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu made his first public appearance since a mercenary uprising demanded his ouster, inspecting troops in Ukraine Monday in a video released by his ministry. He's the first of three powerful Russian leaders whose diverging interests led to the Wagner Group occupying a Russian city and marching on the capital to be seen since the revolt ended Saturday. Wagner Group chief Yevgeny Prigozhin and General Staff chief Gen. Valery Gerasimov also have made no public statements since then. Russian President Vladimir Putin hasn't made any public appearances either.

Koreans march

Seoul: Tens of thousands of North Koreans marched in anti-US rallies in the nation's capital over the weekend, pledging "merciless" revenge against "US imperialists," as the country marked the 73rd anniversary of the start of the Korean War, state media said Monday. More than 120,000 people participated in Sunday's mass rallies in Pyongyang, North Korea's official Korean Central News Agency said.

Student dies

London: A 25-year-old student from Tamil Nadu who was pursuing his post-graduate degree in the UK died after being pulled from a canal in the city of Birmingham, police said on Monday. Jeevanth Sivakumar, a student at Aston University in Birmingham, was found in the Worcester and Birmingham canal at Matrons Walk, Selly Oak, by West Midlands Police in the early hours of Wednesday. The West Midlands Ambulance Service was called in but they later said in a statement that "it sadly became apparent nothing could be done to save the man".

Pro-reform Mitsotakis wins second term in Greek election

Athens, Jun 26 (AP)

Greece's centre-right leader Kyriakos Mitsotakis was formally sworn in as prime minister Monday after easily winning a second term with a record-high margin over the left-wing opposition, in an election that also ushered new far-right parties into Parliament.

With 99.70 per cent of the vote counted, Mitsotakis' New Democracy party had 40.55 per cent more than twice the main opposition Syriza's 17.84 per cent. It was the largest margin of victory seen in half a century and slightly expanded ND's 20-percentage-point lead in a previous election five weeks before.

Mitsotakis, 55, was



Kyriakos Mitsotakis leader of the center-right New Democracy makes statements at the headquarters of the party in Athens, Greece.

sworn in after being formally handed the mandate to govern by Greek President Katerina

Sakellaropoulou, and was due later Monday to name his new cabinet that's to assume its duties on Tuesday.

"My aim was to secure a stable government with a parliamentary majority. Unfortunately, two elections were needed for that," he said in a televised meeting with Sakellaropoulou, who as head of state holds a mainly ceremonial role.

"I have committed to implement major, deeply-needed reforms over the next four years, (and) have a strong mandate to do that," he said. Mitsotakis spoke with Sakellaropoulou about the "surprise" entry of marginal parties, which raises the number represented in Parliament from five to eight, but added: "I think our democracy is mature enough to handle whatever temporary turbulence (ensues)."

Lightning strikes kill 10 as pre-monsoon rains lash



Drivers push their motorcycle rickshaws through a flooded road caused by heavy rainfall, in Lahore, Pakistan, Monday.

Islamabad, Jun 26 (AP)

Lightning strikes across Pakistan's eastern Punjab province killed at least 10 people, officials said Monday as heavy pre-monsoon rains lashed the region. The strikes on Sunday mainly took place in the Sialkot and Sheikhupura districts of Punjab. Lightning strikes are frequent across Pakistan, especially in Punjab's mountainous areas and plains. The

Pakistan Meteorological Department said more rains were expected this week, bringing some respite from the ongoing heatwave. The National Disaster Management Authority warned the on-going rains could trigger flash flooding.

Every year, many areas of Pakistan struggle with the annual monsoons, drawing criticism for poor government planning. The season runs from July through September.

Lebanon's group says it shot down an Israeli drone

Beirut, Jun 26 (AP) Lebanon's militant Hezbollah group said its fighters shot down Monday an Israeli drone that was flying near the border and over southern Lebanon.

The group gave no further details about the type of the drone that it claimed was downed near the village of Zibqine just north of the border with Israel. There was no immediate comment from Israel.

The incident comes after weeks of tensions along the Lebanon-Israel border, mainly in a disputed area known as Chebaa Farms. Earlier this month, Israeli soldiers fired tear gas to disperse scores of Lebanese protesters who pelted the troops with stones along the border. Some of the demonstrators and Lebanese troops suffered breathing problems. The protest took place on the edge of Kfar Chouba hills, which Beirut says is Lebanese land occupied by Israel.

US-India friendship among 'most consequential' in world: President Biden

Washington, Jun 26 (PTI)

The US-India relationship is among the "most consequential" in the world with bilateral ties more dynamic than ever, US President Joe Biden has said after the two countries elevated their strategic technology partnership during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's historic state visit.

Prime Minister Modi on Friday concluded his maiden state visit to the US during which he held wide-ranging talks with President Biden. Modi also addressed the joint session of the US

Congress, becoming the first Indian leader to do so twice.

The visit included an impressive welcome ceremony attended by a record 7,000 people on the South Lawns of the White House, a state dinner attended by some 500 people, and a round table with honchos of technology companies, entrepreneurs, officials and CEOs.

"The friendship between the United States and India is among the most consequential in the world. And it's stronger, closer, and more dynamic than ever," US President Biden tweeted on Sunday.

Responding to Biden's remarks, Modi said the friendship between India and the US is a force for global good and will make the planet better as well as more sustainable.

Tagging Biden's tweet, Modi said on Twitter, "I fully agree with you, @POTUS @JoeBiden! Friendship between our countries is a force of global good. It will make a planet better and more sustainable."

"The ground covered in my recent visit will strengthen our bond even more," he said.

The White House, in its weekly email update, said

Modi's state visit affirmed the deep and close partnership between the US and India, strengthened their shared commitment to a free, open, prosperous and secure Indo-Pacific, and shared resolve to elevate their strategic technology partnership, including in defence, clean energy and space. "The leaders discussed ways to further expand the United States and India's educational exchanges, people-to-people ties, as well as our work together to confront common challenges from climate change, to workforce development and health security," it said.

Indian woman jailed for fatally abusing maid gets 3-year additional term for destroying evidence

Singapore, Jun 26 (PTI)

A 64-year-old Indian-origin woman in Singapore, serving a 14-year jail term for fatally abusing her daughter's Myanmar maid, was on Monday sentenced to additional three years in jail for removing crucial evidence in the case.

Prema S Naraynasamy will now serve a 17-year sentence for her role in abusing 24-year-old Myanmar national Piang Ngaih Don, who died of a

brain injury with severe blunt trauma to her neck in 2016 after 14 months of repeated abuse.

Prema was given an additional three-year jail term for asking her son-in-law to remove a Closed-Circuit Television (CCTV) recorder that held evidence of her 43-year-old daughter Gaiyathiri Murugayan and her crimes involving Piang's abuse. Prema pleaded guilty to one count of instigating her son-in-law Kevin Chelvam to cause

evidence of the offences to disappear, Channel News Asia reported on Monday.

The offence, involving the CCTV recorder, occurred when Prema knew the authorities were heading to their house.

When Chelvam arrived home, Prema directed him to dismantle the CCTV recorder to dispose of it, as she did not want police to get hold of the footage.

Chelvam, 44, then a police officer, was initially reluctant to do so but allegedly complied with his

mother-in-law's insistence.

Prema later slipped the recorder into her daughter-in-law's bag while the police were in the house and told her in Tamil, "I have kept something in your bag, do something with it." The daughter-in-law gave Prema's son the recorder, who then asked a friend to keep it.

Despite the CCTV recorder passing from her daughter-in-law's hands to her son's friend, the police managed to recover it after questioning Prema's son.

Guatemalans choose new president after a tumultuous electoral season

Guatemala City, Jun 26 (AP)

Guatemalans voted Sunday to elect a new president and vice president as well as fill all congressional seats and hundreds of local posts after one of the most tumultuous electoral seasons in the Central American nation's recent history.

Many Guatemalans expressed disappointment with their presidential choices after three opposition candidates were excluded by authorities. A large number of null ballots were expected, and experts said it could depress turnout.

With none of the 22 presidential candidates polling near the required 50% threshold for winning outright, a second



Police fire tear gas at a polling station after clashes erupted when electoral authorities delayed its opening to voters due to alleged electoral violations during general elections.

round of voting on Aug. 20 between the top two finishers was almost certain.

At the Mixed Urban School No. 2, a combined elementary and middle

school in Sumpango, voters began lining up outside its walled wall an hour before voting began. The town of about 37,000 sits in the mountains less

than an hour west of the capital. Voting appeared orderly. Walter Alfredo Hernandez, a 61-year-old lawyer and notary from Sumpango, was one of the first to vote. He was in and out in about 20 minutes. He drew a clear line between how he thinks things are going in his town pretty well and nationally a disaster.

Guatemala "is immersed in misfortune, in corruption," Hernandez said, before going on to list the co-opted institutions, especially in the country's justice system.

"The citizen wants to lift himself up and he can't. The rich have our heads," he said, demonstrating his foot pressing something to the ground.

President announces security measures after massacre of 11 in pool hall

Tegucigalpa (Honduras), Jun 25 (AP) Honduran President Xiomara Castro announced on Sunday security measures including raids, checkpoints and curfews in the north of the coun-

try to quell a wave of drug trafficking-linked violence following the massacre of 11 people in a pool hall by gunmen.

Armed men burst into the pool hall in the city of Choloma in Cortes province late Saturday

night and began shooting people point blank, police said. Ten men and one woman were killed.

The massacre followed the killing of three people Thursday in a bakery in the city of San Pedro Sula. Among the victims

was Ericka Julissa Bandy Garcia, a wife of an alleged associate of former President Juan Orlando Hernandez, who is imprisoned in the U.S. awaiting trial for drug trafficking-related charges.

Chinese hostilities against Taiwan will have serious global impact: Taiwanese Minister

Taipei, Jun 26 (PTI)

China's threat against Taiwan is much more serious than what is visible and any attempt by Beijing to change the status quo by force will have severe consequences for the world including on the supply of semiconductors, Taiwanese Foreign Minister Jauhsieh Joseph Wu has said.

In an interaction with an international media group, Wu said that Taiwanese people are firmly determined to protect Taiwan's sovereignty and that their resolve has been further emboldened by the "in-

credible determination" displayed by the Ukrainians in the face of Russian aggression.

China has been main-

taining that Taiwan is a breakaway province that must be reunified with the mainland, and if necessary by force.

CENTRAL UNIVERSITY OF RAJASTHAN

Kishangarh, District-Ajmer (Rajasthan)

Advt. : R/F.148/2023/803 Date : 16.06.2023

REQUIREMENT

Applications are invited from eligible candidates for the post of:

TRAINING AND PLACEMENT OFFICER

purely on contractual basis for a period of one year

For complete details, visit website: www.curaj.ac.in

CBC 21361/12/0004/2324 Registrar

I/5586/2023 K-15015/15/2022-SP-V ANNEXURE-I

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS DEPARTMENT OF SPORTS

INVITING APPLICATIONS UNDER THE SCHEME OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT IN SPORTS (HRDS)

The Department of Sports under the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (MYAS), Government of India, invites applications under the Scheme of Human Resource Development in Sports for Fellowship Programmes, Exchange of knowledge / Research / Ideas, Assistance to Match Officials, Coaches and Supporting Personnel, Assistance for Research and Publication of Outstanding Works on Sports related subjects.

2. The Scheme has following components:

- (i) Fellowship Programmes for advanced/specialized training of short term (upto 3 to 6 months) and long-term (upto 2 years) modules/ workshops/ course/ programmes in India as well as abroad in various sports science disciplines having relevance to sports;
- (ii) Exchange of Knowledge / Research / Ideas:-
 - a) For attending seminars/workshops/conferences of repute in India or abroad;
 - b) For holding Training Programmes, Seminars, Workshops/ Clinics and Conferences within the country.
- (iii) Assistance to Match Officials, Coaches and Support Personnel for appearing in qualifying examinations organized by international bodies or National Sports Federations (recognized by the Department of Sports on the date of application)/ IOA and for undergoing specialized training in the relevant disciplines/ areas;
- (iv) Assistance for Research projects in sports-related disciplines;
- (v) Publications/e-Publications of Outstanding Works/Journals/e-Journals/web-based applications (apps) having significance for sports and games.

3. Interested individuals/organizations must submit their applications well before time of the scheduled meeting of Designated Committee and not later than 20th day of preceding month of the scheduled meeting of the Designated Committee.

Kindly visit this Ministry's website link <https://yas.nic.in/sports/scheme-human-resources-development-sports-0> for further details.

Sd/-
Vimal Anand
Director (Sports)
vimal.anand@nic.in

CBC 47108/11/0001/2324



CENTRAL Chronicle

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A Strategic Partnership

Strengthening India-Egypt Relations

In a significant development, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President of Egypt Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi elevated the bilateral relationship between their nations to a "strategic partnership." This move reflects the growing ties and shared interests between India and Egypt, as they seek to deepen cooperation in various sectors. During their meeting in Cairo, the leaders identified key areas for collaboration, including trade and investment, IT, defence and security, renewable energy, agriculture, health, culture, and people-to-people exchanges. This broad range of sectors highlights the intention to forge a comprehensive and multifaceted partnership that encompasses economic, social, and cultural aspects. The significance of this partnership was further underscored when President Al-Sisi conferred upon Prime Minister Modi the prestigious Order of the Nile, the highest civilian award in Egypt. This gesture of recognition symbolizes the warmth and goodwill that the Egyptian government and its people hold towards India. To institutionalize and facilitate collaboration, the establishment of an "India Unit" within the Egyptian Cabinet was highlighted as a valuable mechanism. This dedicated unit, established after President Sisi's visit to India earlier this year, aims to streamline and catalyze bilateral initiatives. The leaders acknowledged the positive impact of this unit and emphasized the need to leverage its potential for enhanced cooperation. Looking ahead, both leaders will have an opportunity to further review and strengthen bilateral ties during the upcoming G20 summit, where President Al-Sisi has been invited as a special guest during India's Presidency. This platform will provide an avenue for deeper engagement and the exploration of new avenues for partnership. During his visit, Prime Minister Modi also undertook significant cultural engagements, showcasing the shared heritage and historical connections between India and Egypt. His visit to the Al-Hakim Mosque, a revered 11th-century monument, symbolizes the centuries-old cultural exchange between the two nations. Additionally, paying homage at the Heliopolis Commonwealth War Cemetery, where Indian soldiers sacrificed their lives during World War I, serves as a reminder of the deep-rooted historical bonds and the contributions made by Indian soldiers. In discussions with various stakeholders, including the Bohra community leaders and renowned author Tarek Heggy, Prime Minister Modi highlighted the strong people-to-people ties that exist between India and Egypt. These interactions exemplify the role of cultural exchanges and diaspora communities in fostering mutual understanding and building bridges between nations. Moreover, the talks also addressed the imperative of countering extremism and radicalization. This shared concern underscores the importance of collaborative efforts in promoting peace, tolerance, and inclusivity in both societies. The elevation of India-Egypt relations to a strategic partnership signifies a milestone in the bilateral relationship, emphasizing the mutual desire to forge a comprehensive and enduring alliance. By leveraging their respective strengths and synergizing their efforts, India and Egypt can unlock immense potential for growth, development, and prosperity. As these two nations embark on this new chapter of collaboration, it is imperative that both governments sustain the momentum and translate their commitments into tangible outcomes. Strengthening economic ties, promoting investments, facilitating people-to-people exchanges, and addressing common challenges will be key to realizing the full potential of this strategic partnership. India and Egypt share a rich history and a promising future. By nurturing this partnership and capitalizing on their shared values and aspirations, both nations can pave the way for regional stability, progress, and mutual prosperity.

Shopian Saga

Seeking Truth and Closure

In a significant development, the Jammu and Kashmir administration has finally taken action by terminating the services of two doctors involved in the infamous 2009 Shopian twin 'rape and murder' case. This decision brings a sense of closure to the victims and their families after enduring more than a decade of legal battles and uncertainties. Dr. Bilal Ahmad Dalal and Dr. Nighat Shaheen Chilloo, who conducted the autopsy of the victims, have been accused of fabricating evidence and providing a false report, misleadingly categorizing the deaths as rape and murder instead of accidental drowning. It is alleged that these doctors were working in collusion with Pakistani agents, further exacerbating the gravity of their actions. The 2009 Shopian case sparked public outrage when the doctors initially reported that the women had been 'raped and murdered.' This declaration ignited violent protests that lasted for nearly six weeks, with demonstrators led by Majlis-e-Mushawarat, an amalgamation of separatist groups, pointing fingers at security personnel for these alleged heinous crimes. The widespread unrest in Jammu and Kashmir even posed a threat to the stability of the then ruling NC-Congress coalition government, led by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah. In connection with the case, five policemen were arrested. The doctors' falsification of evidence aimed to create disaffection against the Indian state, falsely accusing security forces of rape and murder—an insidious strategy that seemed to momentarily succeed. To address the escalating situation, the case was handed over to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), which uncovered inconsistencies in the conspirators' narrative. The high court also intervened, ordering the exhumation of the victims' bodies for a second post-mortem examination, which was conducted by doctors from AIIMS-Delhi in September 2009. This examination revealed that Asiya Jan's hymen was intact, decisively establishing that the women had not been subjected to sexual assault. In December 2009, the CBI concluded that the women were neither raped nor murdered. The investigation exposed the manipulative role of external agencies utilizing locals to spread hatred and misinformation. The termination of the two doctors responsible for fabricating evidence signifies an essential step towards justice and closure for the victims and their families. It highlights the commitment of the Jammu and Kashmir administration to hold those accountable for their wrongful actions, even after several years have passed. This decision also sends a powerful message that the authorities will not tolerate the misuse of professional positions to fuel social unrest and create animosity towards the Indian state. While the termination of the doctors is a significant milestone, it should not overshadow the trauma endured by the victims' families throughout this protracted legal process. They have had to endure years of uncertainty, public scrutiny, and emotional distress. It is crucial for the government to provide the necessary support and assistance to help them rebuild their lives and heal from the wounds inflicted by this case. The closure of the 2009 Shopian case should serve as a reminder that justice can prevail, albeit with time. It highlights the importance of a fair and impartial investigation, conducted by independent agencies, to ensure that truth and accountability prevail. This case also exposes the vulnerabilities that exist in society, where external forces attempt to exploit local grievances and manipulate public sentiment for their ulterior motives. It is essential for the authorities to remain vigilant and take proactive measures to safeguard the integrity of investigations and prevent the recurrence of such incidents. As the 2009 Shopian case comes to a conclusion, it is imperative for society to reflect on the importance of upholding justice, truth, and the rule of law. The termination of the two doctors involved serves as a stepping stone towards closure for the victims and their families, but it is crucial to acknowledge that the effects of this case extend beyond individual lives. The repercussions of false accusations and the manipulation of public sentiment can have far-reaching consequences for communal harmony and the overall fabric of society.

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 emailto:editorcentralchronicle@gmail.com.

WORLD DRUG DAY



Students of Queen Mary's College take part in a demonstration on the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, near Marina beach, in Chennai, Monday, June 26.

Public libraries promote literacy and reading culture



DR. PRIYANKA SAURABH

Public libraries are not mere repositories of books; they are influential pillars of society. They command an essential role as gateways to knowledge and culture, shaping the very fabric of our communities. Through their abundant resources and services, public libraries foster creative learning opportunities, bolster literacy and education, and ignite the flames of imagination. They serve as vital catalysts for the birth of new ideas and perspectives, essential for a vibrant and innovative society. Additionally, public libraries stand as guardians of the past, preserving the invaluable wisdom and knowledge accumulated by preceding generations. Without these bastions of learning, the advancement of research and human knowledge, as well as the preservation of our collective heritage, would be severely hindered. Let us recognize and embrace the profound power of public libraries in nurturing knowledge, fostering cultural growth, and shaping a brighter future for all.

A public library is a library that is accessible to the general public regardless of any differences and is usually funded by public sources such as community contributions. Public libraries provide free access to a wide range of books, journals, and research papers to a person belonging to different educational backgrounds and age groups. Public libraries collaborate with schools and universities to organize debates, storytelling competitions, and educational activities for youth, children, and adults.

Libraries are synonymous

with education and provide countless learning opportunities that can foster economic, social, and cultural development. The inspiring story of William Kamkwamba from Malawi underscores the difference a library can make. Borrowing a book about windmills from his local library, Mr. Kamkwamba learned how to build an energy-producing turbine for his village. On the strength of this experience, he went to study at a leading university in America. That one book not only changed his life; it also changed the lives of the people in his village communi-

ty. Stories like these explain why many countries are keen to ensure that libraries continue to provide access to knowledge, learning, and ideas.

During COVID, public libraries supported their members by offering e-books to access information online. This has helped books reach the remotest places and fostered a reading culture in small towns. Public libraries are places that bring communities together and host events related to educational programs. Such community outreach programs help in inculcating reading values and promoting literacy among people from marginalized communities. Public libraries have played an important role in developing reading as a leisure activity. Books in multiple languages have brought new readers to libraries who prefer to read books in the original languages with different socio-political dimensions.

3A. The National Library Policy will ensure the availability, accessibility, and affordability of books across India. Since libraries are a State subject, the need of the hour is to pay attention to the modernization of public libraries in the State. State libraries suffer from a paucity of financial funds and the non-availability of books in English and other vernacular languages. There is ambiguity regarding the number of functional libraries functioning at the state and national levels. As per the National Library Policy, there will be accurate data regarding operational and non-functional libraries in the public domain.

Recognizing the cultural importance of sharing, Mahatma Gandhi said, "No culture can survive if it tries to be exclusive". The motivation to share

and reuse information and knowledge comes in many forms. Perhaps the most deeply rooted in our human instincts is the desire to preserve our culture for future generations. It is one of the most important functions of libraries.

Libraries are rich repositories of historically and culturally significant collections, many of which are not available anywhere else in the world. Without an appropriate copyright exception, a library may not preserve or replace a damaged work while it is still covered by copyright. For example, it cannot legally copy or digitize an old newspaper or a unique sound recording to preserve it. Without proper library exceptions, this cultural heritage will be lost to future generations.

Today, many works are "born digital" only, such as websites or electronic journals, and are not available in print format. Without legal means of preserving and replacing works in various media and formats—including format transfer and moving electronic material from obsolete storage formats—many of these works will inevitably be lost to future generations of historians.

The National Library Policy will help in strengthening the efforts of NGOs working in remote areas of the country. The need of the hour is to formulate a National Library Policy to adopt new and modern practices from the best libraries across the world and to formulate standardized practices to preserve this cultural heritage of India.

(Writer is a Research Scholar in Political Science, Poetess, Independent journalist and columnist. Views are personal)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Monsoon Brings Relief

After a scorching summer, the monsoon has finally reached Delhi, Haryana, and other parts of northern India, bringing a sigh of relief. In a rare occurrence, both Delhi and Mumbai experienced monsoon showers on the same day after 62 years. Typically, Mumbai receives rainfall by June 11, but this year it arrived two weeks late, while Delhi was graced with showers two days earlier than expected. While Mumbai suffered from the delayed monsoon and high temperatures, Delhi and other parts of northern India experienced cooler temperatures compared to previous years. As an agrarian nation, India heavily relies on the monsoon for agricultural production. Fortunately, the monsoon, which had a slow start, is now progressing rapidly and is expected to cover the entire country, providing hope for grain production. However, it is important to remain cautious as isolated areas may experience cloudy weather with light to moderate rainfall in the next few days. The recent deluge in Assam following the arrival of the full monsoon serves as a reminder of the potential rise in water levels in the Brahmaputra and its tributaries. All state Disaster Management Authorities should remain vigilant, as flood-affected areas, as well as cities and towns, have suffered damage to infrastructure such as embankments, roads, bridges, and more.

Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee, Faridabad

Balanced Cooperation

During Prime Minister Modi's state visit to the US, it is crucial for India to recognize the essence of the India-US relationship. Rather than solely focusing on defense partnerships and technology transfers, India must acknowledge that the US is primarily driven by business interests and will always prioritize its own gains. The 2005 India-US civil nuclear deal serves as a reminder that India received minimal benefits while US companies reaped substantial profits. Instead of blindly appeasing the US, India should demand equal treatment across all aspects of the partnership while maintaining cordial relations with its long-standing ally, Russia. Achieving an equitable and balanced cooperation is imperative.

MK Nair, Raipur

Giant leap

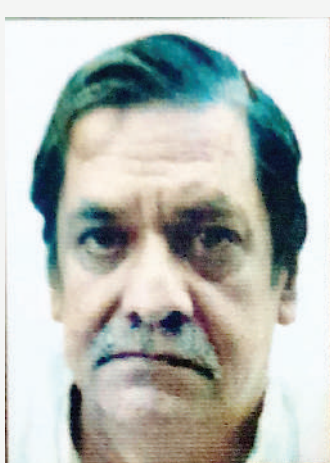
The burgeoning India-US relationship is not merely a new-found love affair, but one built on deep-rooted foundations. Current political and economic necessities have further solidified this bond, as the shared democratic values of both nations hold the potential for a harmonious and prosperous world. While there may be occasional obstacles, these minor issues cannot undermine the profound trust that underpins the India-America alliance. As we move forward, it is crucial to nurture and strengthen this partnership, as it promises great advancements and opportunities for both nations and reinforces their commitment to a brighter future.

Sandeep Warrier, Kolkata

India's Democracy Under Scrutiny: The Litmus Test Ahead

Yash Pal Rathan

India, with its status as the world's largest democracy, stands alongside the United States, known for its longstanding democratic traditions. However, both nations are facing questions and challenges that put their democratic values to the test. Recent incidents and political debates highlight the complexities and depth of democracy in both countries. This article delves into the examination of India's democracy, both on the international stage and within the country, with upcoming elections serving as a critical litmus test.



Unveiling the Depth of Indian Democracy

During a press conference, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed a question on minority issues, reaffirming the commitment to uphold the principles of

the Indian Constitution, which prohibits discrimination based on caste, creed, or religion. The satisfactory response from the press reporter indicated that the issue was addressed adequately. Similarly, former

U.S. President Barack Obama raised concerns about attacks on Christians in Delhi during his visit to India. Subsequent investigations revealed that the incidents were driven by criminal motives rather than communal tensions. It is worth noting that such questions raised during interviews can sometimes be politically motivated, especially considering the upcoming presidential elections.

The Perceived Threats and Political Narratives

During Prime Minister Modi's visit to the United States, opposition parties in India attempted to create an impression that democracy was under threat. However, these claims have often resulted in failed attempts to sway public opinion, as witnessed in previous election cycles. In 2019, the opposition failed to secure enough seats to elect a leader of the opposition in the Lok Sabha,

while in 2014, no leader of the opposition was appointed. It is crucial to analyze the motives behind such narratives, particularly as the election season approaches.

Changing Election Strategies and Political Alignments

Recognizing the changing dynamics and voter sentiments, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has been adapting its election strategies. The party is actively seeking political alliances in various states, including partnerships with the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) in Andhra Pradesh, the Rajbhar Party in Uttar Pradesh, a Christian front in Kerala, smaller parties in Bihar, and Dravidian parties in Tamil Nadu. These strategic realignments highlight the evolving political landscape and the BJP's efforts to strengthen its position ahead of the upcoming assembly elections.

The Litmus Test: State and National Elections

The forthcoming assembly elections in five states, scheduled for October and November, will serve as a crucial litmus test for the BJP. The outcomes of these state elections will significantly impact the parliamentary elections slated for March and April 2024. It is during these elections that the strength and vitality of Indian democracy will be put to the ultimate test. India's democracy is facing examinations both on the international stage and within the country. As political narratives unfold, alliances shift, and voter sentiments evolve, the fate of Indian democracy hangs in the balance. It is a time for citizens, political parties, and stakeholders to engage actively and shape the future of this vibrant democracy. The results of these elections will not only shape the political landscape but also reaffirm the resilience and endurance of India's democratic values.

BRIEF

New vehicles



Mumbai: Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari has said new vehicles will be introduced that run entirely on ethanol. Speaking at an event in Nagpur on Sunday, the minister recalled that he recently met the chairman of Mercedes Benz company which launched an electric vehicle. "He (the chairman) told me they would make electric vehicles only in future," Gadkari said. "We are bringing new vehicles that will run entirely on ethanol."

Ongoing projects



Hyderabad: UAE-based Lulu Group will be investing Rs 10,000 crore in India on various ongoing projects over the next three years and the UAE-based conglomerate has invested over Rs 20,000 crore in the country, Lulu Chairman Yusuf Ali MA said here on Monday.

Quits



New Delhi: The Chief Executive Officer of Bharti Airtel's enterprise arm Airtel Business, Ajay Chitkara, has resigned from the company, according to a filing. Following the resignation, Bharti Airtel has restructured leadership in the enterprise arm by dividing it into three segments.

Investment proposals



Greater Noida: The Uttar Pradesh government has received investment proposals worth about Rs 36 lakh crore that emerged out of a memorandum of understanding signed during the state's investor summit a year ago, chief minister Yogi Adityanath said. During his speech at an inaugural function of the Rs 200 crore-robot manufacturing plant of Reliance group firm Addverb, the chief minister said for the first time, the state has received investment proposals for all 75 districts and a maximum number of proposals have come for Gautam Buddha Nagar district.

India appears to be 'silver lining' amid global challenges: Paranjpe

New Delhi, Jun 26:

India appears to be the silver lining amid global headwinds and is poised to leapfrog into the future, but the country must address challenges like employment and agriculture productivity, said HUL Chairman Nitin Paranjpe. Addressing the AGM of the company on Monday, Paranjpe said India has been the fastest-growing economy in the last decade and is touted to become the world's third-largest economy by 2027, surpassing Japan and Germany. It is emerging steadily from the shadows of being a poor nation, and taking 'centre stage'.

"The country's ambition of becoming a high-middle income country by 2047, when the nation celebrates 100 years of independence, is a definite possibility," Paranjpe said in his speech titled Transforming to Win in



the New India. This would be led by factors like favourable demographics, rising consumption, enviable digital public infrastructure, investments and a culture of innovation and enterprise. According to HUL Chairman, a growing young population can often translate into a growing economy, and India, with one of the world's largest populations of youth, can reap the benefits of its demographic dividend in the years to come. About 66 per cent of the country's population

today is below 35 years of age, with 40 per cent of the population in the age bracket of 13-35.

"The country is predicted to become home to one-fifth of the global workforce, making it a go-to destination for employers from across the world," Paranjpe said, adding "While the population of other developed economies is ageing rapidly, India's population is expected to stay young for longer". Moreover, with this growing young population, India is also witnessing a significant rise in consumption. This is helped by growing affluence, urbanisation and nuclear family structure. On India's growth in digital space, Paranjpe said it is already the world's largest and fastest growing market for digital consumers with over 750 million internet users, which is expected to increase to 900 million by 2025.

Meta, CAIT to upskill 10 lakh traders on WhatsApp Business app

New Delhi, Jun 26:

Meta on Monday announced it has partnered with the Confederation of All India Traders to upskill 10 lakh traders on how to use the WhatsApp Business App over the next three years in a bid to reach more customers and scale up their businesses. The owner of WhatsApp, Instagram and Facebook also announced the launch of Meta Small Business Academy, a new programme to enable emerging entrepreneurs to learn digital marketing skills and earn a certification. "A certification by Meta Small Business Academy will especially help new entrepreneurs and mar-

ketters gain critical digital marketing skills to grow on the Meta apps. To enable the programme to reach MSMEs across India, the course module and the examination are available in seven languages - English, Hindi, Marathi, Bengali, Kannada, Tamil, and Telugu," a release stated. Secretary General of the Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) Praveen Khandelwal said with businesses of all sizes using WhatsApp to communicate, coordinate, and connect with their customers effectively, there is an urgent need to equip them with timely skills needed to drive business growth.

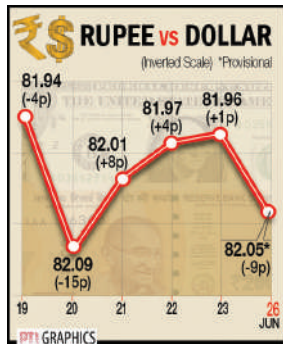
India to remove retaliatory customs duties on eight US products

New Delhi, Jun 26:

India will remove additional duties on eight US products, including chickpeas, lentils and apples, which were imposed in 2019 in response to America's measure to increase tariffs on certain steel and aluminium products, government sources said.

During the recent state visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the US, both countries decided the termination of six WTO (World Trade Organisation) disputes and the removal of these retaliatory tariffs on certain US products. In 2018, the US imposed an import duty of 25 per cent on steel

Rupee declines 9 paise to 82.05 against dollar amid geopolitical worries



Mumbai, Jun 26: The rupee declined by 9 paise to close at 82.04 (provisional) against the US dollar on Monday amid geopolitical concerns and firming crude oil prices. Volatility in equity markets and FII outflows also weighed on the market sentiment, analysts said. After opening lower, the rupee staged a recovery to hit the day's high of 81.94 in morning trade amid early gains in equities and a weaker greenback in the overseas market. However, the local currency retreated from early highs amid volatile stock markets and touched a low of 82.05 in afternoon trade at the interbank foreign exchange market.

Sensex, Nifty settle on a mixed note in volatile trade

Mumbai, Jun 26:

Benchmark equity indices Sensex and Nifty closed on a mixed note in a volatile trade on Monday amid weak trends in the global markets. While auto, IT and pharma shares advanced in a restricted trade, selling in index heavyweight Reliance Industries, HDFC twins and Tata Consultancy Services capped the gains. In a lacklustre trading, the 30-share BSE Sensex dipped 9.37 points or 0.01 per cent to settle at 62,970, logging its third day of decline. During the day, it hit a high of 63,136.09 and a low of 62,853.67.

The NSE Nifty edged up by 25.70 points or 0.14 per cent to settle at 18,691.20. It moved between 18,722.05 points and 18,646.70 in the day trade. "The global market exhibited a negative bias as concerns regarding economic growth emerged in light of the political instability in Russia. This instability led to an increase in oil prices, driven by worries over po-



tential supply disruptions, given Russia's status as one of the largest oil producers," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

On the domestic front, the market experienced limited downside as the pharma and auto sectors provided support, he added.

From the Sensex pack, Tata Consultancy Services, Reliance Industries, NTPC, Bharti Airtel, Power Grid, Larsen & Toubro, HDFC Bank, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Tech Mahindra and HDFC were the major laggards.

On the other hand, Maruti rose the most by 1.67 per cent. Tata Motors, Titan, UltraTech Cement, Bajaj Finserv, Mahindra & Mahindra, State Bank of India and IndusInd Bank were the top gainers.

In Asian markets, Seoul ended in the green, while Tokyo, Shanghai and Hong Kong settled lower. Equity markets in Europe were trading lower. The US markets ended in negative territory on Friday. "Weak Asian and European cues dampened the domestic market sentiment, as benchmarks ended mixed in a range-bound session amid selective buying in key sectoral stocks."

Global markets are dictating trends back home and investors don't want to be in a hurry to take long positions in times of high uncertainty," said Shrikant Chouhan, Head of Research (Retail), Kotak Securities Ltd. In the broader market, the BSE midcap gauge climbed 1.04 per cent and smallcap index jumped 0.71 per cent.

Krishan Gurjar urges industry to adopt advance tech to become competitive



New Delhi, Jun 26: Union Minister Krishan Pal Gurjar on Monday urged the industry to adopt advanced technologies for their operations in order to compete at the global level. The Minister of State (MoS) for Power was speaking at the inauguration of 'Advance Industrial Technology Demonstration Centre' at

National Power Training Institute (NPTI) at Badarpur here. "Advance technology is a must for the growth of the country. Today, if we have to compete with the world, we will have to adopt advanced technologies," Gurjar, who is also the MoS for Heavy Industries, said. Reduced consumption of energy will bring the production cost of various industries and help them to compete in the market, he said. NPTI Director General (DG) Tripta Thakur said industries like iron and steel, cement, pulp & paper, and textile together contribute around 30 per cent to the total commercial energy consumption in India.

Priya driving Quality Assurance and inspiring excellence for a decade

Mumbai, Jun 26:

Over the past decade, Amazon India has been at the forefront of revolutionizing e-commerce in the country, and one of the driving forces behind its success are its passionate employees. Priya Chavan, Quality Assurance Manager in the Grocery & Food Tech team at Amazon India, is an invaluable contributor to the company's success journey since its launch 10 years ago. Her unwavering commitment to excellence and her ability to adapt to new challenges have made her an exceptional leader within Amazon. Throughout her tenure, Priya has em-

braced continuous learning and growth driven by the freedom to explore different roles and address new challenges. Her journey with Amazon India began in 2009, right after finishing college, when she joined as a Quality Assurance Engineer in the Advertising division, and today, over a decade later, she herself leads a team of Quality Assurance Engineers.

In her own words, Priya shares, "My role has evolved over the years presenting me with exciting and challenging projects. One of the most memorable projects I worked on was testing Amazon Ads on Kindle Devices. This

project had an ambitious deadline, and I worked relentlessly to meet it while ensuring the delivery of a world-class product. I'm happy to say that this was one of the projects that exemplified our commitment to excellence and the collaborative spirit that define Amazon's culture."

She further adds, "In my current role as a Quality Assurance Manager, I engage in a wide range of activities such as creating test strategies for large projects, defining test automation roadmap, identifying, measuring and reporting key software quality metrics, while developing the growth path for my team members."

PW's NEET batches achieve record-breaking success in NEET UG 2023 results

Mumbai, Jun 26:

Physics Wallah, India's leading ed-tech platform which is democratizing education at scale has delivered outstanding success in the NEET UG Results 2023. A total of 15 students from PW's NEET Batches scored more than 700, setting a benchmark. Furthermore, an impressive count of more than 20,000 students from PW's batches got qualified in the NEET 2023 with good scores.

Physics Wallah's top scorers include Samuel Harshith AIR-24, Nishant Sharma AIR-28, Sumegha Sinha AIR-39, Prayansh Rout AIR-67, MD Rejaullah

AIR-134, and Pranjal Singh AIR-150. Over 20 lakh students registered for the exam, and out of the 11,45,976 candidates who qualified.

This year, over 20,000 students trained by PW educators cleared the exam with flying colors and secured seats in medical colleges. More than 9,000 PW students scored above 600 marks, while over 1,500 PW students scored above 650 marks.

More than 125 PW students secured ranks under AIR 1000. PW's commitment to providing accessible and cost-effective education of the highest standards has significantly benefited students

preparing for NEET. The faculty members at PW have been readily available to address doubts through the doubt engine and also provided lecture and test planners, along with daily practice tests featuring video solutions, to offer comprehensive support to the students.

Alok Pandey, CEO & Founder of PW said, "We are immensely proud of the outstanding results achieved by our students in the NEET UG 2023. The remarkable ranks they have secured fill us with great pride and serve as a testament to their unwavering commitment and the relentless efforts of our talented educators."

The performance of our NEET batches demonstrates the effectiveness of our impactful education approach. There has been a 100% surge in selections this year compared to last year.

As a company, we remain steadfast in our commitment to delivering outstanding learning outcomes, and we continue to innovate our content delivery to enhance the understanding and success of our students across all test prep categories. In addition to the outstanding results achieved by PW students in the NEET UG 2023, it continues to transform the landscape of education in India.

Adishwar Auto Ride India set to Localise the Keeway SR 250 and SR 125

Mumbai, Jun 26:

Adishwar Auto Ride India Pvt. Ltd (AARI), an established manufacturer in the Indian Superbike Industry, recently introduced two Neo-Retro motorcycles to serve the entry-level premium segment. These include the Uber Cool SR 250 and the Unpretentious SR 125, from the Hungarian marque KEEWAY, which has presence in over 98 countries. The motorcycles come across as a strong reminder of the old school days, allowing customers to enjoy the nostalgic experience of the 80's and 90's, without having to compromise on modern day performance and reliability.

While the Keeway SR 125 is already on sale, deliveries of the Keeway SR 250 commence from 17th June onwards.



Adishwar Auto Ride India is also planning to localise the two Neo-Retro rides by the end of 2023. The move towards localisation is a result of the incredible response being received for the SR 250 and

the SR 125. AARI has announced a lucky draw for the first five hundred deliveries of the Keeway SR 250,

wherein Five lucky customers will get 100% cash-back on the ex-showroom price. The company is also set to introduce the 'My SR My Way' platform, allowing customers to showcase their unique personalities

through their SR models, making the SR model range unique to their riders. The platform will be available on all new purchases from September 2023 onwards.

However, the Keeway SR 250 and the Keeway SR 125 will be readily available at the dealerships in the 3 existing standard colours - Glossy White, Glossy Red and Glossy Black.

The colour customisation through the new platform, will be made by AARI on order basis.

To enquire about 'My SR My Way', and to place an order for colour customisation, customers can contact the nearest Benelli | Keeway authorised dealers.

Roff, Pidilite announced launch of consumer awareness campaign

Raipur, Jun 26:

Pidilite, a leading manufacturer of construction and specialty chemicals, has announced the launch of a new campaign aimed at increasing customer awareness regarding the consequences of using traditional options for tile fixing. The campaign describes the customer's frustration with cracked tiles, debonding, falling tiles, and unaesthetic appearance resulting from traditional tile fixing methods, including cement. The usage of tiles has undergone significant transformation over the past few decades, and adhering to traditional tile-fixing methods may not align with the evolving needs of the new-

age customers. While ceramic tiles have a clay surface at the back that bonds well with cement, vitrified tiles, which are the most used tiles today, have a smooth & non-porous surface at the back which is difficult to bond with cement alone. Also tile sizes are becoming bigger. The traditional method provides low bond strength. Modern day tiles and stones require adhesives with higher bond strength that spread evenly for proper fixing. Commenting on the new campaign, Sudhanshu Vats, Deputy Managing Director of Pidilite Industries Ltd., said, At Pidilite, pioneering in emerging categories is a core value that drives us. Our brand Roff is aimed at

transforming the way tiles are fixed in India. The nationwide launch of our campaign underscores our unwavering commitment to raising awareness and enhancing customer experiences. Roff products embody cutting-edge technology, blending global expertise with local intelligence. They enable contractors, architects to create long-lasting beautiful tile and stone creations without any worry.

Through this initiative our objective is to inform and empower customers to make well-informed choices. With its cutting-edge technology and sustainable formulation, Roff stands at the forefront of eco-friendly tile adhesive solutions.

Actress Sakshi Chopra alleges sexual harassment

Sakshi Chopra, the great-granddaughter of Bollywood director Ramanand Sagar, has come forward with allegations of sexual harassment during her participation in a game show. Taking to Instagram, the actress shared her disturbing experience and accused the show's producers of condoning inappropriate behavior.

In her post, Chopra claimed that after signing the contract, a contestant openly made derogatory comments about her body, discussing her breasts and buttocks. Shockingly, she alleged that the producers encouraged such behavior, suggesting that controversial remarks would boost ratings, dismissing it all as part of the game.

The actress further stated that she felt trapped during the show, describing it as a suffocating experience.

Netflix, the platform airing the program, reportedly imposed strict monitoring and restricted her contact with her mother. Chopra alleged that when she tried to inform her mother about the tasks and sexual harassment, the producers intercepted her calls and messages, preventing her from speaking out.

Chopra criticized Solproductions, the production company, and Netflix for their complicity in the alleged misconduct. She claimed that the companies were aware of everything that transpired and manipulated chats and blurred messages to control the narrative. Expressing her disappointment, she questioned how these female producers could engage in such behavior and emphasized that she takes responsibility for her decision to work with them.

In a direct address to showrunner Chad, Chopra accused him of disregarding the well-being of contestants, despite being a father to two daughters. Frustrated and angered by her experience, she bid farewell to the show, vowing never to participate in such nonsense again.

Sakshi Chopra's allegations shed light on the pervasive issue of sexual harassment and misconduct in the entertainment industry. It serves as a reminder of the importance of creating safe and respectful environments for all individuals, regardless of their profession. It is crucial that such allegations are thoroughly investigated to ensure justice and prevent the perpetuation of such unacceptable behavior.



Darshan Dave as Randheer Sharma in 'Doosri Maa'

Stepping into the realm of &TV's family drama, Doosri Maa, actor Darshan Dave captivates audiences again with his remarkable portrayals across various television shows. With his latest role as Randheer Sharma, Darshan will inject a fresh wave of intrigue into the show, leaving viewers eager for more. In this interview, he opens about his approach to the character, revealing his determination to captivate audiences and the meticulous preparations he underwent to bring Randheer's personality to life.

Excerpts of interview:

What attracted you to the role of Randheer Sharma?

This role offers a refreshing change and promises to infuse the show with many unexpected twists, turns, and dramatic moments. I was eager to embark on something distinct, and seizing this opportunity seemed a perfect choice. In the show, I essay the role of Randheer Sharma. As a lawyer, Randheer rivals Ashok. Despite that, after Ashok's disappearance and during Yashoda's difficult phase, he helps her. Randheer aims to impress Yashoda with his kindness while harbouring a complex and multi-layered personality. I was thrilled and excited to take on this character, as it allowed me to explore the depths



opportunity to film in my hometown, ensuring my parents are not left alone. There is an undeniable sense of comfort and familiarity when shooting in one's city. The sheer joy of being a part of this production is further amplified by its place in my beloved hometown, Jaipur. I find immense happiness knowing that I no longer have to dine alone and that someone eagerly awaits my return home. I am grateful for this, and my parents are equally delighted, often accompanying me to the set to spend quality time together. This level of comfort is something any actor would cherish, particularly those who are not from Mumbai. I consider myself truly fortunate to have had such a wonderful experience.

Watch Darshan Dave as Randheer Sharma in Doosri Maa, airing every Monday to Friday at 8:00 pm only on &TV!

of this incredibly layered character. In addition to my character, I am intrigued by the show's storyline. I have been a dedicated viewer since it started and am thrilled to be a part of it.

How does shooting for a show in your city provide you with a sense of comfort or familiarity?

Being a part of this show has been an absolute blessing. It marks the first time I have had the



Mohit Kumar joins the cast of 'Vanshaj'

Sony SAB's family drama, Vanshaj, gives viewers a glimpse into the extravagant and larger-than-life lifestyle of the Mahajan family. The show takes the audience on a captivating journey through the world of a legacy business empire. Mohit Kumar will soon be introduced to the show as the rebellious son of Vidur (played by Aliraza Namdar). Vidur is the right-hand man of the Mahajan family, known for his loyalty to them throughout

the years. In contrast, despite being raised amidst the Mahajan family, Neil harbors a deep-rooted hatred towards them. While Vidur is Neil's sole blood relative, they hold contrasting opinions. Yuvika (Anjali Tatrari) and Neil's paths had crossed in Rishikesh, but what will happen when Neil comes to know that Yuvika now lives with the Mahajan family?

Keep watching Vanshaj every Monday to Saturday on Sony SAB at 10 PM.

Amber Heard shines on Red Carpet comeback

Amber Heard made a dazzling return to the red carpet, marking her first public appearance since her high-profile trial with ex-husband Johnny Depp concluded over a year ago. The Aquaman actress attended the world premiere of her latest film, In the Fire, at the Taormina Film Festival in Italy on June 23. The event showcased Heard's radiant smile and positive demeanor, signaling her triumphant comeback to the spotlight. Dressed in a stunning black caped maxi dress and matching platform sandals, Heard gracefully posed for photos on the teal carpet. Alongside her co-stars Luca Calvani, Eduardo Noriega, Yari Gugliucci, and director Conor Allyn, she exuded confidence and elegance. Actor William "Billy" Baldwin, present at the festival to promote the animated comedy Billie's Magic World, also joined her for memorable moments. Engaging with fans, Heard enthusiastically took selfies and signed autographs, radiating joy throughout the evening. Her role in In the Fire casts her as a doctor who embarks on a journey to a remote plantation in the 1890s to treat a boy believed to be possessed by the Devil—a riveting portrayal sure to captivate audiences. While the movie awaits



its release date, it stands as Heard's final acting project filmed in early 2022, months before her highly publicized defamation trial with Depp commenced in April. Fans can also anticipate her reprisal of the character Mera in the upcoming Aquaman sequel, set to hit theaters on December 20, 2023, further showcasing her talent and versatility. Following the trial's conclusion in June 2022, Heard deliberately kept a low profile. However, this May, she began

making appearances in Madrid, Spain, expressing her affection for the city in Spanish during encounters with local paparazzi. The trial resulted in a victory for Depp, who recently graced the Cannes Film Festival's red carpet in May for the premiere of Jeanne du Barry. Depp had filed a \$50 million lawsuit against Heard, alleging defamation after she penned a 2018 op-ed in The Washington Post that hinted at domestic abuse without explicitly naming him. The trial's jury found Heard liable for defamation and ordered her to pay Depp over \$10 million in damages. In turn, the jury also ruled that Depp pay Heard \$2 million due to his lawyer's accusations of her perpetrating a "hoax." Amidst the legal battles, Heard views the trial as a setback for women, yet she did secure a modest victory through her \$100 million countersuit against Depp. The legal saga has now paved the way for her triumphant return to the public eye, showcasing her resilience and commitment to her craft. Amber Heard's radiant presence at the Taormina Film Festival signals her resilience as she resumes her passion for acting, leaving behind the courtroom drama to once again shine on the silver screen.

Akangsha Rawat embraces challenging role in 'Shiv Shakti'

Prominent television actress Akangsha Rawat, recognized for her notable performances in TV serials like "Solah Singaar" and "RadhaKrishn," is currently captivating audiences with her portrayal of Diti, the mother of Asuras, in the gripping drama series "Shiv Shakti."

Reflecting on her experience, Rawat describes the role as a challenging endeavor that pushed her boundaries. "I wanted to challenge myself this time. I took a significant risk, knowing that failure could lead to being written off! Personally, I was already grappling with self-doubt and confidence due to various challenges. This was the first time I would play a villain, and so far, everyone has appreciated my portrayal of Diti. I believe it

was worth it!" shares the talented actress. Delving further into her character, Rawat reveals, "I portray the negative lead, Diti, Asur Mata, who marks the beginning of the Asura lineage on Earth. She is the daughter of Earth's first king and the wife of Sage Kashyap. Diti feels injustice has plagued her life since childhood, and now, she fights against the Devas for the rights, respect, and acceptance she has always yearned for. It is by far the most challenging character I have ever played."

Rawat highlights that the complexity of her role stems not only from portraying a negative character but also from the multiple shades that make up Diti's persona. "You

may despise Diti, yet somehow, you will still love her! Her pain is genuine, but her methods and actions to seek justice are flawed." "Shiv Shakti," based on the revered "Shiva Purana," weaves a mythological love story centered around the Earth's king, Daksh, and his daughters Aditi, the mother of Devas, and Diti, the mother of Asuras. Produced by Swastik Productions, the series premiered on JioCinemas on June 19, captivating audiences with its enchanting narrative.

Akangsha Rawat's portrayal of the complex and multifaceted character Diti adds depth and intrigue to "Shiv Shakti," further enthralling viewers as they witness the unfolding mythological tale of love, power, and destiny.



Garima Jain speaks about balancing between dancing and acting

Garima Jain, known for her role as Sakshi in Star Bharat's 'Na Umr Ki Seema Ho,' portrays a grey character with a desire to disrupt Dev and Vidhi's lives alongside Jai, who is infatuated with Vidhi. Besides being a skilled actress, Garima is also a trained dancer specializing in Bharatnatyam and various other dance forms. Garima's expertise extends to more than nine

professional dance styles, and she is eager to expand her repertoire further. Despite her busy schedule, she manages to pursue her passion for dance and dedicates her day-offs to practicing. Notably, Garima holds a Guinness World Record for completing 1000 spins in 10 minutes, surpassing her own record by achieving it within a shorter time frame. Expressing her pro-

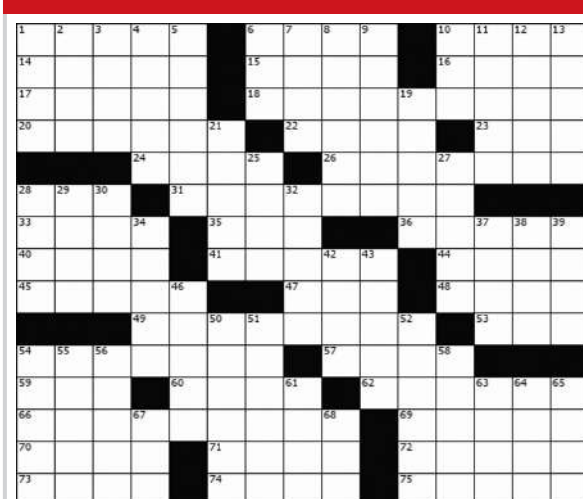
found love for dance, Garima shares, "I have been learning the art of dance since childhood and even participated in a reality show when I was a kid. I thoroughly enjoy exploring new dance forms, and I have acquired knowledge in a wide range of styles."

Stay tuned to watch 'Na Umr Ki Seema Ho' every Monday-Friday at 8:00 PM only on Star Bharat.



CROSSWORD

685



ACROSS

1. Rent
6. Pear type
10. Operated
14. Rock star ___ John
15. Washstand item
16. Papa's partner
17. Airborne
18. Electricity source
20. Go away
22. Extinct bird
23. Lunched

DOWN

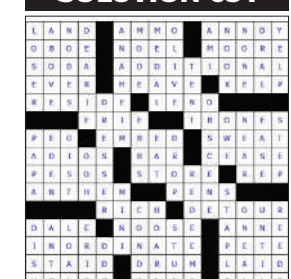
24. Genuine
26. Matured
28. Horse's mouthpiece
31. Imitated
33. Prepare copy
35. ___ and con
36. Goes by bus
40. Quality of sound
41. Fable writer
44. Coastal bird
45. San Antonio shrine
47. Compass reading (abbr.)
48. Courageous person

49. High blood ___
53. Vane dir.
54. Gymnast's kin
57. Fine fabric
59. Bombshell ___ West
60. Article
62. Soup bean
66. Unchanged
69. Stop
70. Hindu garb
71. Critic Rex ___
72. Narrates
73. Besides
74. Oxen's harness
75. Winter forecast

DOWN

1. Guide
2. She, to Pierre
3. On the peak
4. As yet (2 wds.)
5. Main course
6. Implore
7. Had debts
8. Madrid matron
9. Debit's opposite
10. ___ Thurman of "Kill Bill"
11. Lucifer
12. Overact
13. Ventured
19. Lariat user
21. Florida bay
25. Tempt
27. Mrs. Bunker
28. Greek letter
29. False god
30. Vocalist ___ Turner

SOLUTION 684



'Chess has taught me to stay patient with my cricket'

Dubai, Jun 26 (PTI):

India leg-spinner Yuzvendra Chahal, who knows a thing or two about chess, says playing the sport at a competitive level has helped him to stay patient while dealing with challenges in his cricket career.

Chahal, who has represented India in the World Youth Chess Championship, has joined SG Alpine Warriors as their ambassador in the ongoing Global Chess League.

"My first jerseys came from playing chess, and the sport has taught me patience over the years. And that helps me in my cricket because sometimes you may bowl well but not get a wicket, and it is then that patience is really

needed," Chahal said in a press release on Monday.

A well-known chess aficionado, Chahal explained that the sport has similarities with cricket because it is essential to plan your way through the game in both.

"Chess and cricket are similar; but in cricket, you can show your aggression, but in chess, you can't. It is all about how calm you are in chess.

"For example, if I am bowling, I can say something to the batter, but in chess, you must stay calm and focused. And it will eventually help you in your life as well," the Indian cricketer said on the sidelines of the Global Chess League here.

The 32-year-old Chahal, who said he didn't expect to be playing for the Indian



cricket team when he stepped away from chess, noted that the Global Chess League is a shot in the arm for the sport.

"In India, we always follow cricket, but the Global Chess League is the IPL of chess. This is the first edition of this tournament,

so a comparison with the IPL isn't fair. But it is a great initiative as people will learn more about chess and the league.

"And the new format of mixed teams is a fantastic thing too. I am waiting for about 10-15 years, and then you will see new players coming through, and people will talk about the Global Chess League. I will be very happy when it comes to that stage."

The likes of world champions Magnus Carlsen and Viswanathan Anand are among those who have praised the tournament.

The inaugural edition of the Global Chess League began on the June 21 and will end on July 2.

Chahal said a couple of members of the Indian cricket contingent would

play chess while travelling.

"In the Indian team, there is no one who can beat me (laughs). Sometimes I play with R Ashwin, and then there is Shanker Basu, our trainer with whom I used to play. We used to play quite a bit during the flights and when we were travelling."

Chahal, who finds time to indulge in a round of chess on the internet every now and then, said, "I play chess sometimes during the journey before a game as it helps make me calm. And especially during the flights, I play chess.

"Chess is growing now, and it has been two decades since I connected with the sport like this, and this (chess) is my first love," he signed off.

Jhulan Goswami joins MCC World Cricket Committee

London, Jun 26 (PTI):

Legendary Indian woman cricketer Jhulan Goswami and two English players in Heather Knight and Eoin Morgan have joined the MCC World Cricket Committee (WCC) ahead of its meeting at the Lord's, the club said on Monday.

Besides Goswami, England women's team skipper Knight and 2019 ODI World Cup winning captain Morgan too have joined the WCC, which is an independent body comprised of current and former international cricketers, umpires, and officials from across the world.

Often regarded as one of the fastest bowler in the women's game, Goswami retired from international cricket last year, and fittingly her final appearance was at



Lord's in the ODI against England, where she was given a guard of honour.

The seamer enjoyed a career spanning two decades, taking over 300 wickets in white-ball cricket across 272 appearances, as well as 44 wickets in 12 Test matches.

She was made an Honorary Life Member of MCC in April this year.

"We are thrilled to welcome Jhulan, Heather and Eoin to the World Cricket committee," Chair of the MCC World

Cricket committee Mike Gatting, said in a release.

"These are three players who have excelled at the very top of the international game and their knowledge of how the elite level of cricket works will be an advantage to the committee.

"It is also important that we are growing the female representation on the committee with the growth that women's cricket has enjoyed in recent years. Jhulan and Heather join Clare Connor and Suzie Bates who can all offer first-hand insight into the women's game."

The WCC will meet on Monday and Tuesday at Lord's ahead of the second Ashes Test between England and Australia, with various outputs from the meeting to be communicated after the conclusion of the match.

Injured Williamson not giving up on World Cup

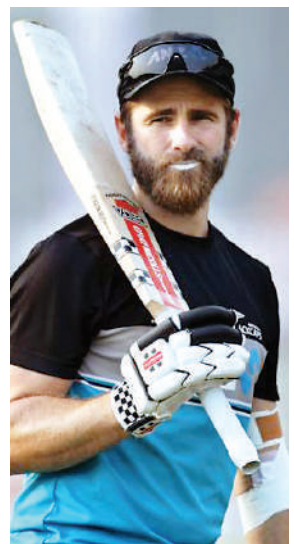
Wellington, Jun 26 (PTI):

Kane Williamson remains hopeful of taking part in the ODI World Cup in India later this year as he continues his recovery from an Anterior Cruciate Ligament (ACL) injury he had suffered in the IPL.

New Zealand's limited overs captain had ruptured his ACL while fielding for Gujarat Titans in the IPL opener against Chennai Super Kings on March 31.

Williamson is not looking too far ahead and is assessing his recovery on a weekly basis. The ICC event will be played in October-November.

"Very much just trying to keep it week-to-week at the moment. I haven't had such a long-term injury before but talking to other people that have, the journey is a bit of a long one so if you look too far



ahead, it probably can become a little bit daunting," Williamson was quoted as saying by ESPNcricinfo.com on Monday.

"Whereas, one week at a time, ticking off those small markers, those little wins that are nice to expe-

rience. But also knowing that the journey won't be completely smooth and you have a few setbacks along the way that you have to navigate."

Williamson had played part a crucial role in New Zealand's campaign in 2015 and 2019 editions when they reached successive finals.

"Probably more for sanity and changing things up... just nice to mix up all the gym work and the physio work and rehab specific stuff to spend a bit of time with some of the other guys that are training. Super keen to get back in the nets, for sure," he added.

The 32-year-old is among the best batters in the world, having amassed 17142 internationals runs across formats. He has represented New Zealand in 94 Tests, 161 ODIs and 87 T20 Internationals.

Thakur inaugurates hockey astro turf ground at BSF headquarters

Jalandhar: Union Sports Minister Anurag Thakur on Monday inaugurated a state-of-the-art astro turf for hockey at the BSF headquarters here.

On the occasion, Thakur highlighted the government's commitment to promoting sports in India under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

An official release quoting Thakur said, "Sports are a catalyst for holistic development, and the government of India is fully committed to providing the necessary infrastructure and opportunities for our talented athletes. "This astro turf inauguration symbolises our dedication to promoting sports and nurturing the immense potential of our sporting community." Thakur said that the newly constructed stadium received all necessary approvals from the Hockey India, ensuring compliance with international standards. He also mentioned about the rich legacy of Punjab, which produced exceptional athletes and contributed significantly to India's sporting heritage.

India women's team head coach steps down

New Delhi, Jun 26 (PTI):

Months ahead of the Asian Games, Bhaskar Bhatt has left the women's head coach's post to concentrate on his new role as the High Performance Director at the Sports Authority of India (SAI).

The development comes a little over two months before the Asian Games in September, which is also the first Olympic qualifiers for the boxers from the continent.

Earlier this month, Bhatt had been appointed as boxing HPD at SAI. In his new role, he will be overseeing both men's and women's boxing across all SAI National Centres of Excellence (NCOEs).

"When I was named the SAI HPD for boxing a few days back it came with a lot of responsibilities. I wanted to do justice to my new role," Bhatt, who is in Kazakhstan with a second string Indian team for the Elorda Cup, told PTI. "At the national camp (in NIS



India women's boxing head coach Bhaskar Bhatt with Nikhat Zareen.

Patiala), the HPD (Bernard Dunne) is there and the foreign coach (Dmitry Dmitruk) is also there to assess and guide the girls so I requested that I be allowed to concentrate on the my new

role full time," he added. Indian boxing has been going through a lot of changes since Irishman Bernard Dunne's arrival as the High Performance Director in October last year. In February,

Dronacharya awardee CA Kuttappa returned as the head coach of the Indian men's boxing team for a second stint, a decision made by the Boxing Federation of India (BFI) on the advice of Dunne.

Kuttappa replaced Narendra Rana, who was appointed as the chief coach in October 2021.

Soon after, Dmitry Dmitruk was brought in as the foreign coach for both the men's and women's teams.

And now, Bhatt has left his position as the women's team head coach. He had been named the women's head coach in November 2021. Before that, he was with the youth team since 2017 and had served as assistant coach in the senior women's camp from 2005 to 2012.

Under his tutelage, Indian boxers brought home three medals - one gold and two bronze - from the 2022 World Championships in Istanbul.

'Sarfaraz has never been disrespectful towards anyone'



New Delhi, Jun 26 (PTI): Sarfaraz Khan's omission from the Indian team has been linked to fitness and disciplinary issues but sources in Mumbai cricket insisted that there was no truth in the claims. While it is perceived in BCCI circle that Sarfaraz needs to work on his fitness and also be a bit more disciplined both on and off the field, people

associated with Mumbai cricket defended the middle-order batter. Sarfaraz's gesture of pointing finger towards the dressing room after scoring a crucial hundred against Delhi in the previous season was not appreciated. It was perceived as a dig at one of the selectors watching the match. "Sarfaraz's celebration during a Ranji match in Delhi was meant for his teammates and coach Amol Mujumdar, who had doffed his hat. The selector present was Salil Ankola and not Chetan Sharma. Sarfaraz took the team out of pressure situation and the celebration was one of relief," a sources close to cricketer told PTI on Monday.

Kvitova warms up for Wimbledon with German Open title



Czech Republic's Petra Kvitova reacts after winning the final WTA singles match against Croatia's Donna Vekic at the Berlin Tennis Open, in Berlin.

Berlin, Jun 26 (AP): Two-time Wimbledon champion Petra Kvitova showed she's ready to try for a third title on Sunday by beating Donna Vekic 6-2, 7-6 (6) to win the Berlin Open for

her 31st career victory. Kvitova saved three of the four break points she faced and converted four of her five opportunities as she won the match in 1 hour, 41 minutes for her sixth title on grass. She has won 12 of her last 13 matches on the surface going back to her title run in Eastbourne last season. The 33-year-old Kvitova wrapped up the first set in 33 minutes on her debut in Berlin, but the second wasn't as straightforward. Her double-fault gave Vekic the chance to break for a 2-1 lead. Kvitova managed to break Vekic's serve at 5-4 as she won three games in a row, leaving Vekic serving at 6-5 down to stay in the match. She did, leading to the tiebreak. But Kvitova fought back again despite falling behind in the tiebreak.

Samsonova, Errani advance at Bad Homburg Open

Bad Homburg, Jun 26 (AP): Second-seeded Liudmila Samsonova eased into the second round of the Bad Homburg Open with a 6-1, 6-4 win over Viktoriya Tomova.

Sara Errani claimed her first tour-level grass-court victory since the 2016 edition of Wimbledon, beating Belgian qualifier Maryna Zanevska 6-2, 6-3. Ninth-seeded Anna Blinkova rallied to beat home favorite Sabine Lisicki 3-6, 6-1, 7-5, and Russian player Evgeniya Rodina beat American Katie Volynets 6-0, 6-4.

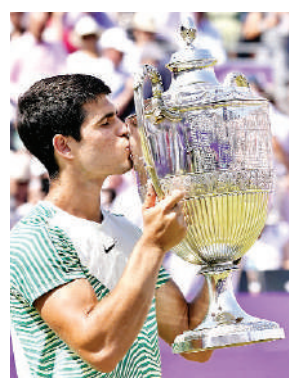
There were wins too for Aliz Cornet and Rebeka Masarova.

the Serbian's crown at Wimbledon. Alcaraz lost in the fourth round to Jannik Sinner last year.

Sunday's final was Alcaraz's first on grass, in only the third tournament of his young career on the surface.

He had to save two break points in the eighth game of the first set, broke in the next game and then served out for the set.

Alcaraz won the only break point of the second set, when De Minaur double-faulted, and sealed the title on his first match point when the Australian sent a return long.



Carlos Alcaraz, of Spain, kisses the trophy after defeating Alex de Minaur, of Australia, 6/4, 6/4 in the mens singles final match at the Queens Club tennis tournament in London.

Alcaraz reclaims top ranking ahead of Wimbledon

London, Jun 26 (AP):

Carlos Alcaraz won the Queen's Club Championships final on Sunday for his first ATP title on grass and reclaimed the top ranking, ensuring he will enter Wimbledon next month as the No. 1 seed.

Despite struggling at times in the first set, Alcaraz beat Alex De Minaur 6-4, 6-4 for his fifth title of the year and 11th overall.

That saw the 20-year-old Spaniard move above Novak Djokovic in the rankings and confirmed the U.S. Open champion as a serious challenger to

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12 bunkers destroyed in violence-hit Manipur

Imphal, Jun 26 (PTI):

Twelve bunkers have been destroyed in Manipur and six mortar shells seized during search operations by security forces, police said.

The bunkers were destroyed in the last 24 hours during the search operations in Tamenglong, Imphal East, Bishnupur, Kangpokpi, Kakching and Churachandpur districts, police said on Sunday night.

"The situation is tense but under control with some sporadic incidents," a police statement said.

During the search operations, three 51 mm and as many 84 mm mortar shells were found in a paddy field in Sahumphai and one IED was recovered in the vicinity of Kangvai and S Kotlian villages in Bishnupur district, it said.

The mortar shells and IED were defused at the spot by bomb disposal teams.

Altogether, 1,100 arms, 13,702 ammunitions and 250 bombs have been recovered since the ethnic clashes broke out in the northeastern state last month.

The state police had arrested 135 people for curfew violations, theft in abandoned houses and arson.

More than 100 people have lost their lives in the ethnic violence between Meitei and Kuki communities in Manipur so far.

Clashes first broke out on May 3 after a 'Tribal Solidarity March' was organised in the hill districts to protest against the Meitei community's demand for Scheduled Tribe (ST) status.

Meiteis account for about 53 per cent of Manipur's population and live mostly in the Imphal Valley. Tribals — Nagas and Kukis — constitute another 40 per cent of the population and reside in the hill districts.

JOY OF SUCCESS



Students pose for photos during the convocation of Nalanda Open University, at Babu Auditorium in Patna, Monday.

Puri cops help elderly, specially abled devotees get darshan of deities

Puri, Jun 26 (PTI):

Puri police is winning the hearts of the elderly and specially abled devotees by helping them get a glimpse of the deities - Lord Jagannath, Lord Balbhadr and Lady Subhadra - with the help of trained volunteers.

Puri SP Kanwar Vishal Singh said following his regular interactions with the public, he came to know that many elderly, demented and specially abled people, who were keen to have a darshan of the deities, are unable to visit Sri Mandir (Jagannath Temple) or

Gundicha Temple, because of age-related ailments.

"We facilitated the darshan of at least 300 elderly and specially abled devotees, aged between 70-100 years, till date," Singh said.

"We engaged Yuva Shakti volunteers to help the elderly and specially abled persons get a smooth darshan. Our personnel, who are posted at Gundicha Temple, are also helping them," added Singh.

The Yuva Shakti programme was launched by Singh on May 4 ahead of the Rath Yatra. "They

were properly trained and sensitised by us on behavioural aspects and crowd control," he said.

In a bid to inculcate a sense of discipline and team work among the volunteers, a carrom tournament with police was also organised.

"I had never imagined that I could make the darshan, thanks to Puri Police for making it possible," said 80-year-old Sarangadhar Sarangi.

"I want to thank Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik and Puri Police for their efforts," said 100-year-old Jhumpi Prusty.

"My sons are away. Without the volunteers, it wouldn't have been possible for me to visit Sri Mandir. I would also like to thank the Odisha CM for such an initiative," 90-year-old Basant Kumar Das said.

Disabled rights activist Jitendra Biswal also praised Puri Police for its initiative.

About 12 lakh devotees had flocked to the Grand Road outside Shree Jagannath Temple on June 20 to witness the annual ride of the deities in their chariots to Gundicha Temple, which is their birthplace.

Vigilance wing intensifies probe against KPCC chief

● In two-year-old graft complaint

Kozhikode (Ker), Jun 26 (PTI):

The Vigilance Wing of the Kerala Police has intensified its probe against KPCC chief K Sudhakaran on a complaint of graft and misappropriation of funds filed by his former driver two years ago. As part of its investigation, the Vigilance and Anti-Corruption Bureau (VACB) has sought the de-



K Sudhakaran

tails of the income sources of his wife. In a notice dated June 15, the VACB Kozhikode unit sought the

service particulars and salary details of Smitha Sudhakaran from the school authorities where she was working.

The Vigilance bureau has sought details like the net salary, including Pay/DA, leave surrender, and other details, for a period starting in 2001.

According to the complaint lodged by his former driver, Prashanth Babu, in 2021, Sudhakaran allegedly siphoned off Rs 32 crore from the funds received by the K Karunakaran Trust

for building a memorial to Congress stalwart and former Kerala chief minister Karunakaran — a project that never took off.

The complaint also alleges that the KPCC president swindled funds collected for the construction of the Kannur DCC office.

Talking to reporters in New Delhi, where he reached to meet senior Congress leaders, Sudhakaran said the Left government has started investigating his financial sources.

Kamakhya temple doors open for devotees



Devotees gather to offer prayers at the Kamakhya temple which reopened after the end of the annual Ambubachi Mela, in Guwahati, Monday.

● After four days

Guwahati, Jun 26 (PTI):

The doors of the Kamakhya temple were reopened to devotees on Monday after four days of the annual Ambubachi Mela. The doors of the temple, located atop the Nilachal hill here, were closed from the intervening night of June 22-23, marking the belief in the annual menstrual cycle of Goddess Kamakhya during the period. "Worshipping in the temple was stopped from pravriti and the doors were reopened to the devotees

this morning after 'nivriti,' a temple official said. The annual Ambubachi Mela is held in the temple premises during this period and is one of the major tourist events in the state.

The Mela this year commenced on June 22 amidst elaborate security and other arrangements. It attracted several lakh visitors, an official of Kamrup Metropolitan district said.

To accommodate the large number of devotees, three temporary camps have been set up at Pandu Port, Kamakhya railway station and Sonaram Higher Secondary School field.

HC refuses permission to minor girl to abort pregnancy

● As doctors say baby will be born alive

Mumbai, Jun 26 (PTI):

The Aurangabad bench of the Bombay High Court has refused to permit a 15-year-old rape victim to abort her 28-week pregnancy as doctors have opined the baby would be born alive even if forcible delivery is performed at this stage.

The baby would require neonatal care, as per the doctors. A division bench of Justices R V Ghuge and Y G Khobragade in its order of June 20 said if a child is going to be born even with

forcible delivery, then they might as well let the baby be born full-term keeping its future in mind.

The court was hearing a petition filed by the rape victim's mother seeking permission to abort the girl's 28-week pregnancy.

The woman in the plea said her daughter went missing in February this year and was found with a man in Rajasthan three months later by police.

A case was lodged against the man under relevant sections of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act. A medical board after examining the girl said even if the

pregnancy termination proceedings are done, the baby would be born alive and would have to be admitted in a neonatal care unit and the girl would also be at risk. The HC bench noted a child would be born whether by forcible medical intervention or by natural delivery.

If a forcible delivery is to be done, then an underdeveloped child would be born and there would be chances of certain deformities being developed, it said. "If in any case the child is going to be born and the natural delivery is just 12 weeks away, we are of the view that the health of the

child and its physical and mental development need to be considered," the high court said.

"When a live child is going to be born even today, we might as well let the child be born after 12 weeks and under medical advice. If later the petitioner desires to give away the child to an orphanage, she shall have the liberty to do so," it said. The disadvantage of permitting forcible delivery of the child today is that the child who would have naturally developed into a well grown baby will have to be brought into this world at a premature stage and that too forcibly, the court said.

'Wagner group' will dislodge BJP govt: Sena (UBT)

Mumbai, Jun 26 (PTI):

The Shiv Sena (UBT) on Monday claimed the "Wagner group" in India, a reference to opposition parties, will dislodge the Narendra Modi government through the ballot box by using the path of non-violence.

In a dramatic development last week, Wagner mercenary group chief Yevgeny Prigozhin called

for an armed rebellion and claimed his forces had military facilities in Russia's southern city of Rostov-on-Don under their control. It also started its march to Moscow.

Russian President Vladimir Putin called the rebellion a betrayal and an act of treason. Later, Prigozhin said he has ordered his mercenaries to halt their march on Moscow and retreat to

their field camps in Ukraine to avoid shedding Russian blood, following negotiations carried out by the Belarusian president. An editorial in the Sena (UBT) mouthpiece 'Saamana' drew a parallel between Wagner mercenary group's "revolt against Russian President Putin" and the meeting of opposition parties in Patna last week.

Drawing the battle lines,

over 32 leaders of more than a dozen opposition parties held a crucial meeting in Patna hosted by Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Friday and resolved to take on the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) unitedly in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls.

The editorial in Saamana said the "Wagner group" has shown dictatorship can be challenged.

Gujarat IAS officer points out flaws in education system

● Minister seeks report

Ahmedabad, Jun 26 (PTI):

An IAS officer in Gujarat has claimed students of some primary schools in Chhotaudepur district cannot even read a word or do simple mathematical calculations, promoting the state education department to seek a report on it from authorities.

Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer Dhaval Patel, serving as the commissioner of geology and mining in Gandhinagar, expressed shock and anguish over the state of education in the tribal-dominated Chhotaudepur district.

In a letter sent to the education department on June

16, Patel termed the education being imparted to tribal children as "rotten" and claimed such education will only ensure the next generation of tribals continues to work as labourers and never progress in life.

State Education Minister Kuber Dindor, who also has charge of the tribal development portfolio as cabinet minister, on Monday said he has sought a report from officials about the observations made by Patel.

"I have asked officials of my department to give a detailed report so that we can make required changes. There are some issues in the remote tribal areas. I also belong to that region. There is lack of awareness even among the parents of students. We will try to make them

aware and fill the gaps wherever required," Dindor told reporters at an event in Godhra.

Patel was one of the several IAS officers in the state government who were sent to different districts as part of the 'Shala Praveshotsav' drive to evaluate the overall education scenario in government primary schools assigned to them.

Asked about Patel's observations, Gujarat Minister of State for Education Praful Pansheriya said the purpose of sending IAS officers as well as other senior officials in the field is to find flaws so that they can be corrected.

In the letter sent to education secretary Vinod Rao on June 16, Patel said he visited six different gov-

ernment-run primary schools of the tribal-dominated Chhotaudepur district on March 13 and 14 as part of the 'Shala Praveshotsav' drive.

Patel said he felt guilty after seeing the "extremely low level of education" in five out of six schools.

Recalling his visit to Timla primary school, Patel in the letter said "students of standard-8 were reading every letter of a word separately as they could not read an entire word. They were finding it difficult to do simple mathematical calculations."

At Bodgam primary school, students could not give antonyms for simple Gujarati words, like "day". Moreover, a girl student of Class-8 could not show where

the Himalayas and Gujarat were on the Indian map, Patel mentioned.

"At Wadhwan primary school, the level of education was extremely pathetic. Class-5 students cannot do a simple subtraction of 42 minus 18.

ANTIQUÉ GUNS



Administrator General and Official Trustee of West Bengal Biplab Roy shows 15 antique guns received from Royal Bengal Arms for State Judicial Museum and Research Centre, in Kolkata, Monday.

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मोटापे का इलाज

चर्चस्वी नाका, घुमलारी रोड, कलर्स मॉल के पास, रावतपुर कॉल : 9827143060/8871003060
 Aajay 9827144371