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BRIEF



Boys jump in the waters of Dal Lake during a hot summer day, in Srinagar, Monday.

Overturn

Dehradun: At least 25 pilgrims from Punjab were injured when a bus in which they were returning from the Reetha Sahib Gurudwara overturned in Uttarakhand's Champawat district, police said on Monday. The accident occurred on NH-9 near Dhaun on Sunday night when the bus carrying around 50 pilgrims was on its way to the Ropar district in Punjab.

Raid

Bengaluru: Central Crime Branch sleuths of the city police raided three dance bars operating illegally in the city and arrested nine people, booked 210 customers and rescued 87 women, police said on Monday. Police said conducted the raids based on complaints they received about illegal live bands playing in bars where women were forced to dance in front of customers.

Jail term

Mumbai: A special court in Mumbai has sentenced three persons, including a woman, to 10 years in jail in connection with the rape of a minor girl. Laysis Mohammad, Razaula Ansari and Afrin Khan were found guilty of rape under the Indian Penal Code and Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act.

Booked

Indore: A 21-year-old man allegedly wore a fake uniform of Border Security Force (BSF) personnel and tried to enter the premises of the Central Ordnance and War Skills School (CSWT) in Madhya Pradesh's Indore, police said on Monday.

Dead

Hyderabad: A Right to Information (RTI) activist was killed in Telangana's Jangaon district in an apparent fallout of a land issue and three persons have been arrested for allegedly kidnapping and killing the retired Mandal Parishad Development Officer (MPDO), police said on Monday.

Weather
High 41 Low 30

MARKET
NIFTY 18755.45
SENSEX 63168.30

BULLION
GOLD 59193
SILVER 72532

IPS officer Ravi Sinha appointed RAW chief

Goel who completes his four-year stint on June 30.

Being the number two in the organisation, where he has served for more than two decades, Sinha has been credited with making a significant progress in employing modern technology in the process of intelligence gathering.

In his new role, Sinha is expected to integrate technological and human intelligence dimensions to address the challenges of today's times. The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the appointment of 59-year-old Sinha, a 1988-batch IPS officer of Chhattisgarh cadre, as the Secretary RAW for a tenure of two years, according to an order issued



by the Ministry of Personnel. Considered a specialist on countries in India's immediate neighbourhood, Sinha's appointment comes at a time when Pakistan is politically and economically unstable, Sikh extremism is being fanned from abroad and attempts are being made in the northeast, especially in Manipur, to

Technical expert....

Ravi Sinha is currently the special secretary at the Cabinet Secretariat, and is known for his nuanced understanding of sensitive issues such as Jammu and Kashmir, the Northeast and LWE (Left Wing Extremism). With the elevation of Sinha to the coveted post, the government has again underscored the importance of operational capability of intelligence agencies. Incidentally, R&AW's counterpart, Intelligence Bureau, which is tasked with domestic intelligence, is also headed by an officer with 'operations' background. Mr Sinha's batchmate Tapan Deka, who heads the Intelligence Bureau, was head of operations in IB for many years.

promote violence. Sinha is at present heading the operations wing of the Research and Analysis Wing (RAW). His batchmate Tapan Deka is heading the Intelligence Bureau. An alumnus of St Stephen's College in Delhi, Sinha has worked in a wide range of fields and brings to his new role an impressive bank of experi-

ence and knowledge. He is known to have a sound grip on developments in India's neighbourhood, besides Jammu and Kashmir, Northeast and areas hit by the Left Wing Extremism where he has severed at different points in time. His predecessor Goel was appointed RAW chief for two years in June 2019.

26 people injured as bus hits bridge railing

Raigarh, Jun 19 (PTI): Twenty six people were injured when a private bus they were travelling in rammed into the railing of a bridge in Chhattisgarh's Raigarh district on Monday, police said. The condition of two of the injured persons was critical, they said. The accident took place at around 8 am at Darri Dipa railway overbridge near Gharghoda area, a police official here said. The private bus was heading to Lailunga from Raigarh when the driver lost control of the wheels. The ve-

hicle then hit the railing wall of the bridge and got stuck, he said. Twenty six passengers received injuries in the accident. Eight of them are undergoing treatment at Raigarh district hospital, the official said. The 18 other injured persons were discharged after being provided preliminary treatment at Gharghoda primary health centre, he said. The police have seized the bus. Efforts were on to trace the driver who fled from the spot after the accident, the official said.

Three die of suffocation after fire engulfs commercial complex

Korba, Jun 19 (PTI): Three persons died of suffocation after a fire broke out at a commercial complex in Chhattisgarh's Korba city on Monday afternoon, an official said.

Seventeen persons, who were rescued from the complex, have been hospitalised, he said.

The blaze broke out around 1.30 pm in a garment shop in the two-storey complex near Transport Nagar square, and gradually spread to other establishments, Korba collector Sanjeev Kumar Jha told PTI. The



complex houses 18 to 20 shops and a branch of a bank, he said. In a video of the incident, some people can be seen jumping from a corner of the first floor onto a mattress held by people standing below.

About the incident..

The blaze broke out around 1.30 pm in a garment shop in the two-storey complex near Transport Nagar square, and gradually spread to other establishments. Within 15 minutes of being alerted, fire fighting teams from NTPC, CSEB (Chhattisgarh State Electricity Board) and Balco reached the spot and personnel from the police, home guard and Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) launched a rescue operation.

Buddyminton!

Amul Two good

Wanted in India, KTF chief shot dead

New Delhi, Jun 19 (PTI):

Canada-based Khalistan Tiger Force (KTF) chief Hardeep Singh Nijjar, one of the most-wanted terrorists in India who carried a cash reward of Rs 10 lakh on his head, was shot dead outside a gurdwara in the north American country, officials here said on Monday.



said Nijjar was shot by two unidentified assailants and died on the spot.

When his body was being moved from the scene by the Canadian police, a group of Sikhs raised pro-Khalistan and anti-India slogans, according to the officials.

Nijjar was one of the most-wanted terrorists in India for his alleged involvement in terror activities in the country.

'Adipurush' faces protests across India, ban in Nepal

ADIPURUSH ROW



Activists of a Hindu organization in Sagra protest against the movie 'Adipurush' at a mall, in Varanasi.

Ayodhya seers join protest

While seers in Ayodhya demanded an immediate ban on the film saying its dialogues made their "blood boil", in Varanasi, a group of people staged a protest and tore posters of the Om Raut-directed film. A Hindu outfit also staged a protest outside a theatre in the temple town of Mathura.

Earns Rs 340 cr in 3 days

New Delhi, Jun 19 (PTI):

"Adipurush", a lavish multilingual retelling of the Ramayana, was at the centre of protests in several cities on Monday and led to a ban on all Hindi films in Nepal with Union minister Anurag Thakur stepping in to say that nobody has the right to hurt the sentiments of people.

As the row over the film escalated and audiences in various parts of Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra

Dialogue-writer Manoj Shukla given security

The Mumbai Police are providing security to Manoj Muntashir Shukla, the dialogue writer of the film "Adipurush", after he cited a threat to his life, an official said on Monday. Police have intensified patrolling near Shukla's office in suburban Mumbai and adequate security is also being provided at his residence.

and Delhi took to the streets, Mumbai Police agreed to give security to dialogue writer Manoj Muntashir Shukla on his request.

The film, directed by Om Raut and fronted by Prabhas and Kriti Sanon, has come under attack for its dialogue, colloquial language and representation of some characters from

the much-loved mythological epic.

In Nepal as well, "Adipurush" provoked ire over its dialogues, but particularly for its mention of Sita as "India's daughter". Screening of "Adipurush" and all other Hindi films has been banned in the country until the film's team makes desired changes.

Big change soon in NPS

New Delhi, Jun 19:

Pension fund regulator PFRDA is planning to introduce a systematic withdrawal plan to give flexibility to pension account holders to withdraw a lump sum fund as per their choice on completion of 60 years.

"The new plan will allow NPS subscribers to periodically withdraw - either monthly, quarterly, half-yearly or annually till the age of 75 years," PFRDA Chairperson Deepak Mohanty said.

The new plan, which is expected to be ready by September or October this year, will enable the subscribers to get a steady return till the age of 75 years, he added. At present, the subscribers of the National Pension

Notable factor...

The new plan, which is expected to be ready by September or October this year, will enable the Subscribers to get a steady return till the age of 75 years, PFRDA Chairperson Deepak Mohanty said.

Scheme or NPS can withdraw up to 60 per cent of the retirement corpus after turning 60 years as a lump sum while the remaining 40 per cent mandatorily goes into buying an annuity.

"This plan will be attractive for those NPS subscribers who do not wish to withdraw 60 per cent of their corpus at once go," said Mr Mohanty. Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority or PFRDA increased the entry age up to 70 and the exit age to 75 keeping in

view longevity. NPS is a portable retirement savings account. Under the NPS, the individual contributes to their retirement account. The employer can also co-contribute for the social security of the employee.

NPS comprises contributions from government employees and the other part is the private sector. Mr Mohanty had said earlier, adding the government sector is on autopilot because they keep coming on their own, but there is a need to grow on the private side.

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UN Headquarters, New York (USA), 21st June 2023 | 8 AM EST | 5:30 PM IST

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'Scam' in Ch'garh PSC will be probed by CBI if BJP forms govt: Surya

Tejaswi Surya, Arun Sao and other BJP, BJYM leaders arrested for trying to gherao CM House
Protest against irregularities in CGPSC selection



Raipur, Jun 19: BJP leader Tejaswi Surya on Monday said a CBI probe will be ordered in the alleged scam in Chhattisgarh Public Service Commission if the saffron party returns to power after Assembly polls later this year. He alleged Chhattisgarh chief minister Bhupesh Baghel has become a "collection master" in liquor, coal, and PSC scams. He claimed the state government has turned the examination body into a money collection company. Surya, who is the national president of BJP's youth wing Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM), was in Raipur where a protest was organised to gherao the official residence of the chief minister. He and other workers of BJYM were stopped by the police at a barricade placed at Kali Mandir Chowk and detained. They were released later. Raipur police deployed a posse of personnel and placed barricades at several places on roads leading to Baghel's residence to stop protestors. "Last time, I had said Bhupesh Baghel ji is not a chief minister anymore

but has become an ATM of Sonia Gandhi. My month-old statement has been proved right now as the CM has been showing his capability as a collection master in liquor scam, coal scam and PSC scam in the state," the Bangalore South MP alleged while addressing protesters. He said public service commissions in states are known for the transparent selection process. "But going by the selection of candidates in the last 3-4 years, I can say the Chhattisgarh PSC is the worst and most corrupt commission in the country," he added. Irregularities and corruption in CGPSC show the commission raj of the collection master, Surya said while targeting Baghel. Addressing the party workers Dr Raman Singh said that Congress should

look at youths who gathered under the scorching sun. This is a great message of change, he said. All the big leaders of BJP appeared on the state at the gathering held near Sarpre School ground prior to taking out march to gherao CM House. Arun Sao in his address said that this struggle was not for votes and power; rather it was to secure future, self-respect, dreams of lakhs of youths and their parents and maintain Chhattisgarhi self-respect. He said that this struggle was against Congress which played with youth's future by committing CGPSC scam. Citing the names of some candidates, the BJP leader said they belong to families of Congress leaders and have cleared the exam. "When youths ask the chief minister about

the PSC scam he says is it a crime to be a son of politicians and bureaucrats. I wanted to say that it is not a crime to be the son of politicians and officials but in Baghel's government it is a crime not to be the son of politicians and bureaucrats," he added. "If BJP is elected to power in the upcoming Assembly elections, the alleged PSC scam that happened during the last three years will be probed by the CBI. Those who are directly or indirectly linked to the alleged scam and the candidates who were selected through a wrong process will be put behind bars," the BJYM president said. He promised that scandal-ridden exams will be cancelled and held afresh, exams will be video recorded, and a transparent examination system will be put in place.

Administrative preparations for G-20 meeting in Raipur

● **Chief Secretary holds a meeting of the State Level Coordination Committee**

Raipur, Jun 19: The administrative preparations for arrangements for G-20 meeting proposed on September 18-19 in Chhattisgarh capital Raipur were discussed at the state level coordination committee meeting chaired by Chief Secretary Amitabh Jain at Mantralaya (Mahanadi Bhavan) here today. The Chief Secretary reviewed the work being done for the arrangements for the G-20 summit with the state level nodal officers appointed for various arrangements. Before the G-20 meeting, a comprehensive discussion was held regarding cleanliness, beautification, traffic and security arrangements of important roads of the capital, necessary arrangements for the foreign delegates coming to the G-20 meeting and necessary instructions were given to the officials. The Chief Secretary instructed the officers that arrangements should be made through



hoardings to display important historical and tourist destinations of Chhattisgarh from airport to Hotel Mayfair, the proposed venue for the meeting. The Chief Secretary also directed the state nodal officers to coordinate with the nodal officers appointed by the Government of India for the G-20 meetings. He has asked the nodal officers to ensure preparations for all the arrangements from now itself. The Chief Secretary instructed the officers to impart training to various officers related to security and traffic system. The Chief Secretary also directed the state nodal officers to coordinate with the nodal officers appointed by the Government of India for the G-20 meetings. He asked the nodal of-

icers to ensure preparations for all the arrangements. The Chief Secretary instructed the officers to impart training to various officers related to security and traffic system. Similarly, instructions were given to the officials of the Urban Administration Department to display culture and diversity, to make necessary preparations for artistic painting and beautification work on the walls along the roads. Instructions were given to the concerned officials to prepare G-20 themed crafts fair, dance and music, promotion videos of tourist places and to make necessary preparations for coordination for the G-20 meeting. The Chief Secretary instructed the officials to prepare a list of the citizens of Chhattisgarh resid-

ing in the countries participating in the G-20 meeting in Raipur. Officers of NRDA, Urban Administration, Police, District Administration Raipur and other departments gave information regarding the preparations for G-20 meeting through presentation. The Chief Secretary gave instructions to the officers that necessary arrangements should be made at Purkhauti Mukhtangan, Jungle Safari in Nava Raipur, Sirpur, Champaran, Kaushilya Mata Mandir etc. Principal Secretary, Home and Forest Department, Manoj Kumar Pingua, Secretary, Culture and Tourism Department, Anbalagan P., Secretary, Finance Department, Ankit Anand, Secretary, School Education Department, Dr S Bharathidasan, Secretary, Urban Administration Department Dr Ayaz Tamboli, IG Raipur Range Ajay Yadav, Director Culture and Archeology Vivek Acharya, Collector Raipur Dr Sarveshwar Narendra Bhure and officers of various departments participated in the meeting.

World Sickle Cell Day at Ambedkar Hospital

Raipur, Jun 19: The PG students of the Department of Medicine at Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar Memorial Hospital, Raipur conducted an awareness program in the presence of Head of the Department Dr DP Lakra, Dr S Chandravanshi, Dr CS Sharma & Dr Nemesh on the occasion of World Sickle Cell Day on Monday. As sickle cell disease is very prevalent in



Chhattisgarh, patients visiting the OPD were explained in detail about

Sickle Cell disease, types and symptoms associated with it. They were also en-

lightened about the genetics involved in the disease and how family members should undergo testing for the same. There was a brief highlight on management of sickle cell disease, complications and how to prevent crisis with the help of posters. At the end of the program, patient's queries were addressed in an interactive session.

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'MMY' will now be implemented in all the 44 municipalities of the state

- Major decision of Chief Minister Mr. Bhupesh Baghel
- Presently this scheme is being implemented in 14 Municipal Corporations
- So far 96,258 people have got their certificates issued under the scheme

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, June 19: For the convenience of people in the state, Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel has decided to expand implementation of the popular "Mukhyamantri Mitan Yojana" (MMY) in all the 44 municipalities of the state. Under this scheme, people will be able to get their certificates and necessary government documents issued from the comfort of their home. Presently, this scheme

is being implemented in 14 municipal corporations of the state.

The popularity of this scheme can be gauged from the fact that 96 thousand 258 people have availed the benefits of this scheme so far from the date of its launch i.e. from May 01, 2022. With the commencement of this scheme, people no longer have to run pillar to post at Municipal Corporation, Tehsil and other government offices to get their necessary certificates and official documents issued.

So far, 96 thousand 258 people have received the government documents of their requirement at their doorstep, under Mukhyamantri Mitan Yojana. Till date, 01 lakh 13 thousand 234 people have called on the toll free number 14545 to get their govern-

ment documents made. This scheme has proven to be of great help and convenience for the senior citizens, Divyangjan, laborers, farmers, women and common people.

Following services, documents and certificates can be obtained under Mukhyamantri Mitan Yojana, domicile certificate, scheduled caste/tribe certificate, other backward class certificate, income certificate, copy of land record, death certificate, marriage registration and certificate, birth certificate, documents related to correction, shop and establishment registration, death certificate correction, marriage certificate correction, Aadhaar card registration, (for children up to 5 years) Aadhaar card address and mobile number correction, new ration card

making, ration card transfer / surrender, ration card correction, new Ration Card APL, Ration Card Missing Case, Name Addition / Deletion in Ration Card, New BPL Ration Card.

Once can call on the toll-free number 14545 to avail Mukhyamantri Mitan Yojana. Once the appointment is booked on call, Mitan reaches the applicant's home on the specified time and date, collects the required documents and uploads them on the portal after verifying the documents through the tablet. The verified documents are then sent online to the concerned departments who issue the certificate after reviewing the documents pertaining to the applicant. After the certificate is issued, it is delivered to the applicant's house by Mitan.

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, June 19: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel paid a tribute to the Father of Journalism and Literature of the state, Pt. Madhavrao Sapre, on the occasion of his birth anniversary by garlanding his picture at the former's residential office today.

Remembering Sapre Ji, Chief Minister Baghel said that Chhattisgarh's journalism is prospering today because of the foundation laid by Sapreji. He has significantly contributed to the development of national and literary consciousness in Chhattisgarh.

Sapre's writing served as guidance to hundreds of Satyagrahis and inspired patriotism during



the freedom struggle. His valuable works in the field of journalism have given a new direction to Chhattisgarh.

Baghel said that Sapreji was committed to literature and the service of the nation throughout his life. Many articles and works written by him were published. He formed many

institutions through which people came forward to serve the nation and its people.

In 1900, despite the lack of adequate facilities and modern technology for publication, he started editing and publishing the monthly Hindi newspaper 'Chhattisgarh Mitra' in Pendra with the assistance of Waman Rao Lakhe Ji and Ram Rao Chincholkar Ji.

The story 'Tokri Bhar Mitti', written by Sapre Ji, has the distinction of being the first original Hindi story in Indian literature. The Chief Minister stated that the personality and the works of Pt. Madhavrao Sapre are inspirational for everyone, including litterateurs and journalists.

DK Sahu appointed President, Arvind Raj-VP



Central Chronicle News

Korba, June 19: The District President Chhattisgarh Akbar Vitkar Sangh (CAVS) Vipendra Kumar Sahu informed that in all the newspapers centres of Korba district, the agents and sub-agents have been appointed. In this context, a meeting at NTPC Coffee House was held that of CAVS Darri unit on Monday. In this, Jitendra Sahu was appointed as Patron; Deepak Kumar Sahu as

President, Arvind Raj as V-P; Ravinder Kumar as Secretary; Mukesh Kumar Sahu as Treasurer. The members of working committee are- Raghunath Vishwakarma, Arjun Sahu, Mohammed Aslam, Savan Kumar, Sagar Yadav, Manoj Das, Naresh Kavar, and others. On this occasion National Working Committee members- Vinod Kumar Sinha, District President Vipendra Kumar Sahu and District Secretary Jai Singh Netam were present.

CM Baghel inaugurates Pendra Press Club building

And a reading room constructed at a cost of Rs. 50 lakh

Central Chronicle News

Gourela, Pendra, Marwahi, June 19: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel reached the Pendra Press Club, where he inaugurated the press club building and reading room, constructed at a cost of Rs. 50 lakh. The building will cater to the needs of local journalists.

School students and competitive exam aspirants will benefit from the reading room. The Chief Minister also unveiled the statue of the Late Pt. Madhavrao Sapre.

The statue, built at a cost of Rs. 2 lakh, was unveiled



on Sapre Ji's 152nd birth anniversary today.

The Pandit Madhavrao Sapre Memorial Festival is also being organized on

this occasion. Eminent litterateurs and senior journalists from the country and the state are also attending the festival.

City Press Club Bagbahra formed

- To associate more members with it soon

Central Chronicle News

Bagbahra, June 19: The local print and electronic media representatives of Bagbahra have formed City Press Club Bagbahra and decision in this regard was taken after a meeting of all the newspapers representatives.

In this Krishnanand Dubey NDTV, Danvir Sharma- Navabharat, Dhananjay Tripathi- IBC-24; Vishnu Mahanand Pioneer; Mohit Sahu Patrika;

Salman Memon- Haribhoomi; Surendra Shrivastava Samvet Shikhar; Lalit Soni Deshbandhu; Raju Dewangan- Hello Bagbahra; Mayank Sharma Central Chronicle; Lalit Charadhari Samvad Sadhana were present.

In the meeting it was decided that in view of inconvenience in exchange of news of public representative, political parties, social institutions, government and non-government institutions and with that of general public that this City Press Club, Bagbahra has been formed In this regard,

through a press release it was informed that in the meeting the in-charge of Press Conference and others were appointed and decision was taken to ensure role in organising social, creative and intellectual activities as well.

In addition to this it was decided to associate more media representatives with the organisation. Further it was informed that information pertaining to formation of new Press Club is being sent to all the important persons, so that more and more persons can avail its benefit.

School bus checking camp organised as per SC guidelines

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, June 19: To ensure safe transportation of school students, Traffic Police Durg and Transport Department jointly organized a school bus checking camp at Police Ground in Sector 06. Under the guidance of SP Shalabh Sinha, 51 buses of 10 schools of the district were checked in the second phase.

The Transport Department officials checked the documents including registration, permit, fitness, insurance, PUC, road tax, driver's license etc. Thereafter, the mechanical fitness test of the vehicles was carried out, under which head light, brake light, parking light, indicator light, back light, meter, steering condition, tyre condition, clutch, accelerator, seat,



horn, wiper, reflectors etc were checked.

According to the criteria set by the Supreme Court, the joint team also checked GPS device in the vehicle, CCTV camera, speed governor, pressure horn, emergency window, display of school name, telephone number, mobile number of the driver, first aid box, fire extinguisher, etc in the school buses. Later, the health checkup of the drivers was done in

which BP, blood sugar level and eye test, etc was done by the team of District Hospital Durg.

Traffic Police challaned 13 school buses including 01 without uniform, 01 without fire extinguisher, 06 without wipers and 05 vehicles were chhalaned for not having seat belts. A total fine of Rs 3900 was collected. The schools have been instructed to rectify the defects within a week and get the vehicles



re-checked.

Deputy Superintendent of Police (Traffic) Satish Thakur gave detailed information about traffic signals, traffic signals to the drivers. He asked them not to be negligent while driving, conductors were asked not to stand at the door and ensure safety of children. They were also counselled for not consuming any kind of intoxicant.

Satish Thakur, Deputy

Superintendent of Police, Inspector Kujbihari Nage, Inspector DP Chandra and Inspector Vishnu Thakur supervised the vehicle checking. Documents were checked by Inspector Aruna Sahu. Transport Department, Durg.

ASI Tarakeshwar Singh, ASI Babu Lal (CAF First Battalion), Head Constable Satyender Singh and Constable Vinod Jaiswal (CAF, 7th Battalion), ASI Madhav

Sahu (Police Lines) and staff of MT Department conducted the mechanical examination. Chandrika Prasad, Sushil Pandey and Mahesh Mishra checked the compliance of SC guidelines.

The medical camp for drivers was conducted by Eye Assistant Officer (District Hospital Durg) Mohd Ejaz, Mukesh Sharma, MR Shaikh. Cops pasted OK stickers on the vehicles which were found to be fully fit.

The vehicles carrying these stickers would not be stopped during the routine checking while those vehicles found without sticker will be stopped and checked. In the coming days, another camp will be organised for the left over school buses and such institutions where school students are transported through small vehicles.

Daya Singh invites Tejasvi Surya to visit Bhilai



Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, June 19: BJP Corporator Deputy Leader of Opposition at BMC, Daya Singh met the BJYM National President Tejasvi Surya before the Chief Minister Residence gherao organized in Raipur.

In this meeting, Daya Singh detailed him about the shortcomings of the Chhattisgarh government and said that the youth have resolved to overthrow the Congress government of Chhattisgarh in the assem-

bly elections.

Daya Singh also informed him that BJP urban body unit and youths are continuously protesting against the state government. He had also staged gherao at Municipal Corporation Bhilai a few days ago.

He has been consistently vocal about the issues of corruption. He has also invited Tejasvi Surya to come to Bhilai. Surya has accepted the invitation and said he would come soon. He appreciated the works of Daya Singh.

BJP top leadership invited for Vastu Puja at BJP Office

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, June 19: BJP Bhilai District Organisation is organising Vastu Puja and Satyanarayan Katha Puja at its office situated in Priyadarshini Parisar (East) on June



20. The religious rituals would commence at 10:00 hrs and conclude around 14:00 hrs. BJP Bhilai

Raman Singh, State President Arun Sao, State General Secretary Organization Pawan Sai, Leader of Opposition Narayan Chandel, State Treasurer Nandan Jain, Subhash Rao and other senior leaders to attend the Vastu Pujan at the new BJP office. District Secretary Jai Prakash Yadav was also present on this occasion.

180 applications received in Jandarshan

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, June 19: Collector Pushpendra Kumar Meena met the people at the Jandarshan organized in the Collectorate hall on Monday and listened to their demands and problems. He directed the concerned officials to take necessary initiative to dispose of the applications at the earliest. 180 applications were received in Jandarshan, including applications related to illegal possession, distribution, financial assistance, demarcation, admission in Swami Atmanand School, ration card, etc.

A resident of village Dargaon submitted an application for electricity connection in the agricultural field. In his application, the villagers stated that the survey has been done by the Electricity Department for the installation of 5 electric poles in the fields. Along with this, he has also deposited the money for installing the poles, but till now the electricity department has not initiated action. In absence of electric sup-



ply, the farmers are unable to irrigate their fields even after having bore wells. The collector directed the electricity department to take necessary action in view of the inconvenience of the farmers.

Farmers of some other villages also reached Jandarshan and complained that there are 4-5 chemical companies in Hathkhaj industrial area and they dump the waste chemical in the drains. This nala passes through Aklor, Jarwai, Surdung and Nadauri villages. Cattle are falling sick after drinking the

water of this drain. Along with this, due to the mixing of waste chemicals in the rivers, ponds and drinking water sources of the nearby villages, the health of the villagers is also being affected. Along with this, due to the smell of chemicals, people are also suffering from respiratory diseases and this chemical is making an adverse effect on the fields as well. The farmers are facing difficulties in agriculture. The Collector instructed to take immediate action on this complaint.

A resident of Arsnara village said that during the rainy season the water from the village ground fills up in his house, due to which he has to face a lot of problems. There is a possibility of the house collapsing anytime in the rainy season because there is no way to drain the water. There is a small pipeline in the road, but it is not able to drain the entire water. In the application, he requested to provide safety to the residential house by installing bigger pipes for drainage. The Collector instructed the CEO District Durg to take necessary action.

The Government post-matric tribal boy hostellers complained that the playground of the hostel has been encroached to construct another building. The hostel inmates are not able to find a suitable place to play and are getting deprived of sports. The Collector instructed the concerned department to take immediate action.

A resident of Bhilai submitted an application for allotment of a house on the ground floor under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana. A resident of Shantinagar applied for tap connection. Residents of Arya Nagar Kohka said that due to the encroachment of road and drain in the locality by other people, the flow of drainage of water has stopped. The residents of the locality are facing a lot of problems. All the residents of the locality submitted an application to the Collector for removal of illegal encroachment. On this, the Collector directed the Municipal Corporation Bhilai to take necessary action.

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Chronicle

Three looted Church's Father of Rs 1.20 lakh on gun-point

Dy. Director holds review of schemes and implementation

From his house in Catholic Church near Jalap Chowk



Central Chronicle News

Bagbahra, JunE 19: Three unknown thieves ransacked the house of Father Catholic Church near Jhalap Chowk on Sunday afternoon and looted Rs 1.25 lakh kept in the Almira of his house on a gun-point in broad daylight.

the thieves and DSP Garima Dadar is looking into the case, as the 'TI' if out of station. This is first incident of its kind of theft and looting in a church in the city. So far there were incidents of thefts in temple. The incident is that of 11:30 am, at that time Father Varghese Tekke Kutty was reading a newspaper on a chair after offering prayers in the Church and while doing so he fell asleep.

and got awake and before entering they said that they want to offer prayers and on which Father agreed and got up. But a masked person with black cloth on his face asked him to sit down and took him on gun-point and asked as to where he has kept the cash by two unmasked persons.

found it inside the Almira which was un-locked and took away cash of Rs 1.20 lakh kept inside the almira. They even searched the other baggage kept below the bed and searched everything inside it and below the mattress as well.

Father Varghese informed the police that the thieves even threatened him of death using the sharp 'gandasa' kept inside his room. After looting the entire cash, the thieves handcuffed him using a tape and tied his

legs using a scarf and locked the gate from outside before leaving. After this Father Varghese informed that he tore open the tape with his teeth and then untied his legs and getting up knocked at the wooden panes of the window. But since it was afternoon, no one was there and if failed to make any impact.

He used a screwdriver to unscrew the All-drop in the door and came out and informed going to sister's quarters and later informed to the police. DSP Garima Dadar informed that investigation is going on at different angles and nearby CCTVs are being cross-checked.

Meanwhile the looting at the gun-point in the Church has become centre of discussion in the city. Information about three persons on a Scooty made viral in the social media was cross-checked by Ms Dadar from TI, but he could not be contacted.



Of gov't schemes for Agriculture dept

Central Chronicle News

Koriya, June 19: The Dy Director Agriculture Department informed that it was under chairmanship of Joint Director Agriculture Surguja div. Yashwant Keram, a review meeting with all the officers and employees of the agriculture department was held in context of preparations for 2023 Khariff yr and about implementation of depart-

mental schemes. In the above meeting, Dy Director (Agri), SDM (Agriculture) Baikunthpur, senior Agricultur Development Officer Baikunthpur and Sonhat and all other officers and employees of the department and Agri Expansion officers were present.

schemes viz. Godhan Nyay Yojana; Rajiv Gandhi Kissan Nyay Yojana; special work plan for Millet mission; target achievement as per crop production; storage of seeds, fertilizers and its distribution; quality of seeds and fertilizers; Kissan Credit; PM Kissan Samman Nidhi Yojana and other schemes and gave necessary instructions to all.

Apart from this he also directed the officers to ensure benefits to large number of farmers from important schemes of the state government for Khariff 2023.

Murmunda Chowk looming in darkness for last 1 month!



Pedestrians facing major problems

Central Chronicle News

Dongargarh, June 19: Ffour main roads culminate at the main chowk in Gram Murmunda of Dongargarh block and it is looming in darkness for last one year. Being pitch dark at the main chowk is posing lots of problems for the pedestrians. The local administration has installed CCTV camera at the Chowk in order keep vigil on activities, but in darkness it is also of no help.

foremld that the solar panel installed atopthe Gram Panchayat Bhavan has got damaged due to strong winds and hailstorms a month back and information about the same has been given to CREDA. Dueto this there is no light in the Gram Panchayat. The employees of CREDA department Rajnandgaon had even come and checked the damaged plates here in Gram Murmunda, but so far it has not being repaired and it is lying closed for last one month.

Group Yoga at Ramanuj Mini Stadium

Central Chronicle News

Koriya, June 19: On occasion of World Yoga Day on June 21, the district-level combined group Yoga programme will be held at city's Ramanuj Mini Stadium from 7:00 am to 8:00 am. For the district-level programme on occasion of Int'n'l Yoga Day, the SDM (Revenue) has been appointed as the Nodal Officer. Collector Vinay Kumar Laghe has directed all the concerned officers to ensure Yoga programmes in all the schools, Colleges, institutions, block hq's; urban bodies and at Gram Panchayat-level from 7:00 am 8:00 am. On Yoga day the school children will also take part in the district-level programme. In the urban bodies and block hq's level, the public representatives and Sarpanchs and other reps will take part in Yoga session at Gram Panchayat-level. In this district-level

Group Yoga programme, all the departmental heads and officers, employees beneath them have been asked to ensure the same and smooth conduct.

आम सूचना - नवद्वारा नगरपालिका के वार्ड नम्बर ११/११०५/१०६ न.प.स.६१, खा.मि.स. रा.सु.पु.स.१, वार्ड नम्बर ११/२०२, २२२, २२३, २२४, २२५, २२६, २२७, २२८, २२९, २३०, २३१, २३२, २३३, २३४, २३५, २३६, २३७, २३८, २३९, २४०, २४१, २४२, २४३, २४४, २४५, २४६, २४७, २४८, २४९, २५०, २५१, २५२, २५३, २५४, २५५, २५६, २५७, २५८, २५९, २६०, २६१, २६२, २६३, २६४, २६५, २६६, २६७, २६८, २६९, २७०, २७१, २७२, २७३, २७४, २७५, २७६, २७७, २७८, २७९, २८०, २८१, २८२, २८३, २८४, २८५, २८६, २८७, २८८, २८९, २९०, २९१, २९२, २९३, २९४, २९५, २९६, २९७, २९८, २९९, ३००, ३०१, ३०२, ३०३, ३०४, ३०५, ३०६, ३०७, ३०८, ३०९, ३१०, ३११, ३१२, ३१३, ३१४, ३१५, ३१६, ३१७, ३१८, ३१९, ३२०, ३२१, ३२२, ३२३, ३२४, ३२५, ३२६, ३२७, ३२८, ३२९, ३३०, ३३१, ३३२, ३३३, ३३४, ३३५, ३३६, ३३७, ३३८, ३३९, ३४०, ३४१, ३४२, ३४३, ३४४, ३४५, ३४६, ३४७, ३४८, ३४९, ३५०, ३५१, ३५२, ३५३, ३५४, ३५५, ३५६, ३५७, ३५८, ३५९, ३६०, ३६१, ३६२, ३६३, ३६४, ३६५, ३६६, ३६७, ३६८, ३६९, ३७०, ३७१, ३७२, ३७३, ३७४, ३७५, ३७६, ३७७, ३७८, ३७९, ३८०, ३८१, ३८२, ३८३, ३८४, ३८५, ३८६, ३८७, ३८८, ३८९, ३९०, ३९१, ३९२, ३९३, ३९४, ३९५, ३९६, ३९७, ३९८, ३९९, 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BRIEF



A family rides a country boat after fishing at the Kochi backwaters, Monday.

Bus overturns

Dehradun: At least 25 pilgrims from Punjab were injured when a bus in which they were returning from the Reetha Sahib Gurudwara overturned in Uttarakhand's Champawat district, police said on Monday. The accident occurred on NH-9 near Dhaun on Sunday night when the bus carrying around 50 pilgrims was on its way to the Ropar district in Punjab. Local police and the State Disaster Response Force carried out a relief and rescue operation, they said. Seven of the injured are in critical condition and have been referred to the district hospital in Haldwani, the police added.

Woman held

Thane: The Government Railway Police (GRP) have arrested woman who allegedly stole jewellery worth Rs 4.2 lakh from a commuter at a railway station in Maharashtra's Thane district last month, an official said on Monday. The Kalyan GRP crime branch arrested the woman on June 17 for the theft that took place at Thakurli railway station on May 21, senior inspector Asharuddin Shaikh. The complainant was waiting for a train at Thakurli railway station when her bag containing jewellery was stolen, he said.

History-sheeter dead

Malappuram: A murder accused was found dead in front of a shop in a town in this north Kerala district on Monday morning, police said. They said Adam (43) was found dead in front of the shop inside the bus stand in Tirur with a serious head injury. Adam is accused in around 10 criminal cases, including a murder case in 2018. He was out on bail, police said. "He was a habitual offender. There are nearly 10 cases against him. He usually sleeps in front of some shops in the bus stand. There's a serious injury to the head, but the reason for death can be ascertained only after the post mortem," a senior police official told PTI.

Tributes paid

Chandigarh: The Punjab Assembly on Monday paid tributes to the Odisha rail tragedy victims, former chief minister Parkash Singh Badal, actor Mangal Dhillon and other departed members. The opening day of the two-day assembly session began here with obituary references. Among others, the House also paid tributes to former minister Chaudhary Swarna Ram, ex-MLA Rupal Chand, freedom fighter Ujagar Singh, martyr Mandeep Singh and boxer Kaur Singh, who passed away recently.

LG reviews Amarnath Yatra preparations

Srinagar, Jun 19 (PTI)

Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Monday directed for higher resource mobilisation and increasing manpower to ensure the completion of all the ongoing work in time for the commencement of the Amarnath Yatra next month.

The LG chaired a high-level meeting to review the preparedness for the annual pilgrimage to the 3,888-metre-high cave shrine in the south Kashmir Himalayas and took stock of the preparedness of the departments and agencies concerned.

The meeting was attended by Mandeep Kumar Bhandari, CEO, Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board (SASB), GOC, 15 Corps, Lieutenant General Rajiv Ghai and other senior officials of the civil administration, SASB, Border

Roads Organisation (BRO) and representatives of telecommunication service providers.

Sinha directed the officials for higher resource mobilisation and increasing manpower to ensure the completion of all related work well before the scheduled commencement of the yatra on July 1. He was apprised of the work to upgrade the yatra tracks by the BRO, the installation of safety railings on all vulnerable stretches, snow clearance, installation of Army tents and strengthening of the telecommunication network.

The LG directed the telecom service providers to enhance the network connectivity and increase the bandwidth along the yatra route.

He also took stock of the work taken up by the irrigation and flood control department.

Army commander reviews Amarnath Yatra preparations

Udhampur (J&K), Jun 19 (PTI) Multi-tiered arrangements, including night vision devices, snipers, drone systems and dog squads, will be put in place to ensure foolproof security during the upcoming Amarnath Yatra, officials said on Monday.

According to the Army officials, the road stretches on the twin routes of the pilgrimage to the 3,888-metre-high cave shrine are almost clear. This was revealed during the inspection-cum-review of the yatra arrangements by Northern Army commander Lieutenant General Upendra Dwivedi, the officials said.

The 62-day pilgrimage to the cave shrine in the south Kashmir Himalayas is scheduled to start on July 1 and continue till August 31. The Amarnath Yatra takes place annually via two routes —

the southern route through Baital in Ganderbal and the northern route through Pahalgam in Anantnag district. "Army commanders reviewed the ongoing preparations for the Amarnath Yatra that will commence on July 1 for two months," PRO, Defence, Udhampur, Lieutenant Colonel Devende Anand said. The Army commander inspected the arrangements on both the routes of the yatra. He was briefed on the multi-tiered security arrangements, including night vision devices, snipers, drone systems, bomb disposal squads, dog squads, counter-IED equipment, vehicle repair-and-recovery teams to ensure a smooth movement of convoys and synergy with civil agencies, to ensure that the yatra is incident-free, Lieutenant Colonel Anand said.

AMBUBACHI MELA



A sadhu blows conch with others ahead of the annual Ambubachi mela at the Kamakhya temple in Guwahati, Monday.

BJP MP Diya Kumari to Union minister 'Reconsider decision to have weekly off in tiger reserves'

Jaipur, Jun 19 (PTI)

BJP MP Diya Kumari has requested Union minister Bhupender Yadav to reconsider the decision to have a weekly off in tiger reserves, saying such a closure in addition to the mandatory 92-day monsoon shutdown would affect the tourism-based local economy.

"Tiger reserves are closed for 92 days every year during the monsoon. The provision of weekly offs would further reduce the number of days tourism can be allowed. This would affect the tourism-based local economy," the MP from Rajsamand in Rajasthan said.

Kumari, a member of the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA), said the provi-

sion of weekly offs would not serve any conservation purpose and staffers of tiger reserves can be given weekly offs on a rotational basis.

In a statement, she said she has requested the Union minister for environment, forest and climate change to reconsider the issue and advise the NTCA to withdraw its order that will come into effect from July 1, 2023.

Tiger reserves across the country will be observing a weekly off according to the NTCA order.

Rajasthan has four tiger reserves — Ranthambore Tiger Reserve (Sawai Madhopur), Sariska Tiger Reserve (Alwar), Mukundra Tiger Reserve (Kota) and Ramgarh Vishdhari Tiger Reserve (Bundi).

Significant no of students across globe struggling to gain foundational literacy and numeracy skills: Education MoS

Pune, Jun 19 (PTI)

Various surveys from across the globe suggest that there is a learning crisis and a significant portion of students in elementary school are struggling to gain Foundational Literacy and Numeracy skills, Union Minister of State for Education Rajkumar Ranjan Singh said on Monday.

"The ability to read and write, and perform basic operations with numbers, is a necessary foundation and an indispensable prerequisite for all future schooling and lifelong learning. Various surveys from across the globe suggest that we are in a learning crisis and a significant portion of students in elementary school are struggling to gain FLN," he said.

"Attaining Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN) for all children thus becomes an urgent priority for our educational systems requiring immediate measures to be taken on many fronts and with clear goals which will be attained in the short term (including that every student will attain foundational literacy and numeracy by Class 3)," he added.

The minister made the comments during a keynote address at the fourth and final G20 Education Working Group (EdWG) meeting.

"India's G20 EdWG Presidency is focused on building and carrying forward deliberations in past presidencies and on addressing concerns which

are impediment in realising full transformational potential of education by bridging gaps in quality education and skilling, as well as on accelerating the pursuit of the SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals).

"Our new National Education Policy lays particular emphasis on the development of the creative potential of each individual as it is based on the principle that education must develop not only cognitive capacities — both the foundational capacities of literacy and numeracy and higher-order cognitive capacities, such as critical thinking and problem solving — but also social, ethical, and emotional capacities and dispositions," he said.

The Shiv Sena (UBT) on Monday mocked former Maharashtra governor Bhagat Singh Koshiyari by asking him to write to the United Nations to declare June 20, the day Eknath Shinde's rebellion that brought down the Uddhav Thackeray government last year began, as 'World Traitor Day'.

Koshiyari was the governor when the rebellion, the split in the Shiv Sena and the fall of the state government took place and he has been at the centre of accusations from Maha Vikas Aghadi constituents of acting in a partisan manner to benefit the Bharatiya Janata Party. Koshiyari's role in the chain of events that led to the formation of the Shinde government with the support of the BJP was also criticised by the

Danve asks Koshiyari to get UN to declare June 20 as 'World Traitor Day'

Mumbai, Jun 19 (PTI)

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Supreme Court while hearing petitions on disqualification of rebel Shiv Sena MLAs.

In a letter laced with sarcasm, Leader of Opposition in the Maharashtra Legislative Council Ambadas Danve asked Koshiyari to write to the UN to declare June 20, when several MLAs including Shinde left for Surat in Gujarat and then to Guwahati in Assam, as 'World Traitor Day'.

"Shinde's decision is said to have taken note by some 32-33 countries. If so many people across the globe are keen on it, it should be declared as World Traitor Day. I request you to pursue the matter with the United Nations through your Delhi-based lords (a reference to the BJP-led Centre)," Danve, a senior Shiv Sena (UBT) leader, said.

Cabinet approves amendment to Sikh Gurdwara Act to ensure 'free telecast' of Gurbani from Golden Temple

Chandigarh, Jun 19 (PTI)

The Punjab Cabinet on Monday approved a proposal to amend the Sikh Gurdwara Act, 1925 to ensure "free telecast rights" of Gurbani from the Golden Temple, Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann said.

Mann also said that the

government will bring an amendment Bill in the state assembly in this regard.

According to an official statement, Mann said the Sikh Gurdwara (Amendment) Act, 2023 will pave the way for eliminating the undue control of 'modern day masands' over the free to air telecast

of the sacred Gurbani.

The statement quoted Mann said the Cabinet has approved to amend the Sikh Gurdwara Act, 1925 and to insert Section 125 A in the Act thereby casting duty on the SGPC to ensure "free to air" live telecast of the holy Gurbani from Sri Harmandir Sahib (Golden Temple).

Congress to stage protests against Centre for 'denying' rice to fulfil poll guarantee

Bengaluru, June 19 (PTI)

The Congress in Karnataka will stage demonstrations on Tuesday across all district headquarters against the BJP-led Central government for "denying" rice for the State's 'Anna Bhagya' scheme which offers 10 kg rice to each member of families living below the poverty line.

The Centre recently discontinued the sale of rice and wheat from the central pool under the Open Market Sale Scheme (OMSS) to state governments.

According to an order is-

sued by the Food Corporation of India (FCI), "The sale of wheat and rice under the OMSS (domestic) for state governments is discontinued". However, the sale of rice under the OMSS will be continued for north-eastern states, hilly states and states facing law and order situations, natural calamities at an existing rate of Rs 3,400 per quintal, it said.

The move comes amid the slow progress of the monsoon and rising prices of rice and wheat. Rice prices have increased by up to 10 per cent in the last one year at the mandi level

and by 8 per cent in the last one month, as per official data.

Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar, who is also the Congress state president, said on Monday the protest is against the Centre for "troubling the state government by denying rice". "The Centre has decided to trouble us so that we cannot give rice to the poor people. We are not asking them to give us rice free of cost. There has been a system from the beginning. If there was rice in the central warehouses, it was given to those demanding it," Shivakumar told reporters here. "We

will stage a demonstration across all the district headquarters in the state tomorrow. We have asked our leaders to participate. I will also participate in the agitation in Bengaluru," he said.

Meanwhile, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said the state needs 2.28 lakh metric tonnes of rice to fulfill its "guarantee" scheme of 10 kg rice under the Anna Bhagya scheme. "Only Chhattisgarh has offered us 1.5 lakh metric tonnes. Nowhere else rice in such a huge quantity is available, including Punjab," Siddaramaiah told reporters.

FARMERS DEMANDING COMPENSATION



Members of Rayat Kranti Sanghatana and farmers block Solapur-Tuljapur highway demanding adequate compensation for the acquisition of land for road construction projects, in Solapur, Monday.

RTI activist found dead in quarry lake

Hyderabad, June 19 (PTI):

Three persons were arrested for allegedly kidnapping and killing a retired Mandal Parishad Development Officer (MPDO) and RTI activist over a land dispute, police said on Monday. The murder of 70-year-old Nalla Ramakrishnaiah came to light on Sunday when his body was found in a water-filled quarry in Jangaon district, three days after he went missing, they said adding that his son had earlier filed a missing complaint. G Anjaiah, the prime accused, who had a dispute with Ramakrishnaiah, nursed a grudge against him for complaining against him to government officials over a land issue, police said. He allegedly hired a supari (contract

killing) gang to eliminate him, a police official said.

The gang members allegedly kidnapped Ramakrishnaiah on June 15 at Pochannapeta. They "strangled" him to death and dumped the body in a quarry pond, police said.

Police apprehended Anjaiah and two supari killers on Sunday and efforts are on to nab other absconding accused, based on interrogations. Ramakrishnaiah had filed RTI applications, civil suits in the court and had also approached Human Rights Commission against Anjaiah for cancellation of pattas pertaining to a government-assigned land in Pochannapeta village which he had allegedly occupied.

Amid rising mercury

Adityanath ask officials to ensure no power cuts happen

Lucknow, Jun 19 (PTI)

In view of the heatwave conditions in Uttar Pradesh, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath Monday held a meeting with the officials asking them to ensure no unnecessary power cuts happen in the state and said there should be a provision to purchase more electricity if needed. The issue of power transformers catching fire should be immediately resolved and a heatwave action plan should be implemented in zoological parks and sanctuaries, he said in a statement. "In the prevailing heatwave, there should not be any unnecessary power cuts in the villages and

cities. If needed, there should be provision to purchase more electricity," Adityanath said.

There should be no shortage of drinking water and arrangements should be made for drinking water in all municipal bodies and rural areas besides the markets and on the main roads, he told officials. For this, cooperation of social and religious organisations should also be taken, the chief minister said. The common public should be made aware of the symptoms of heatwave and ways to protect themselves from it, he said, adding that people under the weather should be provided immediate medical care.

BRIEF



Indigenous people protest against proposed legislation that would change the policy that demarcates Indigenous lands, in Sao Paulo, Brazil.

Migrants rescued

Athens (Greece): Greece's coast guard says 68 people have been rescued in the eastern Aegean Sea after the sailboat they were on sent a distress signal while off the coast of island of Leros. The sailboat, which is believed to have set sail from Turkey carrying migrants hoping to reach Greece, issued a distress call early Monday, and the passengers were initially picked up by a passing merchant ship before being transferred to a coast guard vessel, the coast guard said. All were safely transported to Leros, and there were no reports of any injuries or people missing. The nationalities of those on board were not immediately available.

Weekend shootings

Washington: A spate of weekend mass shootings and violence across the US killed at least six people, including a Pennsylvania state trooper, and left dozens injured. The shootings follow a surge in homicides and other violence over the past several years that experts say accelerated during the coronavirus pandemic. They happened in suburban Chicago, Washington state, central Pennsylvania, St. Louis, Southern California and Baltimore.

Guard stabbed

Tunis (Tunisia): A security agent guarding the Brazilian Embassy in Tunisia was stabbed in the heart Monday and was hospitalised in critical condition, according to the Tunisian Interior Ministry. The suspected assailant was shot in the leg by police and arrested, the ministry said in a statement. It said the agent was stabbed after he asked the suspect why he was outside the embassy. The area, in a residential zone of the capital, Tunis, was cordoned off by police. Ministry spokesperson Faker Bouzghaya said the security guard was wounded in the heart.

Suspect arrested

Kellogg (US): Police in Idaho arrested a suspect in a shooting that killed four people on Sunday, according to a news report. The Shoshone County Sheriff's Office said in a Facebook post that it responded with the Kellogg Police Department to a residence in Kellogg around 7:30 pm. Police found four people who died of gunshot wounds, news reports said. The shooting occurred at multi-dwelling units behind the Mountain View Congregational Church in the city about 36 miles (58 kilometers) east of Coeur d'Alene, the Shoshone News-Press reported on the newspaper's Facebook page.

Modi euphoria captures US ahead of first State Visit



Indian-Americans gather to send a message of welcome to Prime Minister Narendra Modi ahead of his state visit, in Washington, USA.

Washington/Houston, Jun 19 (PTI)

Hundreds of enthusiastic Indian-Americans gathered at iconic locations across 20 US cities and organised unity marches to send a message of welcome to Prime Minister Narendra Modi days ahead of his State Visit here.

Prime Minister Modi is visiting the US from June 21-24 at the invitation of US President Joe Biden and

First Lady Jill Biden. They will host Modi at a state dinner on June 22. The visit also includes an address to the Joint Session of the US Congress on June 22.

He will address an invitation-only gathering of diaspora leaders from across the country at the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center in Washington on June 23. A few hundred Indian Americans from in and

around the Washington DC area gathered near the National Monument on a bright Sunny Sunday to convey a message of unity and tell the prime minister that they are eagerly waiting for his arrival in the city. Chanting slogans of "Modi Modi" and India-US friendship, Indian Americans walked in a procession for over an hour towards the historic Lincoln Memorial where the participants busted

into an impromptu dance.

In Houston, the community members gathered at the iconic Sugarland Memorial Park, holding placards and Indian tricolour to coincide with the timings of other cities like Boston, Chicago, Atlanta, Miami, Tampa, Dallas, Los Angeles, Sacramento, San Francisco, Columbus, and St Louis.

Similar scenes were visible at many iconic locations in the United States like Times Square in New York and Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco.

"The Indian American community and major business stakeholders in various industries like energy, space, health, education and IT, are really excited and optimistic all across the USA, about the historic visit of PM Modi," said Aseem Mahajan, Consul General of Houston.

"We are receiving an overwhelming number of messages, welcoming PM Modi, from all across the country from elected officials, major business houses and other Indian American organisations on a daily basis that are being shared on social media," Mahajan said.

At least 4 Palestinians are killed as Israeli troops clash with militants

Jerusalem, Jun 19 (AP)

Israeli helicopter gunships struck targets on Monday in the occupied West Bank as a gunbattle raged in the city of Jenin between Israeli troops and militants, killing four Palestinians, including a 15-year-old boy, officials said.

The violence marked a rare use of Israeli airpower in the territory. During the clashes, Palestinian militants detonated a roadside bomb next to an Israeli military vehicle.

At least 45 Palestinians were wounded, five seriously. The Israeli military said seven members of the

paramilitary border police and the army suffered light and moderate wounds.

The escalation was the latest in more than a year of near-daily violence that has wrecked the West Bank.

The Israeli military said troops came under a "massive exchange of fire" during an arrest raid in Jenin and shot back at Palestinian gunmen.

"As the security forces exited the city, a military vehicle was hit by an explosive device, damaging the vehicle," the army said, adding that helicopters "opened fire toward the gunmen in order to as-

sist in extraction of the forces". Israeli military spokesman Lt. Col. Richard Hecht said that hours after the initial firefight, the army had flooded the area with troops in order to extract personnel pinned down in five disabled vehicles at the scene, describing it as an "evacuation" operation.

"We're bringing in heavy equipment to get these vehicles out," Hecht told reporters.

The militants' use of a roadside bomb in the West Bank was "very unusual and dramatic," Hecht said, adding that it may affect future military strategy in the territory.

'Will not surrender even if they put me in jail'

Lahore, Jun 19 (PTI)

Pakistan's former prime minister Imran Khan has said he will continue fighting for the rule of law in the country, asserting that he will neither strike a deal nor surrender even if the government puts him in jail. Addressing the nation via YouTube on Sunday evening, Khan said his fight is for the better future of his country and its people. "I will neither make a deal nor surrender even if they put



me in jail. I will continue fighting for the rule of law and a better future for the people of my country," Khan said. The 70-year-old Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party chief travelled to Islamabad from Lahore

on Monday to seek an extension to his pre-arrest bail in 19 cases. Khan is facing over 140 cases. The cases mostly relate to terrorism, inciting the public to violence, arson attacks, blasphemy, attempted murder, corruption and fraud. Meanwhile, police in Lahore arrested 30 PTI workers, including former football star Shumaila Sattar, on Sunday for trying to meet Khan at his Zaman Park residence in Lahore, a police officer said on Monday.

President Xi says agreement reached on 'some specific issues' with US

Beijing, Jun 19 (PTI)

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken on Monday met with Chinese President Xi Jinping who said that an agreement on "some specific issues" has been reached during the extensive talks between the top diplomats of the two countries amidst tense ties. Blinken met Xi on the last day of his two-day high-stakes visit to Beijing during which the Chinese president spoke of the agreement without providing any details.

Xi said that China's top diplomat and Director of Foreign Affairs Wang Yi and Foreign Minister Qin Gang described their talks with Blinken as candid and in-depth.

The Chinese side has made its position clear, and the two sides have agreed to "follow through with the common understanding US President Joe Biden and I had reached in Bali," state-run CGTN quoted President Xi as saying. "The two sides also made progress and reached an agreement on some specific issues," Xi said, without providing details. "State-to-state interactions should always be based on mutual respect and sincerity. I hope that Secretary Blinken, through this visit, could



US Secretary of State Antony Blinken shakes hands with Chinese President Xi Jinping in the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, China, Monday.

make a positive contribution to stabilising China-US relations," he said.

Blinken's visit to China was among the key outcomes of the Xi-Biden meeting in which they agreed to work on improving ties. Earlier, Blinken met top diplomat Wang, who urged the US to "reflect deeply" and manage differences with China while attributing worsening ties to Washington's "erroneous perception" of Beijing. Wang told Blinken that his trip to Beijing came at a "critical juncture" in US-China ties and it was "necessary to make a choice between dialogue and con-

frontation, cooperation and conflict".

"Sino-US relations have experienced ups and downs, and it is necessary for the US to reflect deeply and work with China to jointly manage differences and avoid strategic surprises," he said.

"With an attitude of being responsible to the people, history and the world, we must reverse the downward spiral of Sino-US relations, push for a return to a healthy and stable track and work together to find a correct way for China and the United States to get along in the new era," he said.

Nepal bans screening of Hindi movies amid 'Adipurush' dialogue row

Kathmandu, Jun 19 (PTI)

All Hindi films, including "Adipurush", were banned in Nepal on Monday following a controversy over its dialogues, including the mention of Sita as "India's daughter".

According to reports, the screening of Om Raut-directed "Adipurush" has been halted nationwide, after the movie, a retelling of epic Ramayana, was banned in Kathmandu and Pokhara.

Police personnel were deployed across 17 halls in Kathmandu to ensure that no Hindi film was screened.

Kathmandu Mayor Balendra Shah on Sunday said no Hindi film will be allowed to run in Kathmandu Metropolitan City until the dialogue

"Janaki is a daughter of India" in "Adipurush" is removed not just in Nepal but also in India.

Sita, also referred to as Janaki, is believed by many to have been born in Janakpur in southeast Nepal.

Pokhara Metropolitan Mayor Dhanaraj Acharya said "Adipurush", starring Prabhas and Kriti Sanon, will be barred from screening from Monday onwards.

According to Kathmandu mayor, screening "Adipurush" without getting one of its dialogues removed will cause "irreparable damage".

"Screening of all the Hindi films will be barred within Kathmandu Metropolitan City from Monday, June 19, as the objectionable words in the

dialogue of the film 'Adipurush' has not yet been removed," he said in a Facebook post on Sunday.

As controversy spiralled, "Adipurush" dialogue writer Manoj Muntashir Shukla on Sunday said the makers of the movie had decided to "revise some of the dialogues" after the film was criticised heavily for its pedestrian language.

Shukla, who has penned the Hindi dialogues and songs of the multilingual saga, said the amended lines will be added to the film by this week.

Raju Pandey, Kathmandu Metropolitan City (KMC) Police chief, said the police inspected the cinema halls within the city on Sunday in accordance with the

mayor's instructions.

"We got a positive response during the inspection on Sunday and we are now monitoring all the cinema halls from Monday morning," Pandey said.

"While monitoring QFX Hall at Civil Mahal in Kathmandu... they said they will show Nepali and English movies instead of Hindi ones. We will not allow screening of Hindi movies until the KMC authority gives permission," he added.

A security guard at Q's Cinema situated at the Rising Mall in Kamaladi Kathmandu said the theatre stopped screening "Adipurush" after showing the movie once on Friday evening. "Now, we are screening Nepali film 'Neer Phool' from Monday," he informed.

Ugandan border town buries victims of rebel massacre



The coffins of Florence Masika and her son Zakayo Masereka are carried to their burial in Nyabugando.

Kampala (Uganda), Jun 19 (AP)

A bereaved Ugandan border town on Sunday began burying the victims of a brutal attack on a school by suspected extremist rebels that left 42 people dead, most of them students, as security forces stepped up patrols along the frontier with volatile eastern Congo.

One of eight people wounded in Friday night's attack, in which 38 students were killed, died overnight, said Selevest Mapoze, mayor of the town of Mpondwe-Lhubiriha.

"Most of the relatives have come to take their bodies" from the morgue, he said.

In addition to the 38 students, the victims include a school guard and three

civilians. At least two of them, members of the same family, were buried Sunday.

Some students were burned beyond recognition; others were shot or hacked to death after militants armed with guns and machetes attacked Lhubiriha Secondary School, co-ed and privately owned, which is located about 2 kilometers (just over a mile) from the Congo border. Ugandan authorities believe at least six students were abducted, taken as porters back inside Congo.

U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres condemned the attack in a statement, urging "the importance of collective efforts, including through enhanced re-

gional partnerships, to tackle cross-border insecurity between (Congo) and Uganda and restore durable peace in the area."

The atmosphere in Mpondwe-Lhubiriha was tense but calm Sunday as Ugandan security forces

roamed the streets outside and near the school, which was protected by a police cordon.

The attack is blamed on the Allied Democratic Forces, or ADF, which rarely claims responsibility for attacks.

GOVERNMENT OF CHHATTISGARH, WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER
MAHANADI PROJECT, RAIPUR (CHHATTISGARH)

e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE
eProcurement Portal: <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>
(First Call)

System Tender No. 138316/NIT No.: 09/SAC/23-24
Dated : 16.06.2023

Online Tenders are invited for the following works up to 07.07.2023 at 17:30 Hours.

Name of work: Remodelling and Cement Concrete lining works of Thanaud, Tarra, Nawagaon, Ugetara, Dhamni-A, Dhamni, Sonpairi Minors of Mahanadi Main Canal.

Probable Amount of Contract: - Rs. 472.13 Lakhs
(As per S.O.R dated 01.08.2010 and amended upto dated 22.08.2022)

The details can be viewed and downloaded online directly from the Government of Chhattisgarh Integrated e-Procurement Portal (<https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>) from Date 23.06.2023, at 17:31 Hours. (IST) onwards.

NOTE :- All eligible/intrested contractors/bidders are mandated to get enrolled on the Integrated e-procurement portal (<https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>) and get approval on specific vendor class from PWD under Centralized Contractor/Supplier Registration in order to download the tender documents and participate in the subsequent bidding process.

Executive Engineer
Water Management Division No. 1, Raipur
For, Chief Engineer, Mahanadi Project
Raipur (C.G.)

G-02465/3



CENTRAL Chronicle

Established 1974 Volume 48 No. 254

Unveiling the Trails Combating Terror Financing

In a proactive response to the alarming rise of militants exploiting the financial resources of their families, especially in Pakistan and PoJK, authorities have taken a decisive step to curb the menace. It has been reported that they will now be able to attach a portion of the militants' share in properties and accounts, even if they are not directly registered under their names. This crucial measure aims to freeze and seize the proceeds of terror funding, even when they are camouflaged under innocent transactions or hidden within intricate financial webs. The relentless efforts of investigative agencies have yielded significant breakthroughs in tracking the trails of terror money. Armed with a range of sophisticated techniques and bolstered by close collaboration with intelligence agencies, they have successfully unraveled the intricate paths followed by funds associated with terrorist activities. These investigations have entailed rigorous financial scrutiny, meticulously analyzing bank transactions, closely monitoring suspicious money transfers, and meticulously identifying the individuals and organizations involved in financing terrorism. By meticulously tracing the money trails, investigative agencies have gained invaluable insights into the elaborate networks, channels, and mechanisms utilized by terrorist organizations to fund their operations. Through strategic asset seizures and the freezing of funds connected to terrorist activities, the financial networks that sustain these nefarious operations have been dealt a severe blow. Disrupting the flow of money severely impairs the ability of terrorist organizations to carry out their deadly missions, procure weapons, and recruit new members. It weakens their very infrastructure, severely limits their capacity to plan and execute attacks, and creates a substantial barrier to their growth. Moreover, these decisive seizures of assets send a resounding message to potential financiers of terrorism: their illicit activities will not go unnoticed or unpunished. Such actions serve as a major deterrent, dissuading individuals and organizations from extending financial support to these ruthless groups. By deterring the inflow of funds, we effectively hinder the expansion and growth of terrorist networks, thereby safeguarding our society from their heinous acts. The fight against terror financing is an ongoing battle that demands continuous vigilance and proactive measures. Alongside robust investigative efforts, it is imperative for authorities to strengthen international cooperation to stem the cross-border flow of illicit funds. Sharing intelligence, collaborating on financial monitoring, and harmonizing legal frameworks will further enhance the effectiveness of these endeavors. Furthermore, public awareness and active participation play a pivotal role in curbing terror financing. Citizens must remain vigilant, reporting any suspicious financial activities or suspected links to terrorist organizations. Emphasizing financial literacy and promoting responsible banking practices can empower individuals to recognize and reject any attempts to manipulate the financial system for illicit purposes. In our quest for peace and security, unveiling the trails of terror money is a vital step forward. By relentlessly following the money, freezing assets, and disrupting the financial lifelines of terrorist networks, we strike at the very core of their operations. Let us stand united in this collective endeavor, leaving no stone unturned to safeguard our society from the perils of terror financing. Together, we can ensure a safer and more resilient future for generations to come.

Neglected Potential

Political Parties and Young Talent in India

India, known for its youthful population with over 60 percent under the age of 35, possesses a valuable demographic dividend. However, this potential asset is being wasted as political parties exploit young people for their own gains rather than nurturing their abilities and skills. The misuse of young talent by political parties manifests in various forms. One common practice is employing young individuals as campaign foot soldiers during elections, exploiting their willingness to work long hours for minimal pay. Yet, once the election concludes, they are cast aside and forgotten. Another method involves political parties utilizing young people as proxies to advance their own agendas. Young individuals, seen as idealistic and less corrupt, become pawns in promoting party interests without raising suspicion. This manipulation results in their exploitation, sacrificing their well-being for the benefit of others. Furthermore, political parties contribute to the misuse of young talent by neglecting to provide avenues for growth and development. Young individuals are often relegated to menial tasks that fail to harness their skills and potential. They are denied access to decision-making positions, even when possessing relevant experience and expertise. Consequently, disillusionment sets in, eroding their belief in effecting change through politics. The misappropriation of young talent by political parties poses a significant issue in India. It hampers the realization of young people's full potential and impedes their contribution to the nation's development. Moreover, it fuels growing cynicism and apathy towards politics among the youth. Addressing this problem requires a multifaceted approach. First and foremost, political parties must shift their perspective, viewing young people as valuable assets rather than liabilities. They should invest in the development of young individuals, providing them with opportunities for growth and learning. Secondly, the government must create a conducive environment for youth political participation. This necessitates enacting laws that facilitate young people running for office and ensuring they have access to necessary resources for effective campaigning. Lastly, young people themselves must take an active role in demanding their rights and holding political parties accountable. Although the misuse of young talent by political parties is a pressing issue, it is not insurmountable. Through necessary reforms, it is possible to level the political playing field for young individuals and afford them the opportunity to make a meaningful difference in the country. By valuing and nurturing young talent, India can harness its demographic dividend and cultivate a generation of leaders committed to the nation's progress.

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.

YOGA PREPARATIONS



Students do yoga as a preparation for the International Day of Yoga, in Mirzapur, Monday, June 19.

Strengthening Accountability for Ending Tuberculosis

SHOBHA SHUKLA



Accountability and the Unfulfilled Promises

The 2018 UN HLM on TB resulted in an action-oriented political declaration, yet the commitments made have fallen short of expectations. The number of TB cases and deaths continues to rise, with 10.6 million people falling ill with TB and 1.6 million losing their lives to the disease in 2021 alone. Examining the targets outlined in the 2018 declaration reveals that progress has been insufficient.

Key Targets and Achievements

Diagnosis and treatment: Only 66% of the target to diagnose and treat 40 million people with TB, including children and those with drug-resistant TB, was achieved by 2021. Additionally, a mere 38% of people with TB were diagnosed using recommended rapid molecular diagnostics.

TB preventive treatment: Only 42% of the target to

As we approach the 5th anniversary of the groundbreaking United Nations High Level Meeting (UN HLM) on tuberculosis (TB), it is crucial to reflect on the progress made since 2018 and assess the current state of the fight against this global health crisis. Despite lofty promises and declarations, the reality on the ground does not match the urgency required to achieve the goal of ending TB by 2030. This article emphasizes the need for greater accountability, robust action, and a human rights-based approach to tackle TB effectively.

provide preventive therapy to 30 million people was met by 2021. Although 10.3 million people living with HIV received preventive treatment, more efforts are needed to reach the intended goals for children and household contacts.

Financing the global TB response: By 2021, only 42% of the target to finance the global TB response with an annual funding of at least USD 13 billion had been met. The estimated spending on TB services in low and middle-income countries was USD 5.4 billion in 2021.

TB research and development: Less than half of the targeted USD 2 billion for TB research and development was available in 2021, illustrating a lack of investment in crucial areas of innovation.

The Imperative for Action and Accountability

The forthcoming 2nd UNHLM on TB in 2023 must address these per-

sistent challenges and build upon the commitments outlined in the 2018 declaration. It is essential to include clear and measurable targets, increased funding, robust accountability mechanisms, and a human rights-based approach that leaves no one behind.

Minimum Expectations for the Political Declaration

The Stop TB Partnership and other TB advocates call for specific commitments from all countries during the period 2023-2027. These include diagnosing and treating 40 million people with TB, providing preventive therapy to 35 million people, improving data collection and analysis, recognizing gender-specific needs, implementing rights-based policies, accelerating research and development, and mobilizing sustainable financing.

Creating an Accountability Framework

To ensure progress, a comprehensive accountability framework is crucial. It should encompass public annual reports, high-level country reviews, national strategic plans, involvement of TB-affected communities and civil society, and the development of community-led reports. Such measures will hold governments and stakeholders accountable for their commitments and progress toward ending TB.

Conclusion

To achieve a TB-free world, we must move beyond grandiose declarations and prioritize accountability and political will. The forthcoming UNHLM on TB presents an opportunity to reinforce commitments, address key issues, and develop a time-bound roadmap for accelerated progress. By following through on promises and prioritizing the needs and rights of vulnerable populations, we can realize our shared vision of a world without tuberculosis.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Tragic murder

Two sisters, Pinky (30) and Jyoti (29), were tragically shot dead in Delhi's Ambedkar Basti area of RK Puram on Sunday morning. Following the incident, three individuals named Arjun, Michael, and Dev have been arrested in connection with the murder. It appears that the assailants initially targeted the victims' brother over a financial dispute, but when they couldn't find him, they resorted to shooting the two sisters. Delhi Chief Minister (CM) Arvind Kejriwal swiftly criticized the Modi government, suggesting that under his AAP administration, the national capital would be safer. However, people question whether CM Kejriwal can truly prevent all crimes if the Delhi police were under his control. It is essential to remember that no government can provide police presence everywhere, except for politicians and VIPs. Our heartfelt condolences go out to the grieving family. May the souls of the departed rest in peace.

Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee, Faridabad

Father: The Guiding Light of Life

A father holds a significant role as a friend, philosopher, and guide in my life. He is like the comforting shade of a banyan tree, offering security, smoothness, and a hassle-free existence. A father embodies trust, reliability, and a stress-free image of joy, happiness, prosperity, and a thriving future for the generations to come. He knows best how to bring a smile to the faces of his children. He effortlessly solves problems, shields them from danger, and imparts valuable life lessons on resilience, courage, and overcoming obstacles. A father is the embodiment of hope, patience, and a vibrant character. He performs his duties with laughter, even in the face of adversity, inspiring his children to become icons in their own right. Silently, a father imparts the wisdom of life, becoming the true embodiment of our personal philosophy. He is the rhythmic beat that guides our journey through life.

Rathin Kumar Chanda, Hooghly

Seeking Justice

Despite the minor retracting her allegations of sexual harassment against WFI chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, there remains a glimmer of hope for justice in the fight of the protesting wrestlers. Had the minor's initial statement been included in the chargesheet, the arrest of the WFI chief would have been inevitable. It is reasonable to assume that the minor's family faced pressure to alter their original statement in support of the BJP MP. Now that progress has been made in the case, it is crucial to shield the legal process from political influence. We commend our wrestlers for their unwavering resolve, demonstrating that they will not surrender or yield to pressure.

MK Nair, Raipur

Why not eavesdrop in positive sense!

Kajal Chatterjee

"Amrito Kumbh Sandhane" (In search of Amrita Kumbha)—a real-life experience of renowned Bangla author Samaresh Basu converted into an epic novel. The novel was picturised as a film by director Dilip Roy almost four decades ago. As the name suggests, the novel was based on the experience of Basu in the Kumbh Mela of Prayag.

The protagonist or the observer in the film is the character of the writer is roaming around the "unending" canvas of the fair, Ganga bank, the fort beside the Sangam, the Akharas of the Sadhus observing the mass of people as well as meeting talking with them. He has got introduced to many families or singletons, ladies gents, young old, rich poor, Sadhus as well as pilgrims from different corners of India. Even to the blind Maulvi of the Masjid within the fort beside the Sangam.

Since he was staying throughout the period of the

fair, he was meeting common persons again and again either in camps banks or fair ground. He got introduced to a family from rural Uttar Pradesh. A talkative smiling lady from that family was inquisitive about the author as he is paying no interest in having the "holy dip" in the Sangam. Then why is he visiting Kumbh Mela at all. On persistent quizzing, the author gave out the actual reason of him visiting the Prayag - "To know people, To understand people".

Theft was very common in the camps. One new acquaintance even warned the author to remain always alert as the "very dangerous" thieves can even steal adult human beings as well. Now the path of the author often used to cross with a young woman. She was quite pretty but with signs of abject poverty. The author used to notice her sometimes asking for alms, sometimes wandering aimlessly -- always all alone. Or on another occasion talking "naughtily" with strangers. The author used to be curious about the

identity of the lady.

One day the author went a bit outskirts from the Mela arena. The area was desolate with few trees here and there. He saw a very old wrinkled Bengali gentleman sitting under a tree. The appearance was very vulnerable, sitting somehow by taking the support of a stick. The inquisitive author desired to meet him. As he was approaching him, suddenly that "mysterious" young woman emerged from nowhere rushing. Noticing her the author stopped in his track and partially hid himself behind a tree. He saw the woman wrap a red shawl around the old man. The trembling weak devastated man felt much warmth in that cold Prayag. Thereafter few personal conversation happened between the two enabling the author to realise that she is the daughter in law of that old man. And they have come to Kumbh to search the missing son of the old man or the husband of the young lady.

Their conversation enlightened the author and the

readers/spectators within us that the family fortune collapsed after the disappearance of the son landing them in abject poverty. The old man was also thanking the young woman for not forsaking him. And for taking care of him despite she not being her daughter by blood! As she claimed that it is her duty; the old man, with tears welling up in his both eyes, muttered with utmost indebtedness -- "I don't think that even my own son could have done better. At least he could not have resorted to stealing for the sake of his father".

The stunned author wandered "I know eavesdropping is a sin. But to witness these scenes, I would eavesdrop thousands of times". The author has not dwelt on the goodness or badness of the path of stealing to survive or ensure survival of another. But he has only got moved by the utter helplessness of the poor unfortunate hapless ones who get compelled in undertaking this path just to survive.

It is being alleged by a

quarter that all communication or messages through phone mobile and social media are being eavesdropped by certain agencies. For the sake of security, communication of people connected with terrorist organisation should definitely be eavesdropped. But even of the interaction of common people! Can it be possible in a democratic country where freedom of speech is guaranteed by none other than Constitution.

Still if indeed eavesdropping has become the norm; then why not exercise it for a positive cause! Instead of nabbing who is criticising against any Government policy step or questioning the antics of any party or ideology, why don't eavesdrop the conversation of the vulnerable lot and know the pain of poor downtrodden people suffering from hunger poverty and inaccessibility to basic education and medical attention. And thereafter why not forward the hand of cooperation and help towards these deprived citizens of the State.

BRIEF



Join

New Delhi: Aalok Kumar, Corporate Officer & Sr VP - Head of the Global Smart City Business, NEC Corporation, and President & CEO, NEC Corporation India, has been appointed as a member of the Asian Development Bank's (ADB) High-level Advisory Group on Digital Technology for Development with effect from May 1, 2023.

OFS

New Delhi: The government will sell up to 92.44 lakh shares or 0.15 per cent stake in Coal India to its employees at a price of Rs 226.10 a share. "The employee OFS (Offer for Sale) shall remain open from June 21, 2023 to June 23, 2023," Coal India said in a stock exchange filing. Under the share sale offer, 92,44,092 equity shares (representing 0.15 per cent of the total paid up equity share capital of the company) would be offered to eligible CIL employees at a price of Rs 226.10 per equity share.

Nod

New Delhi: Adani Transmission has got shareholders' approval to raise up to Rs 8,500 crore through issuance of equity shares on qualified institutional placement basis. The company had sought shareholders' approval through postal ballot to raise up to Rs 8,500 crore by way of qualified institutional placement through issuance of equity shares and/or other eligible securities to eligible investors on May 15, 2023.

Injection

New Delhi: Pharma major Lupin on Monday said it has launched in the US its generic Thiamine Hydrochloride injection 200 mg/2 mL (100 mg/mL) multiple-dose vials used for treatment of thiamine deficiency. The launch follows alliance partner Caplin Steriles receiving an approval for its ANDA (Abbreviated New Drug Application) from the US Food and Drug Administration (USFDA).

Expansion

Chennai: Private sector Karur Vysya Bank on Monday under its expansion drive inaugurated its 800th branch in the city, a top official said. The Tamil Nadu-based lender also inaugurated its digital banking unit on the occasion.

Low demand

New Delhi: Gold prices on Monday fell by Rs 9 to Rs 59,345 per 10 gram in futures trade as speculators reduced their positions. On the Multi Commodity Exchange, gold contracts for August delivery traded lower by Rs 9 or 0.02 per cent to Rs 59,345 per 10 gram in a business turnover of 13,744 lots.

RBI REPORT

'Rs 2,000 note withdrawal can boost growth'

GDP expansion can exceed 6.5%

Mumbai, Jun 19 (PTI):

The Rs 2,000 note withdrawal decision and response to it so far suggest that the move can help boost FY24 GDP growth to beyond 6.5 per cent estimated by the RBI, a report said on Monday.

The real GDP growth for the first quarter of FY24 will come at 8.1 per cent with an upward bias and the Reserve Bank of India's 6.5 per cent estimate can also be exceeded, economists at the country's largest lender SBI said.

"We expect Q1 FY24 GDP growth at 8.1 per cent with an upward bias due to the impact of Rs 2000 note withdrawal event...this reinforces our projection that FY24 GDP could be higher than 6.5 per cent, basis the RBI estimate," a note said. It can

be noted that earlier this month, the RBI informed that over half of the currency notes in the denomination have returned back, with 85 per cent of it coming as deposits into banks, while the remaining 15 per cent have been exchanged at bank counters. Based on this experience, the SBI note said the consumption can get a Rs 55,000 crore boost because of the move.

It estimated Rs 3.08 lakh crore to come back as deposits into the system, of which Rs 92,000 crore will come into saving banks accounts, of which 60 per cent will get withdrawn, thus giving an immediate increase in consumption at Rs 55,000 crore.

In the long run, the boost can be Rs 1.83 lakh crore because of the consumption multiplier, it added. "One of the major

benefits of withdrawal of Rs 2000 note might be the immediate uptick in consumption demand," the report said.

It is expected that high-value amounts could move to high-value spends, such as gold/jewellery, high-end consumer durables like AC, mobile phones, and real estate, according to the note.

It cited reports of an increase in fuel payments and cash on delivery, with online food aggregator Zomato reporting three-fourths of users opting for cash payments by Rs 2,000 notes.

The SBI economists also said that the RBI move is expected to increase donations to temples and other religious institutions through Rs 2,000 notes and will push sundry purchases like consumer durables and boutique furniture.

Markets retreat from record highs; Sensex falls 216 pts

Mumbai, Jun 19 (PTI):

Equity benchmarks Sensex and Nifty pared early gains to close lower on Monday as investors offloaded telecom, power and utility stocks amid a bearish trend in global markets and profit booking.

Besides, intense selling in Reliance Industries, ICICI Bank and Kotak Bank counters also hit investor sentiments, traders said.

After hitting its lifetime high on Friday, the 30-share BSE index fell 216.28 points or 0.34 per cent to settle at 63,168.30. During the day, it declined 336.75 points or 0.53 per cent to 63,047.83.

The NSE Nifty went lower by 70.55 points or 0.37 per cent to end at 18,755.45. The index regis-

Rupee falls 3 paise to 81.93 against US dollar

The rupee depreciated by 3 paise to close at 81.93 against the US dollar on Monday amid strong American currency against major rivals overseas. However, the inflow of foreign funds into local equities and a downward trend in crude price capped the fall in the domestic unit, forex traders said. At the interbank foreign exchange, the domestic unit opened lower at 81.93 and moved in the range of 82.01 to 81.90 during intra-day. The unit settled at 81.93 (provisional) against the US dollar, reflecting a loss of 3 paise over the previous close. On Friday, the rupee settled at 81.90 against the dollar.

tered its lifetime peak of 18,826 on Friday.

There was accelerated selling, particularly in the afternoon trade, dragging the key indices from record highs.

"Indian equities shied away from closing at all-time high levels amid profit-booking, primarily driven by private banks. Global markets also took

a breather after a strong rally last week as investors looked forward to China's rate decision and the Fed chair's testimony," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

Kotak Mahindra Bank was the biggest loser from the Sensex pack, skidding 1.83 per cent, followed by Axis Bank, NTPC,



Volocopter CEO Dirk Hoke poses for a picture next to the Volocopter 2X, an electric vertical takeoff and landing multicopter, during the Paris Air Show in Le Bourget, north of Paris, France, Monday.

AIR SHOW

'Withdrawal of duty benefit scheme by UK to benefit labour intensive goods'

New Delhi, Jun 19 (PTI):

The UK's decision to withdraw duty benefit scheme GSP may impact Indian exporters from certain labour-intensive sectors such as leather and textiles as they were the major beneficiaries, according to experts and traders.

The UK is replacing the Generalised Scheme of Preferences (GSP) with a new Developing Countries Trading Scheme (DCTS) from June 19.

Labour intensive sectors, including certain textile items, leather goods, carpets, iron & steel goods and chemicals may get impacted due to this.

Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI) said the US, European Union (EU),

Australia, Japan and many other developed countries grant unilateral import duty concessions to developing countries under their GSP schemes.

"As the UK has come out of the EU, it has designed its own GSP scheme. Each country sets a product-wise threshold limit, if a country's exports cross the limit, the GSP concessions stop. The UK withdrawing GSP concessions on labour intensive products was expected as the two countries are negotiating a free trade agreement," GTRI co-founder Ajay Srivastava said.

GSP concessions are available in full to exports from Least Developed Countries (LDCs). China does not get such concessions. He added that the

firms, associations and countries request for restoration of concessions but it is rarely considered.

"Since the concessions are small, India should stop participating in GSP schemes and stand tall like China does. GSPs are vestiges of colonial mind-set and should be used by only LDCs," Srivastava said.

India's exports worth USD 2.5 billion are entitled for the GSP benefit in the UK.

Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO) Director General Ajay Sahai said exports' share of certain Indian goods in the UK has increased from a specified limit due to which those sectors would not be able to enjoy the GSP benefits now.

Airbnb inks pact with tourism ministry

■ To promote heritage stays, cultural tourism

New Delhi, Jun 19 (PTI):

Online accommodation hosting platform Airbnb on Monday said it has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Union Ministry of Tourism to showcase India's heritage stays and promote cultural tourism. The company will partner the ministry in its vision to promote inbound tourism as a part of its 'Visit India 2023' initiative and under the MoU, it will launch a dedicated 'Soul of India' microsite for the global audi-

ence showcasing India's rich culture and built heritage, Airbnb said in a regulatory filing. Additionally, Airbnb will also offer support to hosts in untapped tourist areas, assist them in promoting their homestays, build host capacity, and foster a culture of responsible hosting, it added. Under the MoU, Airbnb will endeavour to train hospitality micro-entrepreneurs in emerging destinations that are part of the ministry's flagship scheme, the company said, adding, it would also share travel and homestay insights with the ministry for informed responsible tourism policies and training requirements.

Kamdhenu Paints targets Rs 1,000 cr revenue

By FY28:



New Delhi, Jun 19 (PTI):

Kamdhenu Paints is targeting a four-fold jump in its revenues to Rs 1,000 crore over the next three years, its CMD Satish Kumar Agarwal said. In

the financial year ended March 31, 2023, the company had earned a revenue of about Rs 251 crore, he told PTI. Kamdhenu Group recently separated its paints and steel business to increase its pres-

ence in the two segments in India. "We are looking a four-fold growth in the revenue to Rs 1,000 crore by the end of FY28. Last financial year 2023, the company has closed the revenue at Rs 251 crore," he said. Agarwal further said with the increasing demand for company products, Kamdhenu Paints is planning to enhance its market share in the south and western regions of the country by expanding product portfolio with the launch of new and innovative products.

The company will further tap the markets in the north and east regions by increasing its dealers and distribution network to over 8,000 from 4,000 at present, he said.

Silicon India recognises PR organization for outstanding achievements

Indore, June 16: PR 24x7, the leading PR organization in the country, has once again been recognized for its outstanding achievements. The renowned business magazine, Silicon India, has awarded PR 24x7 with the prestigious title of 'Most Promising PR Agency 2023'. This remarkable accolade serves as a testament to the agency's exceptional accomplishments. PR 24x7's commitment to its clients, unwavering dedication, and ability to provide effective solutions during challenging times have been instrumental in earning them this award. The agency's consistent delivery of outstanding services and its track record of

fulfilling commitments have led to this recognition for the second time, following their initial honor in 2021. PR 24x7's consistent excellence demonstrates their ongoing commitment to growth and success. Atul Malikram, the founder of PR 24x7, expressed his gratitude and stated, "As a company, our entire team remains dedicated to working in the best interest of our clients and providing them with the highest quality of service. Being awarded the prestigious title of 'Most Promising PR Agency 2023' by Silicon India reflects our commitment to fulfilling our promises and delivering exceptional results to our clients."

Maersk fixes uniform shipment rate of USD 1

■ For online retailers

New Delhi, Jun 19 (PTI):

Logistics firm AP Moller-Maersk on Monday announced a uniform rate of USD 1 (around Rs 80) for online retailers for shipment of orders to the customers' doorstep across the country.

"The new e-commerce fulfilment solution will provide single-window access to the entire logistics ecosystem for brands selling their goods online, including e-commerce system integration, warehousing, country-wide distribution and returns at a flat rate of Rs 80/USD 1 per order," the company said in a statement.

The fixed charge includes 60 days of storage, delivery across India cov-



A warehouse of integrated logistics firm A.P. Moller - Maersk in Farrukhnagar.

ering 18,000 pin codes in 48 hours, 20 per cent returns to origin (RTO) and no fixed monthly costs or no minimum orders, it said.

Vikash Agarwal, Managing Director, Maersk South Asia, said, India's e-commerce business has great growth potential. But the highly fragmented market and

supply chain complexity are hurdles to many businesses' growth.

"With our new solution, we want to stay true to our purpose of improving life for all by integrating the world. With our 'one country one price' solution, we will take complexities out of our customers' supply chains and grow with

them as they focus on what they do the best," he said.

The solution, Maersk said, has primarily been targeted at a typical small or medium e-commerce business in India that relies on multiple logistics partners for different activities. With this solution, Maersk is taking the complexities out of its customers' supply chains by providing single-window access to all required solutions, such as storage in warehouses, last-mile deliveries and executing return orders, all while providing end-to-end visibility at unified pricing.

AP Moller-Maersk is an integrated logistics company operating in more than 130 countries and employs over 100,000 people worldwide.

Int'l toy fair to begin from July 8

Buyers from 25 countries to participate

New Delhi, Jun 19 (PTI):

A three-day toy fair will begin on July 8 in the national capital, which is expected to see participation from about 5,000 buyers and industry players from at least 25 countries, the Toy Association of India said on Monday. The industry body said that CEOs of about 20 global sourcing companies, including Walmart and Lego, would also visit the fair. More than 250 Indian brands would display their products during the fair, which is being organised at Pragati Maidan.

Toy Association of India Chairman Manu Gupta said that the 14th Toy Biz International B2B Expo 2023 is the largest fair in South Asia.

"This is a great opportunity for Indian toy makers to showcase their products and capabilities to the global audience.

This exposure can help them attract new customers and partners, expand their market reach and increase their brand recognition," he said.

In addition, he said, Toy Biz also provides a platform for industry players to network and connect with each other, which can help foster collaborations, partnerships and joint ventures. "This can lead to new business opportunities and innovations, as well as access to new markets and distribution channels," Gupta said, adding the expo also provides a platform to drive innovation in the Indian toy industry, by providing a forum for industry experts to discuss new trends, technologies, and best practices. He added that the expo can also help raise awareness about the importance of the Indian toy industry, both domestically and international-

ly. Wooden toy maker Little Genius Toys CEO Naresh Kumar Gautam, who is participating in the fair, said that such events would help India position itself as a key player in the global toy market, and attract investment and support from stakeholders across the world. "Three-four years back, we used to request people to participate in this expo, but because of a series of measures by the government, the Indian toy industry is growing at a faster pace and now people are in queue to participate in the expo. We have also invited 250 foreign participants," Gautam said. Gautam also informed that his company and playground equipment maker Maskeen Toys would ink agreements with Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce (Philippines) for doing business in the sector.

Milestone journey of Babasaheb's graduation



Dr. B.R. Ambedkar was a great proponent of equality and the role of education in creating an equitable society. He made history by becoming the first graduate in the community. Despite many challenges, Babasaheb promoted education for social and economic progress, inspiring others to pursue higher education and become graduates too. His legacy encouraged individuals to fight for the right to education and strive for an equal society. His journey as a graduate demonstrates his unwavering commitment and determination to overcome social barriers and discrimination. And this accom-

plishment made him a beacon of hope for the community. On graduating, he received a scholarship from His Highness Sayajirao Gaikwad of Baroda to complete his studies at Elphinstone College, Bombay. The forthcoming track in &TV's Ek Mahanayak-Dr B.R. Ambedkar will present this momentous journey of Babasaheb's graduation, starting June 20th. Remembering Dr. Ambedkar and talking about his inspiring journey to obtain a graduation degree, Atharva, who essays Bhimrao in Ek Mahanayak - Dr B.R. Ambedkar show, says, "This track in the show is quite significant, and I feel extremely fortunate to have been given a chance to portray such an inspirational leader. We are confident that the viewers will be deeply inspired by it. Babasaheb was a highly skilled academician who achieved great success, attaining numerous degrees, including a Doctor of Philosophy in Economics from Columbia University. He utilized his knowledge to champion the cause of marginalized communities, striving for social justice and equality. Babasaheb emerged as a vocal proponent for education for all, particularly focusing on communities that were unjustly denied education opportunities due to social discrimination. He worked tirelessly to establish educational institutions, ranging from schools to colleges while combating discriminatory practices within existing educational systems. Babasaheb's unwavering commitment to education and recognition of its pivotal role in societal and economic advancement has left an indelible mark on India."

Watch this significant and inspiring story track on Dr. Ambedkar's Graduation starting June 20th at 8:30 pm in &TV's Ek Mahanayak Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, airing every Monday to Friday.



Hina Khan Reflects on 'Barsaat Aa Gayee' Pairing Comparisons

Actress Hina Khan and Shaheer Sheikh's on-screen chemistry always receives a lot of appreciation, and with the release of their new song 'Barsaat Aa Gayi', their fans are in for a visual treat. However, there has been comparison between their pairing and Karan Kundrra and Tejaswi Prakash commonly known as 'TejRaan' pairing. The actress feels if they both would have done the song, it would have been equally good or even better.

At the launch of the song, the actress expressed her joy of being in a music video again with Shaheer. The monsoon song 'Baarish Aayi Hai' was released last year with Karan and Tejaswi.

When being compared to them, the actress said: "Karan and Tejaswi looked beautiful as a couple in their song last year. The song was very good and they looked beautiful. I don't think we should compare anyone. When a writer writes a song, he has an artist in mind. So this time we got this opportunity to work. I am sure if Karan and Tejaswi would have done this song they would have done it equally good or even better than us. We are thankful that this time the team chose us."

Talking about the song, she said: "This is my second video with VYRL for barish. The first song was shot in Kashmir. So we were very worried about the locations for this one. The story of the song is so beautiful and catchy. I am very happy Shaheer and I got this opportunity to be a part of this song."

'Barsaat Aa Gayi' has been composed by duo Javed Mohsin and lyrics have been penned by Kunal Verma. Shreya Ghoshal and Stebin Ben are the singers. The song has been released under the label of VYRL.



New characters will make entries to delight fans

In &TV's Dooosri Ma, Happu Ki Ultan Palatan and Bhabiji Ghar Par Hai, new characters will make entries to delight fans by adding new twists and drama in shows. About &TV's Bhabiji Ghar Par Hai track, Leena Goenka entering as Dimple shares, "Out of joy, after finally winning his long-awaited lawsuit, David Mishra (Annu Upadhyay) aka Vibhuti's (Aasif Sheikh) Chacha ji loses his mind and starts talking in Urdu. Doctor says Chacha ji has lost his memory and that the only way to bring him back to his senses is by recreating everything he has done in his life. Anita (Vidisha Srivastava) suggests that Prem (Vishwajeet Soni) arrange for a wicked girl to flirt with him. He hires a girl named Dimple (Leena Goenka), who tries her hardest but fails. Anita later tells Vibhuti to flirt with her to make Chachaji jealous. However, Dimple falls in love with Vibhuti instead."

Watch Dooosri Maa at 8:00 pm, Happu Ki Ultan Palatan at 10:00 pm, and Bhabiji Ghar Par Hai at 10:30 pm, airing every Monday to Friday only on &TV!

Shoaib embraces the Peshawari dialect to perfectly disguise his role as 'Pathan'



Popular television actor Shoaib Ibrahim has taken on a challenging new character in the hit show 'Ajooni' on Star Bharat. In order to authentically portray the character of a 'Pathan', Shoaib has dedicated himself to learning the Peshawari dialect, adding depth and realism to his performance. Shoaib, known for his versatility and dedication to his craft, is ready to leave no stone unturned in bringing his character to life. In this new track, Shoaib's character, 'Pathan' the bodyguard, will play a pivotal role, adding a fresh and exciting dynamic to the show. To ensure his portrayal is as authentic as possible, Shoaib has embarked on an intensive language learning journey. He has spent countless hours studying the Peshawari dialect, embracing its nuances, and incorporating them seamlessly into his dialogue delivery. This commitment to excellence demonstrates Shoaib's unwavering dedication to his craft. Reflecting on his transformative experience, Shoaib says, "I have found learning the Peshawari dialect to be a really pleasant experience. My connection to the part has become stronger as a result of being able to fully grasp the essence of the character I am playing. I hope that the audience will love my new appearance and that my performance will do the role justice."

Stay tuned to watch 'Ajooni' every Monday-Friday at 8:30 Pm only on Star Bharat.

Kiara Advani joins Hrithik, NTR Jr in 'War 2'

Actress Kiara Advani has been roped in by Aditya Chopra for the spy thriller 'War 2' starring Hrithik Roshan and NTR Jr. A source said: "Kiara Advani fits the bill to the T as far as YRF Spy Universe and 'War 2' is considered. The YRF Spy Universe is a league of all-time blockbuster films like 'Ek Tha Tiger', 'Tiger Zinda Hai', 'War' and 'Pathaan', and the expectation from each movie coming out from this franchise is sky high."

"Look at the superstars who have graced this Universe. It's the most coveted film Universe in India that stars the biggest superstars of the country. Kiara is right now at the top of the heap and Aditya Chopra taking her for 'War 2' loudly signifies that."

The source also said that 'War 2' right now has the 'hottest' cast.

"You have three superstars like Hrithik Roshan, NTR Jr and Kiara Advani in the film! Then you have the brightest young director of the country, Ayan Mukerji, directing 'War 2'! Aditya Chopra is going all out to make this film the coolest action entertainer that this country has ever seen. It will be really exciting to see Kiara in this Universe and how Ayan and Adi present her in 'War 2'."



Western culture teaches us to be not considerate: Kangana

Actress Kangana Ranaut, who is gearing up for her upcoming directorial 'Emergency', where she will be seen portraying the late Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, has drawn the line of difference between Indian and Western cultures.

The actress took to the Stories section of her Instagram on Friday and shared a note talking about the "essence of Indian culture".

The actress's statement came as a response to a Netizen's statement about supporting his family.

The Internet user had tweeted that he is a 23-year-old with Rs 1.5 lakh plus monthly income. Yet he does not own an Apple product, does not live on his own and does not own a bike or car. Giving the reasons, he wrote:



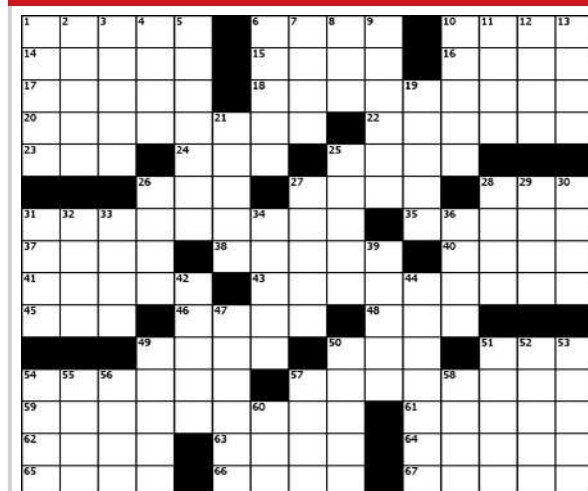
"Responsibilities of an Indian son who retired his parents, pays all the bills, plans for his family's future. I want to glamorize this (sic)."

Responding to the same, Kangana took a screenshot of the tweet and shared it on Instagram Stories and wrote: "Such a lovely thing to say. This is the essence of Indian culture. It teaches us to live for our family, and honestly there's a higher possibility of finding our own happiness in theirs (family's happiness) as opposed to what Western culture teaches us 'my life my rules' shallow and foolish ideas."

She added: "It's impossible to find happiness in a self-centered, selfish life. There is no logic to why it is like this but it is true if you chase happiness it's bound to run away with double the speed."

CROSSWORD

678



ACROSS

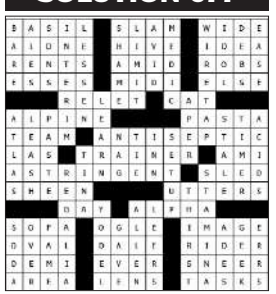
- Whittled down
- Final
- Defame
- Love dearly
- Poker fee
- Lima's locale
- Sings alone
- Sports performance listing
- Enter illegally
- Sofa
- Naval officer (abbr.)
- Hullabaloo

DOWN

- Scrapbook need
- Embellish
- Parts
- Greek mythology figure
- Lose hope
- Cowboy's tool
- Industrious insects
- Amtrak terminal (abbr.)
- Verb forms
- Grudge
- Gave temporarily
- Impel
- Trick
- Small depressions
- Sun-dried brick
- Player
- Cincinnati baseballers
- Artist's tripod
- Warty amphibian
- Buffalo's lake
- Connecting words
- Shortcoming
- Heredity carrier
- River (Sp.)
- Bridge hand
- Pekoe, e.g.
- Thin ray of light (2 wds.)
- Sneer at
- Scored on serve
- Some curves
- Put down
- Gorge
- Love songs
- Barbie's beau
- Milky stone

- Dawn dampness
- Remain
- Neptune's domain
- Clairvoyant's letters
- Keyboard instruments
- Burrito ingredient
- Determine for sure
- Stopped
- "Wish You ___ Here"
- She, in Seville
- Direct
- ...do-well
- Sly glance
- Rich dessert
- Soreness
- Actor ___ Penn
- Writing assignment
- Talon
- Jewish feast
- Engine
- Least cluttered
- Pale color
- Look of contempt
- Radar's kin
- Senior
- Ice pellets
- Pedro's father
- Hock
- Understood! (2 wds.)
- Farm measure
- Floor covering
- Fascinated by
- Pub order

SOLUTION 677



Bhavani Devi settles for bronze in Asian Fencing C'ships

New Delhi, Jun 19 (PTI):

Olympian C A Bhavani Devi on Monday created history by securing India's first-ever medal at the Asian Fencing Championships — a bronze — after losing in the women's sabre semifinal at the continental event in Wuxi, China.

Bhavani lost to Uzbekistan's Zaynab Dayibekova in a hard-fought semifinals 14-15, but ensured India its maiden medal in the prestigious event.

Bhavani had earlier stunned reigning world champion Misaki Emura of Japan 15-10 in the quarterfinals to script history.

Misaki had won the women's sabre gold medal at the 2022 World Fencing



Championships held in Cairo. It was Bhavani's first win over Misaki as she had lost all her matches against the Japanese in the past.

The 29-year-old Bhavani had received a bye in the round of 64 before beating

Dospay Karina of Kazakhstan in the next round.

Bhavani then upset third seed Ozaki Seri 15-11 in the pre-quarterfinals.

Fencing Association of India secretary-general Rajeev Mehta congratulated Bhavani on her historic achievement.

"It is a very proud day for Indian fencing. Bhavani has achieved what no one could achieve before. She is the first Indian fencer to win a medal at the prestigious Asian Championships. On behalf of the entire fencing fraternity, I congratulate her," Mehta told PTI.

"Although she lost in the semifinal, the contest was very close. It was a matter of just point. So it's a big improvement."

Spain wins Nations League final as Unai Simon saves two penalties



Rotterdam, Jun 19 (AP): Spain's 11-year trophy drought is over. Croatia and its veteran captain Luka Modric are still waiting for their first international title. Goalkeeper Unai Simon saved two shots as Spain beat Croatia in a penalty shootout after their tense Nations League final had finished 0-0 on Sunday.

The Bilbao goalkeeper used his feet to save a penalty by Lovro Majer when the shootout was level at 3-3 and then dived full-length to tip Bruno Petkovic's spot kick around the

post. Dani Carvajal converted his penalty with a "Panenka" chip to seal the victory. Spain coach Luis De La Fuente said Carvajal had taken penalties well in practice ahead of the final.

"He has a fantastic personality and that's the way he decided to take it," he said. "We have total confidence in his ability to take penalties."

Spain's other previous titles came in the 2010 World Cup and the European Championships in 1964, 2008 and 2012.

Ashwini-Tanisha pair clinches Nantes International badminton title

Nantes (France), Jun 19 (PTI): The Indian women's badminton duo of Ashwini Ponnappa and Tanisha Crasto clinched the Nantes International Challenge title defeating Hung En-Tzu and Lin Yu-Pei of Chinese Taipei 21-15, 21-14 in just 31 minutes.

The pair was initially trailing 0-4 at the Salle Metropolitana de la Trocardaiaire but rallied well to level the scores at 10-10, and finally won the first game 21-15.

The second game saw the pair display even greater dominance. After breaking the tie at 3-3, Ashwini and Tanisha hit a remarkable seven-point winning streak. However, India suffered a setback in the mixed doubles final, where Tanisha and K. Sai Pratheek, who had ad-



vanced through the qualifiers to reach the final, fell short against the Danish duo of Mads Vestergaard and Christine Busch 21-14, 14-21, 17-21 in 51 minutes.

The International Challenge tournaments are not part of BWF World Tour series. "A win hasn't been on the cards for a long time for me, so it feels

really great. Tanisha and me have been playing since January, so it is great to win," said Ashwini.

On partnering Tanisha after having a long association with Sikki Devi, Ashwini said, "Sikki and I played for a long time but we had got stagnant a bit. We couldn't go beyond a particular set of results."

ODI World Cup: Pak wary of Afghan spinners, not keen to play them in Chennai



New Delhi, Jun 19 (PTI):

The Pakistan cricket team is not "comfortable" playing some of the participating teams at specific venues during the ODI World Cup in India, including Afghanistan in Chennai and Australia in Bengaluru. The deadlock over the Asia Cup staging has ended and now Pakistan are expected to travel to India for the World Cup in October-November. The much awaited contest between India and Pakistan is likely to place in Ahmedabad on October 15.

Before announcing the World Cup schedule, the International Cricket Council (ICC) has asked members boards including the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) for suggestions on the proposed itinerary. A reliable source in the PCB told PTI that the board's data, analytics and team strategy experts have been given the task of approving the venues where the ICC and BCCI have tentatively scheduled Pakistan's matches for the 50-over mega event. "The PCB sent the tentative itinerary for the team to the selectors

/experts who apparently are not comfortable with some of the Pakistan team's scheduled matches and venues like they have reservations on Pakistan playing Afghanistan in Chennai and Australia at Bengaluru," the source said.

Playing Afghanistan in spin-friendly Chennai would mean facing the likes of Rashid Khan and Noor Ahmad, who did well for Gujarat Titans in the 2023 Indian Premier League.

Conditions in Bengaluru are usually batting friendly and it is hard to understand why Pakistan would have reservations playing Australia at the Chinnaswamy Stadium.

The PCB source said the selectors, who are also part of the team management, has advised the board not to accept Chennai as the venue for the match against Afghanistan as it was historically and statistically a venue which favoured spinners. "The suggestion is to ask the ICC/BCCI to reschedule Pakistan's matches and play Afghanistan in Bengaluru and Australia in Chennai to the team's strength," the source claimed.

SSCB crowned champions at Youth National Boxing Championships

New Delhi: Defending champions Services Sports Control Board once again stamped their authority by clinching the team championship at the 6th Youth men's National Boxing Championships in Gangtok, Sikkim. Haryana and Chandigarh claimed the second and third position with 54 and 20 points respectively. While Haryana won four gold, two silver and three bronze medals, Chandigarh concluded their campaign with two silver and one bronze.

SSCB boxers pulled off a stunning show on the last day of the competition as nine of their 11 finalists emerged victorious and took home the gold medal as well as team championship trophy with 85 points, finishing at the top of the table with 13 medals, including 2 silver and bronze medals each.

Rishi (48kg) and Aryan (51kg) started the day's proceedings for Services with identical 5-0 wins over Bihar's Rahul and Manipur's Thokchom Singh respectively to bag the gold medal.

Tongue lashing from coach at half time pepped us: Chhetri

Bhubaneswar, Jun 19 (PTI):

The "tongue lashing" they got from head coach Igor Stimac at half time was the wake-up call India needed to win the Intercontinental Cup, said national football team captain Sunil Chhetri.

India failed to break Lebanon's defence in the first half before Chhetri's 87th international goal and Lallianzuala Chhangte's strike to help the hosts lift the title.

"We got some tongue lashing from the boss at half time. We were nowhere close to where we were in the last game. It was the wake-up call that we needed," said Chhetri. "A lot of words were spoken, some of which I can't repeat here. But the main thing is that we knew we had it in our tanks, and at the end of the day, we have no regrets. Of course, it's easier now to say this at 2-0, but we are happy with the win." Chhetri was impressed with India's performance in the tournament and termed the victory "sweet". "We could



not win the last time in the Hero Intercontinental Cup, but this win was sweet. It was not easy, but we were very happy, especially to keep the clean sheets," he said.

Head coach Stimac admitted that he was not pleased with his team's performance against Lebanon in the first 45 minutes. "Every game is important, every win is important, especially clean sheets, so I am very happy. But I can tell you that I was not at all happy at half time. We played

well in the first 10 minutes, and then we disappeared," the Croatian said.

"We should not have allowed them (Lebanon) to control the game for 20 minutes like that. It's best I don't mention what was said at half time, but it worked. The reaction from the boys in the second half was brilliant. This is the India I like to see."

Stimac said a plenty of work awaits India ahead of the AFC Asian Cup to be hosted by Qatar from January 12 to February 10 next year.

India are clubbed in a strong Group B along side Australia, Uzbekistan and Syria.

"There's plenty of work for us ahead of the AFC Asian Cup. We need to understand better positioning, timing of runs, when to play on the ground, and when not," the coach said.

"Lebanon had 7-8 good transitions. That cannot happen against Australia or Uzbekistan. It's not important how we play today, it's important how we play in January (in the Asian Cup)."

Haryana blank Maharashtra 4-0 in Senior Women's football championship

Amritsar, Jun 19 (PTI): Haryana scored two late goals to complete a commanding 4-0 win over Maharashtra in their second round Group B match of the Senior Women's National Football Championship, here. In their previous match, Maharashtra had lost to Manipur 1-3. Renu Rani scored one goal on either side of half time to put Haryana on their

way to a big victory, which was completed by two more goals in the second half at the Guru Nanak Dev University Ground here on Sunday. Renu scored the opening goal in the 34th minute when she beat Maharashtra goalkeeper Anjali Barke, and doubled the lead with another fine strike after the resumption of the play in the second half.

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'Telangana on top in various indices'

BRS will return to power after Assly elections

Hyderabad, June 19 (PTI):

The ruling BRS in Telangana will return to power after the Legislative Assembly elections scheduled to be held later this year, party supremo and Chief Minister K Chandrababoo Naidu asserted on Monday, confident about the growth of the state under his party's government.

Rao, who addressed a public meeting here on the occasion of 'Haritotsavam' (green day) as part of the decennial celebrations of state



formation day, said he had no doubt about the BRS coming to power again in the state.

The chief minister, who planted a sapling as part of the 'Haritotsavam' celebrations at Tummaluru here, said greenery increased by about 7.7 per cent in Telangana with the implementation of the state government's green drive 'Harita

Haram' (green ornament).

"In Telangana, we have already planted 276 crore saplings. That is why greenery is visible wherever we see. We are so advanced that there is a nursery in every village, a 'palle prakruti vanam' in every village with open gyms for children," he said.

The increased greenery is a collective effort, he said.

KCR also said he asked the state Chief Secretary (A Santhi Kumari) to freely distribute fruit-bearing saplings to the people from this year as part of the green drive.

Alleging that the Palamuru lift irrigation project in the state got de-

layed because of Congress leaders who obtained a stay (imposed on works) by approaching the Supreme Court, the CM assured that Ibrahimpatnam, Maheswaram and Vikarabad assembly constituencies would soon get water.

He further said those who ridiculed Telangana during the separate state agitation, saying it does not know how to do farming, were now in seventh place whereas Telangana is at the top in the country. He also pointed out that Telangana is number one in the country in per capita power utilisation, per capita income, paddy production, 24x7 power supply and other indices.

ENJOYING RAINS



A young woman enjoys rain at Kartavya Path, in New Delhi, Monday.

Experts, spiritual leaders ask people to come together

To deal with water crisis

New Delhi, Jun 19 (PTI):

Several water conservation experts and spiritual leaders on Sunday warned of an unrest across the world due to water crisis and asked people of all sections to come together to prevent it.

At a meeting held here ahead of the UN Water Conference next year, Rajendra Singh, president of People's World Commission on Drought and Flood and 'waterman' of India, said that due to the water crisis, an unrest will take place

across the globe and people of all sections will have to come together to stop it, only then peace will prevail. The spiritual leaders unanimously resolved to awaken the society through their discourses on water conservation and management. They said that in all the religious texts of the world, the protection of nature has been described as the most important thing.

According to a statement from the organisers, the religious leaders said that now the time has come in the whole world, including India, for everyone to come together for peace through water conservation.

Kerala cops take away bride from interfaith wedding

Thiruvananthapuram, Jun 19 (PTI): In a dramatic incident in Kerala, a young bride was forcibly taken away from the groom by the police on Sunday evening minutes before the inter-faith couple were set to tie the knot at a temple near Kovalam here.

The entire incident played out like some movie scene as visuals of the incident showed the bride, who was screaming she does not want to go, being pushed and yanked towards a private vehicle by police personnel outside Kovalam police station. The police even prevented the groom from going near her, according to the visuals. One of the officers could also be seen

and heard shouting at the screaming bride to get inside the vehicle and after she was shoved inside it, other officers also got in and drove away.

The couple on Monday told a TV channel that the woman — Alfia — was, thereafter, taken to a magisterial court where she gave a statement that she had left with the groom — Akhil — of her own free will and wanted to go with him.

"After recording my statement, I was allowed to leave with Akhil who had also reached there," she said.

Meanwhile, a senior police officer of Alappuzha district said that there was a missing person complaint lodged in

Kayamkulam police station and as part of it they had to produce the woman before a court there.

"The officers were directed to produce the woman before the court. So they were just doing their duty. Not aware about any use of force by them. The girl told the court she wants to leave with the groom and she left with him," the officer told PTI. He also said he will look into whether there was any use of force by the officers involved.

Alfia, on the other hand, said that the police took her away despite she having already given a statement a few days back that she was leaving with Akhil, whom she knew for over an year, of her own

free will to get married to him.

"The missing person complaint was lodged in Kayamkulam police station after that. It was done by my parents. They do not want me to live with him. They want to take me away," she said.

Narrating what transpired just minutes before they were set to tie the knot, Akhil said, "The police arrived in two vehicles from Kayamkulam. They stopped the wedding from happening and forcibly dragged her away.

"At Kovalam police station also they did not allow me to go near her, pushed me away and misbehaved with me. The police were not expected to behave in such a manner."

DRAMATIC INCIDENT

Maha Guv presides over 25th Annual Convocation of BATU



Mumbai, Jun 19:

Maharashtra Governor and Chancellor of State universities Ramesh Bais presided over the 25th Annual Convocation of the Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Technological University (BATU), Lonere Dist Raigad through online mode on

Mon (19 June).

Minister of Higher and Technical Education Chandrakant Patil, Minister of Industries Uday Samant, Vice Chancellor of BATU Dr. Karbhari Kale and Members of the Executive and Academic Council, members of faculty, invitees and graduating students were present.

Degrees, Post Graduate Degrees and diplomas were awarded to 22267 graduating students on the occasion. These include 13 candidates who were awarded Ph.D.

'Secular parties have teamed up to defeat BJP, not to gain power'

Ranchi, June 19 (PTI):

CPI general secretary D Raja on Monday said all secular democratic parties have teamed up together to defeat the BJP in the upcoming 2024 general elections and not for grabbing power.

In an interview to PTI, Raja, who is on a two-day Jharkhand visit, said the current situation in the country "is grave and disturbing" and there is a need to uproot the saffron party for the sake of democracy.

"Secular democratic parties are of the view that all must come together to defeat the BJP. This is not for getting political power, but to safeguard the Constitution, the democracy, the nation and its future. That understanding is gaining momentum..." Raja said.

"Who will be the leader of the group is not an issue at all. Everything can be discussed and decided collectively as the parties are matured enough," he said.

"We had such experi-



ences when the United Front was formed and leadership questions were addressed after winning. Even a common minimum programme was discussed and accepted. There was no problem. Everything went smoothly and everything was discussed collectively. There are no preconditions for the unity of the secular democratic parties," Raja said.

The veteran leader said he will be representing the Communist Party of India

(CPI) in the June 23 meeting of opposition parties in Patna which will be attended by many chief ministers and top leaders of various parties.

The meeting, called by Bihar Chief Minister and Janata Dal (United) leader Nitish Kumar, will see anti-BJP players chalk out a strategy for the 2024 Lok Sabha polls.

Raja alleged that RSS was forcing the saffron party to push its agenda that resulted in increasing attacks on Dalits, minorities, women and others in the country.

"Ever since the BJP came to power, the RSS has become aggressive and is forcing the government to follow its agenda. That is the reason why we are witnessing increasing attacks on minorities, Dalits, Adivasis and women... The public sector is being dismantled and privatised. The government is openly siding with big corporate houses and even Parliament is being made redundant," the senior leader said.

He said the opposition

was not allowed to raise the issue of Adani in the last Parliament session.

"This government has become adamant and arrogant... It does not allow opposition parties to raise their concerns," he said.

On the situation in Manipur, Raja blamed the BJP for the violence in the northeastern state.

He attacked Prime Minister Narendra Modi for maintaining a "studied silence" on Manipur where over 100 people have lost their lives in the ethnic violence since May 3.

"Modi has been claiming that the double engine governments are making big progress in several states, including Manipur. But look at the situation. The government will have to take all the political parties into confidence. It should appeal to both sides to maintain peace, harmony and tranquility. It is the government which has created the situation," he alleged.

The senior CPI leader also questioned the manner the wrestlers' protest was handled.

Andhra books first case under Transgender Protection Act against four men

Visakhapatnam, June 19 (PTI)

In a first, Andhra Pradesh police has booked a case under the Transgender Person (Protection of Rights) Act 2019 and arrested four men for molesting a transgender woman in Visakhapatnam.

On June 8, a 26-year-old Dalit transgender woman, after watching a movie at a local theatre, boarded an autorickshaw from Jagadamba junction to Hanumanthavaka in which three men were already on board, police said.

After a little while, the three men started touching her private parts, forcing her to raise a hue and cry, and ultimately disembark from the autorickshaw at Pedagadili Junction, the police said.

Once she alighted, all four men, including the auto driver, started beating her up, especially on her head, her complaint states. "Soon after she got down from the vehicle, she complained and immedi-

ately we registered a case under the Transgender Act," Visakhapatnam Police Commissioner Trivikram Varma told PTI on Monday.

Police arrested Vasupalli Srinivasu (33), Hanish Kumar (26), Satish Kumar (30) and Manoj Kumar (23) for molesting the transgender woman.

They booked a case under IPC Sections 354 (assaulting a woman) and 323 (voluntarily causing hurt) read with 34 (Acts done by several persons in furtherance of common intention) and Section 18 (d) (endangering life and safety) from the Transgender Person (Protection of Rights) Act 2019.

"This is the first case in Andhra Pradesh (under the transgender protection act)," ACP Vivekananda, who is also the nodal officer for the transgender protection cell of the coastal district said, but added a caveat against the misuse of the law: "Kindly, my request is that transgenders should not take this as an advantage."

HONOUR KILLING

Couple murdered, bodies thrown into Chambal river

Morena, Jun 19 (PTI):

A man along with his kin allegedly shot dead his teen daughter and her lover in Morena district of Madhya Pradesh and threw the bodies in the Chambal river, a police official said on Monday.

Rajpal Singh Tomar (55) has confessed to killing his daughter Shivani (19) and her friend Radheshyam Tomar (21) and throwing their bodies in to the Chambal river on June 3, Ambhar police station inspector Vinay Yadav told PTI. "Tomar and two of his relatives were detained on Saturday and their confessions were recorded. They were picked up on the complaint of Radheshyam's father Lakhman Tomar. State Disaster Response Force personnel and a diver have been deployed for the past two days to retrieve the bodies," he said. "The SRDF team and the diver have not been able to find

the bodies so far. We are also trying to check various running water sites," the official added.

Shivani, from Ratanbasai village, and Radheshyam, from Balupura hamlet, eloped on June 3, he said.

Lakhman Tomar told reporters that five days before Radheshyam went missing, accused Rajpal had called him and asked him to send his son away from the village or face the consequences.

He said he had made the rounds of the local police station and the superintendent of police's office since June 3 seeking action against the accused lest he destroy evidence.

"But the police only registered a missing person complaint claiming the two had eloped," Lakhman alleged. However, Yadav said a murder case will be registered only after the bodies are retrieved and as per proof and the rule book.

RATH YATRA PREPARATIONS



Devotees offer prayers in front of elephants ahead of the annual Rath Yatra (chariot procession), in Ahmedabad, Monday.

'Even god is not spared by BJP when it comes to corruption'

Ujjain, Jun 19 (PTI):

The "huge scam" in the construction of the Mahakal Lok corridor in Madhya Pradesh shows the ruling BJP has not even spared God when it comes to corruption, state Congress chief Kamal Nath alleged on Monday. He claimed this scam is so big that it has not only sullied the image of Ujjain but that of Madhya Pradesh in the entire country.

Addressing a public meeting in Mahidpur town, Nath claimed the Bharatiya Janata Party has been using religion as means of corruption and turned Madhya Pradesh into a "corrup-



Kamal Nath

tion state." "The recent scam in the Mahakal Lok corridor is so big that it has not only sullied the image of Ujjain but also of the state in the country. The BJP has not even spared God when it comes to corruption," Nath said.

To tackle addiction'

New Delhi, Jun 19 (PTI):

There is a need for introducing early-stage awareness programmes in the school curriculum to prevent children from falling into the trap of substance abuse and addiction, experts have said.

Think Change Forum (TCF), an independent think tank, conducted a qualitative analysis to look into new trends in substance abuse among adolescents with specific focus on the concerns of mothers. It held over 12 consultations among

EXPERTS VIEW

'Need to introduce early-stage awareness prog in school curriculum'

women experts and mothers from varied fields on the subject in the past few months.

Mothers and women experts have proposed a six-point agenda to address the rising threat of addiction among children.

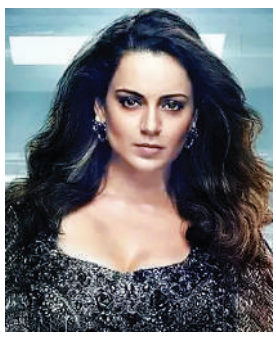
There is a need for introducing early-stage awareness programmes for children in all school curricula to prevent them from falling into the trap of substance abuse, they have said.

They also said that growing popularity of fancy electronic vaping devices among school children is a matter of

grave concern as they are being positioned as cool and safer by the international tobacco industry.

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BRIEF



Boys jump in the waters of Dal Lake during a hot summer day, in Srinagar, Monday.

Overturn

Dehradun: At least 25 pilgrims from Punjab were injured when a bus in which they were returning from the Reetha Sahib Gurudwara overturned in Uttarakhand's Champawat district, police said on Monday. The accident occurred on NH-9 near Dhaun on Sunday night when the bus carrying around 50 pilgrims was on its way to the Ropar district in Punjab.

Raid

Bengaluru: Central Crime Branch sleuths of the city police raided three dance bars operating illegally in the city and arrested nine people, booked 210 customers and rescued 87 women, police said on Monday. Police said conducted the raids based on complaints they received about illegal live bands playing in bars where women were forced to dance in front of customers.

Jail term

Mumbai: A special court in Mumbai has sentenced three persons, including a woman, to 10 years in jail in connection with the rape of a minor girl. Laysis Mohammad, Razaulla Ansari and Afrin Khan were found guilty of rape under the Indian Penal Code and Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act.

Booked

Indore: A 21-year-old man allegedly wore a fake uniform of Border Security Force (BSF) personnel and tried to enter the premises of the Central Ordnance and War Skills School (CSWT) in Madhya Pradesh's Indore, police said on Monday.

Dead

Hyderabad: A Right to Information (RTI) activist was killed in Telangana's Jangaon district in an apparent fallout of a land issue and three persons have been arrested for allegedly kidnapping and killing the retired Mandal Parishad Development Officer (MPDO), police said on Monday.

Weather
High 41 Low 30

MARKET
NIFTY 18755.45
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BULLION
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SILVER 72532

IPS officer Ravi Sinha appointed RAW chief

Goel who completes his four-year stint on June 30. Being the number two in the organisation, where he has served for more than two decades, Sinha has been credited with making a significant progress in employing modern technology in the process of intelligence gathering.

In his new role, Sinha is expected to integrate technological and human intelligence dimensions to address the challenges of today's times. The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the appointment of 59-year-old Sinha, a 1988-batch IPS officer of Chhattisgarh cadre, as the Secretary RAW for a tenure of two years, according to an order issued



by the Ministry of Personnel. Considered a specialist on countries in India's immediate neighbourhood, Sinha's appointment comes at a time when Pakistan is politically and economically unstable, Sikh extremism is being fanned from abroad and attempts are being made in the northeast, especially in Manipur, to

Technical expert....

Ravi Sinha is currently the special secretary at the Cabinet Secretariat, and is known for his nuanced understanding of sensitive issues such as Jammu and Kashmir, the Northeast and LWE (Left Wing Extremism). With the elevation of Sinha to the coveted post, the government has again underscored the importance of operational capability of intelligence agencies. Incidentally, R&AW's counterpart, Intelligence Bureau, which is tasked with domestic intelligence, is also headed by an officer with 'operations' background. Mr Sinha's batchmate Tapan Deka, who heads the Intelligence Bureau, was head of operations in IB for many years.

promote violence. Sinha is at present heading the operations wing of the Research and Analysis Wing (RAW). His batchmate Tapan Deka is heading the Intelligence Bureau. An alumnus of St Stephen's College in Delhi, Sinha has worked in a wide range of fields and brings to his new role an impressive bank of experi-

ence and knowledge. He is known to have a sound grip on developments in India's neighbourhood, besides Jammu and Kashmir, Northeast and areas hit by the Left Wing Extremism where he has severed at different points in time. His predecessor Goel was appointed RAW chief for two years in June 2019.

Buddyminton!

Amul Two good

26 people injured as bus hits bridge railing

Raigarh, Jun 19 (PTI): Twenty six people were injured when a private bus they were travelling in rammmed into the railing of a bridge in Chhattisgarh's Raigarh district on Monday, police said. The condition of two of the injured persons was critical, they said. The accident took place at around 8 am at Darri Dipa railway overbridge near Gharghoda area, a police official here said. The private bus was heading to Lailunga from Raigarh when the driver lost control of the wheels. The ve-

hicle then hit the railing wall of the bridge and got stuck, he said. Twenty six passengers received injuries in the accident. Eight of them are undergoing treatment at Raigarh district hospital, the official said. The 18 other injured persons were discharged after being provided preliminary treatment at Gharghoda primary health centre, he said. Efforts were on to trace the driver who fled from the spot after the accident, the official said.

Three die of suffocation after fire engulfs commercial complex

Korba, Jun 19 (PTI): Three persons died of suffocation after a fire broke out at a commercial complex in Chhattisgarh's Korba city on Monday afternoon, an official said.

Seventeen persons, who were rescued from the complex, have been hospitalised, he said.

The blaze broke out around 1.30 pm in a garment shop in the two-storey complex near Transport Nagar square, and gradually spread to other establishments, Korba collector Sanjeev Kumar Jha told PTI. The



complex houses 18 to 20 shops and a branch of a bank, he said. In a video of the incident, some people can be seen jumping from a corner of the first floor onto a mattress held by people standing below.

About the incident..

The blaze broke out around 1.30 pm in a garment shop in the two-storey complex near Transport Nagar square, and gradually spread to other establishments. Within 15 minutes of being alerted, fire fighting teams from NTPC, CSEB (Chhattisgarh State Electricity Board) and Balco reached the spot and personnel from the police, home guard and Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) launched a rescue operation.

Wanted in India, KTF chief shot dead

New Delhi, Jun 19 (PTI):

Canada-based Khalistan Tiger Force (KTF) chief Hardeep Singh Nijjar, one of the most-wanted terrorists in India who carried a cash reward of Rs 10 lakh on his head, was shot dead outside a gurdwara in the north American country, officials here said on Monday.

A resident of Bharsinghpur village in Punjab's Jalandhar, Nijjar was found dead inside a car with bullet wounds in the parking lot of Guru Nanak Sikh Gurdwara Sahib, of which he was the head, in Surrey around 8:27 pm (local time) on Sunday, they said.

Quoting preliminary information, the officials



said Nijjar was shot by two unidentified assailants and died on the spot.

When his body was being moved from the scene by the Canadian police, a group of Sikhs raised pro-Khalistan and anti-India slogans, according to the officials.

Nijjar was one of the most-wanted terrorists in India for his alleged involvement in terror activities in the country.

'Adipurush' faces protests across India, ban in Nepal



Activists of a Hindu organization in Sagra protest against the movie 'Adipurush' at a mall, in Varanasi.

Earns Rs 340 cr in 3 days

New Delhi, Jun 19 (PTI):

"Adipurush", a lavish multilingual retelling of the Ramayana, was at the centre of protests in several cities on Monday and led to a ban on all Hindi films in Nepal with Union minister Anurag Thakur stepping in to say that nobody has the right to hurt the sentiments of people.

As the row over the film escalated and audiences in various parts of Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra

Ayodhya seers join protest

While seers in Ayodhya demanded an immediate ban on the film saying its dialogues made their "blood boil", in Varanasi, a group of people staged a protest and tore posters of the Om Raut-directed film. A Hindu outfit also staged a protest outside a theatre in the temple town of Mathura.

Dialogue-writer Manoj Shukla given security

The Mumbai Police are providing security to Manoj Muntashir Shukla, the dialogue writer of the film "Adipurush", after he cited a threat to his life, an official said on Monday. Police have intensified patrolling near Shukla's office in suburban Mumbai and adequate security is also being provided at his residence.

and Delhi took to the streets, Mumbai Police agreed to give security to dialogue writer Manoj Muntashir Shukla on his request.

The film, directed by Om Raut and fronted by Prabhas and Kriti Sanon, has come under attack for its dialogue, colloquial language and representation of some characters from

the much-loved mythological epic.

In Nepal as well, "Adipurush" provoked ire over its dialogues, but particularly for its mention of Sita as "India's daughter". Screening of "Adipurush" and all other Hindi films has been banned in the country until the film's team makes desired changes.

Big change soon in NPS

New Delhi, Jun 19:

Pension fund regulator PFRDA is planning to introduce a systematic withdrawal plan to give flexibility to pension account holders to withdraw a lump sum fund as per their choice on completion of 60 years.

"The new plan will allow NPS subscribers to periodically withdraw - either monthly, quarterly, half-yearly or annually till the age of 75 years," PFRDA Chairperson Deepak Mohanty said.

The new plan, which is expected to be ready by September or October this year, will enable the subscribers to get a steady return till the age of 75 years, he added. At present, the subscribers of the National Pension

Notable factor...

The new plan, which is expected to be ready by September or October this year, will enable the Subscribers to get a steady return till the age of 75 years, PFRDA Chairperson Deepak Mohanty said.

Scheme or NPS can withdraw up to 60 per cent of the retirement corpus after turning 60 years as a lump sum while the remaining 40 per cent mandatorily goes into buying an annuity.

"This plan will be attractive for those NPS subscribers who do not wish to withdraw 60 per cent of their corpus at one go," said Mr Mohanty. Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority or PFRDA increased the entry age up to 70 and the exit age to 75 keeping in

view longevity. NPS is a portable retirement savings account. Under the NPS, the individual contributes to their retirement account. The employer can also co-contribute for the social security of the employee.

NPS comprises contributions from government employees and the other part is the private sector. Mr Mohanty had said earlier, adding the government sector is on autopilot because they keep coming on their own, but there is a need to grow on the private side.

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Yoga Demonstration led by PM Narendra Modi
UN Headquarters, New York (USA), 21st June 2023 | 8 AM EST | 5:30 PM IST

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BTTTA provides monetary assistance for mechanic's sister

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, June 19: Under the guidance of its patrons Prabhunath Mishra, Gopal Khandelwal, Gani Khan and Achaljit Bhatia, the Bhilai Truck Trainers Association (BTTTA) President Indrajeet Singh Chhotu and Executive President Anil Chaudhary accompanied by other office bearers provided monetary assistance for the marriage of a mechanic's sister.

They handed over Rs 25000/ cash to the association member



Mechanic Shahnawaz Khurshid for the marriage of his sister Baby Khatoun. All the mem-

bers of the association extended best wishes and congratulated the family. It was the 20th occasion that BTTTA provided monetary assistance to the needy.

Association Vice President Munna Singh Pritam, Sudhir Singh Thakur, Rudra Dada, Umesh Singh, Sunil Chaudhary, General Secretary Malkit Singh Lallu, Secretary Dilip Khatwani, Baljinder Singh Billa, Mahendra Singh, Shahnawaz Qureshi (Shanu), Amit Singh, Treasurer Joga Rao, Legal advisor RC Trivedi and all the office bearers and members were present.

Director I/c Trophy-2023 cricket concludes at Sector-1 Cricket Ground

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, June 19: SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant's Officers Association (OA), in association with Sports, Cultural & Civic Amenities (SCCA) Department organized Inter Alumni Tennis Ball Cricket Tournament Director In-charge Trophy 2023 from March 17, 2023. The final match and Valedictory Ceremony of the tournament was formally held on June 17, 2023 at Cricket Ground, Sector-1. Anirban Dasgupta, Director I/c (BSP) was the Chief Guest on this occasion.

Among senior officers present on the occasion as Special Guests were S Mukhopadhyay, ED (Projects) with Addl Charge of ED(P&A), AK Chakraborty, ED (MM), Samir Swarup, CGM I/c (Mines & Rowghat), Tapas Dasgupta, Acting ED (Works), SK Kar, CGM(Quality) Addl Charge (SMS-3), RK Srivastava, CGM



(Projects), Dr Ravindranath M, CMO I/c (M&HS), Tapan Kumar, CGM(MM), AK Dutta, CGM (SPs), JY Sapkale CGM (TA&CSR), MK Goyal, CGM (MWRM), AK Joshi, CGM (Utilities), AK Pandya, CGM (PBS), Dr RK Pal, CMO (M&HS), Dr K Thakur, CMO (M&HS), NK Banchhor, GM (MARS), Chairman (SEFI) and President (OA), Parvinder Singh, Gen Secretary (OA), BP Yadav, GM (SRU), Ajay Kumar, SEFI Nominee, Ankur Mishra, Treasurer, along with Venugopal Dewangan, GP Soni, Akhilesh Mishra (Secretary), S Ramaraju, GM (Director I/c Secretariat), SR Jakhhar, DGM(SCCA), KK Yadav, DGM

(Enforcement), Gagan Goyal, DGM (Finance), SK Dewangan, Assistant Manager (Finance) were also present on the occasion along with other senior officials and sports enthusiasts. A total of 17 Alumni (College/Institute/University) Cricket Teams from Bhilai Steel Plant participated in the tournament, and 35 matches were played among them. The Final Match of 15 overs was played between the Indian Institute of Material Management (IIMM) and Andhra University. Batting first, the Team IIMM set a target of 102 runs, and defeated the opponent team by 03 runs. Chief Guest Anirban Dasgupta,

Director I/c (BSP) felicitated the winning team IIMM. The programme concluded with releasing balloons in the sky.

Among the Zonal representatives present during the programme were Abdul Sharif, Tushar Singh, DPS Brar, P Annu, Salim, Piyush Sen, Santosh Singh, Radhakishun, Suman Gaush, GP Sharma, Sanjay Tiwari, Sandeep Borkar, Sunil Shahjada, RS Thakur, along with the Women Representatives Deepthi Raj, DGM (Instrumentation- BRM), Sushmita Patla, and VU Ushavelli. Pritpal Singh, GM (Water Mgmt) was the Commentator of the match, while Vinod Devghare, handled the Score Board. The programme was conducted by former BSP employee Satyawan Nayak while Parvinder Singh, Gen Secretary (OA), proposed the vote of thanks.

Employees of Blast Furnace felicitated with Shiromani Awards



Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, June 19: Employees of Blast Furnace Department of SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant were awarded with 'Karm Shiromani' Awards for their commendable work performance under the 'Shiromani Puraskar Yojana' by Bhilai Steel Plant, in an Award Ceremony held at Welfare Building-8(Blast Furnace) Conference Hall, on June 16, 2023. Saumya Tokdar, CGM (Blast Furnace) was the chief guest of the Award Ceremony.

Deenbandhu Shingh Gautam,

Chief Master Technician, and Gopal Bhimte, were awarded the 'Karm Shiromani Award', for their exemplary work-performance for the month of May 2023. Chief Guest Saumya Tokdar, CGM (Blast Furnace), felicitated the awardees and appreciated them for their achievements and contributions at the workplace. He said that the safety of our employees is our first priority. Tokdar encouraged all the employees of Blast Furnace to work in the future with the same spirit. Other senior officers of the department were also present during the Award

Ceremony, including Arvind Gupta, Rajesh Gaikwad, Guju Shrinivas, and Ajay Adak. All the present guests also congratulated the award winners by appreciating their exemplary performance.

Mementoes and Certificates were presented to the awardees, along with Letter of Appreciation to their respective Spouses. The programme was conducted by Biju George, Sr Mgr (Personnel), Blast Furnace. MM Srivastav, Mamta, Jr Officer, Haseena Begum and VS George also contributed for organising the programme successfully.

MGM Eye Institute empanelled with TPA of SAIL Mediclaim Scheme

19000 persons of Bhilai unit to benefit

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, June 19: MGM Eye Institute, Raipur, one of the best Eye Hospitals of this region has now been empanelled with M/S MD India, the TPA of the SAIL Mediclaim Scheme. Accordingly, all the SAIL Mediclaim members of the Bhilai unit (over 19000 persons) will be able to derive the following benefits/facilities for eye surgery/treatment at the MGM Eye Institute, Raipur: Cashless service for eye surgery, Reimbursement of OPD expenses including tests & medicines - hospital will provide all the necessary documents. The management of the Hospital has agreed for OPD fee of Rs 150 per mediclaim member per visit. For this the member has to contact any one of the following officials of the Hospital: Poonam, Head of Administration, Hirendra Sahu, Co-ordinator. For eye surgery, if the number of patients at Bhilai are 5 or more on any date, the hospital will arrange vehicle for pick-up & dropping back at no extra cost.

Netra Utsav ends with joy in Shri Jagannath Temple, Sector-4

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, June 19: Shri Jagannath Temple Sector-4 is going to celebrate the 54th Rath Yatra Festival 2023 of Mahaprabhu Shri Jagannath ji as per every year. On Monday Mahaprabhu's Netrotsav festival program was celebrated with spiritual spirit. The Netrotsav was organized at Shri Jagannath Temple, Sector 4 as per tradition on June 19, 2023. After a long illness and after Dev Snan Purnima, the doors of the temple of Mahaprabhu Shri Jagannath were opened.

Devotees had their first darshan of the Lord with Mangaldhwani and Ghantawadan after the traditional worship of the Netrotsav festival, Havan-Pujan. Devotees present during the Netra Utsav saw the young form of



Mahaprabhu. In making this festival a success, the President of Jagannath Committee Virendra Satpathy and General Secretary Satyawan Nayak along with the office bearers of the committee Bhim Swain, Trinath Sahu, Anam Nahak, Basant Pradhan, D Trinath, BC Biswal, Brindaban Swain, Sushant Satpathy, Prakash Das, Kalu Behra, Niranjana Maharana,

Ranjan Mahapatra, Prakash Swain, SC Patro, Jagannath Patnaik, Ravi Swain, Bees Keshan Sahu, Kavi Biswal, Seemanchal Behra, V K Hota, Himanshu Shyanti, Sudarshan Shyanti, Santosh Dalai, Shyam Dalai, Kailash Patro made an important contribution. Many devotees were present in this festival. Mahaprabhu got ready to go to his

aunt's house after the Netrotsav festival in the midst of a huge crowd. Mahaprabhu Shri Jagannath ji's Rath Yatra will start from Shri Jagannath Temple located in Sector-4, Street-15 on Tuesday, June 20, 2023 at 13:30 hrs and reach Gundicha Mandap built in Sector-10 via Central Avenue. In this, as the chief guest, the religious ritual of Chhera Panhra will be performed by Prem Prakash Pandey, former Speaker of the Legislative Assembly and former Minister of Higher Education. In Puri, this tradition is performed by the Maharaj of Puri. Therefore, all the devotees are requested to be present in the temple premises at 13:30 hrs to complete this holy and important program and get the holy darshan of Mahaprabhu Shri Jagannath swami ji.

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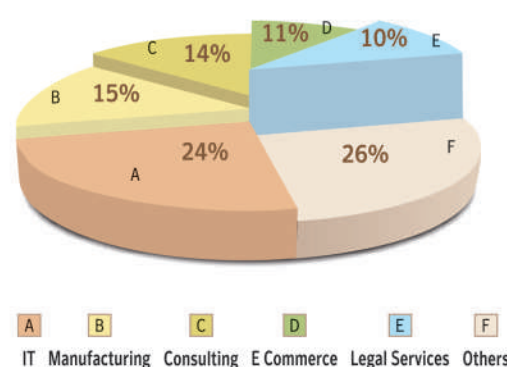
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'MMY' will now be implemented in all the 44 municipalities of the state

- Major decision of Chief Minister Mr. Bhupesh Baghel
- Presently this scheme is being implemented in 14 Municipal Corporations
- So far 96,258 people have got their certificates issued under the scheme

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, June 19: For the convenience of people in the state, Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel has decided to expand implementation of the popular "Mukhyamantri Mitan Yojana" (MMY) in all the 44 municipalities of the state. Under this scheme, people will be able to get their certificates and necessary government documents issued from the comfort of their home. Presently, this scheme

is being implemented in 14 municipal corporations of the state.

The popularity of this scheme can be gauged from the fact that 96 thousand 258 people have availed the benefits of this scheme so far from the date of its launch i.e. from May 01, 2022. With the commencement of this scheme, people no longer have to run pillar to post at Municipal Corporation, Tehsil and other government offices to get their necessary certificates and official documents issued.

So far, 96 thousand 258 people have received the government documents of their requirement at their doorstep, under Mukhyamantri Mitan Yojana. Till date, 01 lakh 13 thousand 234 people have called on the toll free number 14545 to get their govern-

ment documents made. This scheme has proven to be of great help and convenience for the senior citizens, Divyangjan, laborers, farmers, women and common people.

Following services, documents and certificates can be obtained under Mukhyamantri Mitan Yojana, domicile certificate, scheduled caste/tribe certificate, other backward class certificate, income certificate, copy of land record, death certificate, marriage registration and certificate, birth certificate, documents related to correction, shop and establishment registration, death certificate correction, marriage certificate correction, Aadhaar card registration, (for children up to 5 years) Aadhaar card address and mobile number correction, new ration card

making, ration card transfer / surrender, ration card correction, new Ration Card APL, Ration Card Missing Case, Name Addition / Deletion in Ration Card, New BPL Ration Card.

Once can call on the toll-free number 14545 to avail Mukhyamantri Mitan Yojana. Once the appointment is booked on call, Mitan reaches the applicant's home on the specified time and date, collects the required documents and uploads them on the portal after verifying the documents through the tablet. The verified documents are then sent online to the concerned departments who issue the certificate after reviewing the documents pertaining to the applicant. After the certificate is issued, it is delivered to the applicant's house by Mitan.

CM pays tribute to Pt. Madhavrao Sapre on his birth anniversary

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, June 19: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel paid a tribute to the Father of Journalism and Literature of the state, Pt. Madhavrao Sapre, on the occasion of his birth anniversary by garlanding his picture at the former's residential office today.

Remembering Sapre Ji, Chief Minister Baghel said that Chhattisgarh's journalism is prospering today because of the foundation laid by Sapreji. He has significantly contributed to the development of national and literary consciousness in Chhattisgarh.

Sapre's writing served as guidance to hundreds of Satyagrahis and inspired patriotism during



the freedom struggle. His valuable works in the field of journalism have given a new direction to Chhattisgarh. Baghel said that Sapreji

was committed to literature and the service of the nation throughout his life. Many articles and works written by him were published. He formed many

institutions through which people came forward to serve the nation and its people.

In 1900, despite the lack of adequate facilities and modern technology for publication, he started editing and publishing the monthly Hindi newspaper 'Chhattisgarh Mitra' in Pendra with the assistance of Waman Rao Lakhe Ji and Ram Rao Chincholkar Ji.

The story 'Tokri Bhar Mitti', written by Sapre Ji, has the distinction of being the first original Hindi story in Indian literature. The Chief Minister stated that the personality and the works of Pt. Madhavrao Sapre are inspirational for everyone, including litterateurs and journalists.

DK Sahu appointed President, Arvind Raj-VP



Central Chronicle News

Korba, June 19: The District President Chhattisgarh Akbar Vitkar Sangh (CAVS) Vipendra Kumar Sahu informed that in all the newspapers centres of Korba district, the agents and sub-agents have been appointed. In this context, a meeting at NTPC Coffee House was held that of CAVS Darri unit on Monday. In this, Jitendra Sahu was appointed as Patron; Deepak Kumar Sahu as

President, Arvind Raj as V-P; Ravinder Kumar as Secretary; Mukesh Kumar Sahu as Treasurer. The members of working committee are- Raghunath Vishwakarma, Arjun Sahu, Mohammed Aslam, Savan Kumar, Sagar Yadav, Manoj Das, Naresh Kawar, and others. On this occasion National Working Committee members- Vinod Kumar Sinha, District President Vipendra Kumar Sahu and District Secretary Jai Singh Netam were present.

CM Baghel inaugurates Pendra Press Club building

And a reading room constructed at a cost of Rs. 50 lakh

Central Chronicle News

Gourela, Pendra, Marwahi, June 19: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel reached the Pendra Press Club, where he inaugurated the press club building and reading room, constructed at a cost of Rs. 50 lakh. The building will cater to the needs of local journalists.

School students and competitive exam aspirants will benefit from the reading room. The Chief Minister also unveiled the statue of the Late Pt. Madhavrao Sapre.

The statue, built at a cost of Rs. 2 lakh, was unveiled



on Sapre Ji's 152nd birth anniversary today.

The Pandit Madhavrao Sapre Memorial Festival is also being organized on

this occasion. Eminent litterateurs and senior journalists from the country and the state are also attending the festival.

City Press Club Bagbahra formed

- To associate more members with it soon

Central Chronicle News

Bagbahra, June 19: The local print and electronic media representatives of Bagbahra have formed City Press Club Bagbahra and decision in this regard was taken after a meeting of all the newspapers representatives.

In this Krishnanand Dubey NDTV, Danvir Sharma- Navabharat, Dhananjay Tripathi- IBC-24; Vishnu Mahanand Pioneer; Mohit Sahu Patrika;

Salman Memon- Haribhoomi; Surendra Shrivastava Samvet Shikhar; Lalit Soni Deshbandhu; Raju Dewangan- Hello Bagbahra; Mayank Sharma Central Chronicle; Lalit Charadhari Samvad Sadhana were present.

In the meeting it was decided that in view of inconvenience in exchange of news of public representative, political parties, social institutions, government and non-government institutions and with that of general public that this City Press Club, Bagbahra has been formed in this regard,

through a press release it was informed that in the meeting the in-charge of Press Conference and others were appointed and decision was taken to ensure role in organising social, creative and intellectual activities as well.

In addition to this it was decided to associate more media representatives with the organisation. Further it was informed that information pertaining to formation of new Press Club is being sent to all the important persons, so that more and more persons can avail its benefit.

School bus checking camp organised as per SC guidelines

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, June 19: To ensure safe transportation of school students, Traffic Police Durg and Transport Department jointly organized a school bus checking camp at Police Ground in Sector 06. Under the guidance of SP Shalabh Sinha, 51 buses of 10 schools of the district were checked in the second phase.

The Transport Department officials checked the documents including registration, permit, fitness, insurance, PUC, road tax, driver's license etc. Thereafter, the mechanical fitness test of the vehicles was carried out, under which head light, brake light, parking light, indicator light, back light, meter, steering condition, tyre condition, clutch, accelerator, seat,



horn, wiper, reflectors etc were checked.

According to the criteria set by the Supreme Court, the joint team also checked GPS device in the vehicle, CCTV camera, speed governor, pressure horn, emergency window, display of school name, telephone number, mobile number of the driver, first aid box, fire extinguisher, etc in the school buses. Later, the health checkup of the drivers was done in

which BP, blood sugar level and eye test, etc was done by the team of District Hospital Durg.

Traffic Police challaned 13 school buses including 01 without uniform, 01 without fire extinguisher, 06 without wipers and 05 vehicles were chhalaned for not having seat belts. A total fine of Rs 3900 was collected. The schools have been instructed to rectify the defects within a week and get the vehicles



re-checked.

Deputy Superintendent of Police (Traffic) Satish Thakur gave detailed information about traffic signals, traffic signals to the drivers. He asked them not to be negligent while driving, conductors were asked not to stand at the door and ensure safety of children. They were also counselled for not consuming any kind of intoxicant.

Satish Thakur, Deputy

Superintendent of Police, Inspector Kujbihari Nage, Inspector DP Chandra and Inspector Vishnu Thakur supervised the vehicle checking. Documents were checked by Inspector Aruna Sahu. Transport Department, Durg.

ASI Tarakeshwar Singh, ASI Babu Lal (CAF First Battalion), Head Constable Satyender Singh and Constable Vinod Jaiswal (CAF, 7th Battalion), ASI Madhav

Sahu (Police Lines) and staff of MT Department conducted the mechanical examination. Chandrika Prasad, Sushil Pandey and Mahesh Mishra checked the compliance of SC guidelines.

The medical camp for drivers was conducted by Eye Assistant Officer (District Hospital Durg) Mohd Ejaz, Mukesh Sharma, MR Shaikh. Cops pasted OK stickers on the vehicles which were found to be fully fit.

The vehicles carrying these stickers would not be stopped during the routine checking while those vehicles found without sticker will be stopped and checked. In the coming days, another camp will be organised for the left over school buses and such institutions where school students are transported through small vehicles.

Daya Singh invites Tejasvi Surya to visit Bhilai



Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, June 19: BJP Corporator Deputy Leader of Opposition at BMC, Daya Singh met the BJYM National President Tejasvi Surya before the Chief Minister Residence gherao organized in Raipur.

In this meeting, Daya Singh detailed him about the shortcomings of the Chhattisgarh government and said that the youth have resolved to overthrow the Congress government of Chhattisgarh in the assem-

bly elections.

Daya Singh also informed him that BJP urban body unit and youths are continuously protesting against the state government. He had also staged gherao at Municipal Corporation Bhilai a few days ago.

He has been consistently vocal about the issues of corruption. He has also invited Tejasvi Surya to come to Bhilai. Surya has accepted the invitation and said he would come soon. He appreciated the works of Daya Singh.

BJP top leadership invited for Vastu Puja at BJP Office

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, June 19: BJP Bhilai District Organisation is organising Vastu Puja and Satyanarayan Katha Puja at its office situated in Priyadarshini Parisar (East) on June



20. The religious rituals would commence at 10:00 hrs and conclude around 14:00 hrs. BJP Bhilai

Raman Singh, State President Arun Sao, State General Secretary Organization Pawan Sai, Leader of Opposition Narayan Chandel, State Treasurer Nandan Jain, Subhash Rao and other senior leaders to attend the Vastu Pujan at the new BJP office. District Secretary Jai Prakash Yadav was also present on this occasion.

180 applications received in Jandarshan

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, June 19: Collector Pushpendra Kumar Meena met the people at the Jandarshan organized in the Collectorate hall on Monday and listened to their demands and problems. He directed the concerned officials to take necessary initiative to dispose of the applications at the earliest. 180 applications were received in Jandarshan, including applications related to illegal possession, distribution, financial assistance, demarcation, admission in Swami Atmanand School, ration card, etc.

A resident of village Dargaon submitted an application for electricity connection in the agricultural field. In his application, the villagers stated that the survey has been done by the Electricity Department for the installation of 5 electric poles in the fields. Along with this, he has also deposited the money for installing the poles, but till now the electricity department has not initiated action. In absence of electric sup-



ply, the farmers are unable to irrigate their fields even after having bore wells. The collector directed the electricity department to take necessary action in view of the inconvenience of the farmers.

Farmers of some other villages also reached Jandarshan and complained that there are 4-5 chemical companies in Hathkhaj industrial area and they dump the waste chemical in the drains. This nala passes through Aklor, Jarwai, Surdung and Nadauri villages. Cattle are falling sick after drinking the

water of this drain. Along with this, due to the mixing of waste chemicals in the rivers, ponds and drinking water sources of the nearby villages, the health of the villagers is also being affected. Along with this, due to the smell of chemicals, people are also suffering from respiratory diseases and this chemical is making an adverse effect on the fields as well. The farmers are facing difficulties in agriculture. The Collector instructed to take immediate action on this complaint.

A resident of Arsnara village said that during the rainy season the water from the village ground fills up in his house, due to which he has to face a lot of problems. There is a possibility of the house collapsing anytime in the rainy season because there is no way to drain the water. There is a small pipeline in the road, but it is not able to drain the entire water. In the application, he requested to provide safety to the residential house by installing bigger pipes for drainage. The Collector instructed the CEO District Durg to take necessary action.

The Government post-matric tribal boy hostellers complained that the playground of the hostel has been encroached to construct another building. The hostel inmates are not able to find a suitable place to play and are getting deprived of sports. The Collector instructed the concerned department to take immediate action.

A resident of Bhilai submitted an application for allotment of a house on the ground floor under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana. A resident of Shantinagar applied for tap connection. Residents of Arya Nagar Kohka said that due to the encroachment of road and drain in the locality by other people, the flow of drainage of water has stopped. The residents of the locality are facing a lot of problems. All the residents of the locality submitted an application to the Collector for removal of illegal encroachment. On this, the Collector directed the Municipal Corporation Bhilai to take necessary action.

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Chronicle

Three looted Church's Father of Rs 1.20 lakh on gun-point

From his house in Catholic Church near Jalap Chowk



Central Chronicle News

Bagbahra, June 19: Three unknown thieves ransacked the house of Father Catholic Church near Jhalap Chowk on NH-353 in Bagbahra on Sunday afternoon and looted Rs 1.25 lakh kept in the Almirah of his house on a gun-point in broad daylight.

Before leaving they tied both the hands and legs of the Father of Church and closed the door from outside. The police has started investigations against

the thieves and DSP Garima Dadar is looking into the case, as the 'TI' if out of station.

This is first incident of its kind of theft and looting in a church in the city. So far there were incidents of thefts in temple. The incident is that of 11:30 am, at that time Father Varghese Tekke Kuttu was reading a newspaper on a chair after offering prayers in the Church and while doing so he fell asleep.

At that time three persons entered his house

and got awake and before entering they said that they want to offer prayers and on which Father agreed and got up. But a masked person with black cloth on his face asked him to sit down and took him on gun-point and asked as to where he has kept the cash by two unmasked persons.

On denial by the Father, one person stayed in the verandah and other two went inside the room and started searching for the cash and keys. They searched for the keys and

found it inside the Almirah which was unlocked and took away cash of Rs 1.20 lakh kept inside the almirah. They even search the other baggage kept below the bed and searched everything inside it and below the mattress as well.

Father Varghese informed the police that the thieves even threatened him of death using the sharp 'gandasa' kept inside his room. After looting the entire cash, the thieves handcuffed him using a tape and tied his

legs using a scarf and locked the gate from outside before leaving.

After this Father Varghese informed that he tore open the tape with his teeth and then untied his legs and getting up knocked at the wooden panes of the window. But since it was afternoon, no one was there and if failed to make any impact.

He used a screwdriver to unscrew the All-drop in the door and came out and informed going to sister's quarters and later informed to the police. DSP Garima Dadar informed that investigation is going on at different angles and nearby CCTVs are being cross-checked.

Meanwhile the looting at the gun-point in the Church has become centre of discussion in the city. Information about three persons on a Scooty made viral in the social media was cross-checked by Ms Dadar from TI, but he could not be contacted.

Dy. Director holds review of schemes and implementation



● Of gov't schemes for Agriculture dept

Central Chronicle News

Koriya, June 19: The Dy. Director Agriculture Department informed that it was under chairmanship of Joint Director Agriculture Surguja div. Yashwant Keram, a review meeting with all the officers and employees of the agriculture department was held in context of preparations for 2023 Khariff yr and about implementation of depart-

mental schemes.

In the above meeting, Dy. Director (Agri), SDM (Agriculture) Baikunthpur, senior Agricultur Development Officer Baikunthpur and Sonhat and all other officers and employees of the department and Agri Expansion officers were present.

In the meeting Yashwant Keram reviewed about the target achievement for 2022-23 and held detailed review of preparations for Khariff year 2023. Keram also reviewed about the state government's important

schemes viz. Godhan Nyay Yojana; Rajiv Gandhi Kissan Nyay Yojana; special work plan for Millet mission; target achievement as per crop production; storage of seeds, fertilizers and its distribution; quality of seeds and fertilizers; Kissan Credit; PM Kissan Samman Nidhi Yojana and other schemes and gave necessary instructions to all.

Apart from this he also directed the officers to ensure benefits to large number of farmers from important schemes of the state government for Khariff 2023.

Murmunda Chowk looming in darkness for last 1 month!

● Pedestrians facing major problems

Central Chronicle News

Dongargarh, June 19: Four main roads culminate at the main chowk in Gram Murmunda of Dongargarh block and it is looming in darkness for last one year. Being pitch dark at the main chowk is posing lots of problems for the pedestrians. The local administration has installed CCTV camera at the Chowk in order keep vigil on activities, but in darkness it is also of no help.

CCTV in dark of no use, giving chance to anti-socials:

With darkness all around Murmunda Chowk, the CCTV camera installed there is of no use and due to which anti-social elements are getting additional advantage. As per information from villagers, due to strong winds last month, the streetlight installed at the Chowk went off and till date it has not been repaired and due



to which the entire Chowk is looming in darkness. At this place many accidents too have taken place due to the same.

Darkness due to department's carelessness-Sachiv Gram Panchayat Murmunda

Sachiv Gram Panchayat Murmunda Ramkumar Verma informed that the solar panel installed atop the Gram Panchayat Bhavan has got damaged

due to strong winds and hailstorms a month back and information about the same has been given to CREDA. Duo to this there is no light in the Gram Panchayat. The employees of CREDA department Rajnandgaon had even come and checked the damaged plates here in Gram Murmunda, but so far it has not been repaired and it is lying closed for last one month.

Sahu Samaj organizes career guidance event for Rural Youth

Central Chronicle News

Kareli Badi, June 19: In an effort to provide proper career guidance and support to the youth, a career guidance program was initiated at the Gram Bakli Sukh Samagam Raju Bhavan, organized by the Chhattisgarh State Sahu Sangh IT Cell State Organization Secretary, Dharmendra Kumar Sahu. The event aimed to help students in selecting the right subjects and achieving success through dedication and hard work.

During the program, it was emphasized that every subject holds its own importance, and in addition to academic knowledge, practical knowledge plays a vital role in life. With the ever-growing significance of technology, technical education is gaining popularity and holds promising prospects for the future.

The focus shifted beyond merely obtaining a degree to aspiring for positions as efficient officers,



employees, businessmen, and farmers.

The teachers, Khilleshwar Sahu and Rameshwar Prasad Sahu, stressed that in this crucial phase of a child's life, it is not only the responsibility of parents but also the society to guide them towards the right subjects and career paths.

This guidance plays a

significant role in ensuring that children move in the right direction and achieve their desired goals. Every parent dreams of their children obtaining a job, becoming capable individuals, and bringing honor to their family name.

This can only be accomplished through proper guidance. The students

were motivated by sharing examples of great personalities and successful individuals from various fields. They were encouraged to make choices based on their interests rather than societal expectations.

The successful organization of the program was acknowledged and appreciated by Gramin Sahu

Samaj President, Thanu Ram Sahu, who expressed gratitude to all those involved. He highlighted the society's commitment to continue such noble initiatives in the future. The event witnessed the enthusiastic participation of the rural youth, emphasizing their eagerness to explore and shape their career paths.

Students informed about importance of blood donation

In the Lecture on Blood donation held at GNPCC



Central Chronicle News

Raipur, June 19: As per instructions by the Hemchand Yadav University, Durg, World Blood Donor day was observed jointly under aegis of NSS, NCC and Red Cross Society of India at Govt Nehru PT College, Dongargarh, last on June 14.

On this a lecture was also organised to motivate children about blood donation and about the importance of blood donation. The main speaker in this lecture was Counsellor Community Health Centre Hitendra Kosale.

with garlanding and lighting of traditional lamp before Goddess Saraswati. The main speaker Kosale was welcomed by Principal in-Charge Dr Rewati informed that this year under the 'Azadi ka Amrut Mahotav', the theme for blood donation camp on June 14 was 'Rakt do, Plasma do, Jeewan do, bar-bar do' (Give blood, plasma, life, again & again).

The main speaker of the programme, Counsellor CHC Hitendra Kosale informed that there is no weakness from donation of blood. Those who are above 50 kg can donate blood. A blood donated by

a person can save a person's life, as blood donation is a pious and sacred work.

In this programme, lecturers of the College- Dr Pradeep Kumar Jambulkar, Nitesh Tirpade, JK Yadav, HR Padme, Gulshan Sinha, Sonali Loya, Omprakash Verma, Avinash Singh, Bedprakash Sahu, JK Dewangan, employees and NSS, NCC, Red Cross workers and students were present in large number. The programme was conducted by Programme officer NSS Neelam Chaturvedani and vote of thanks was proposed by HR Padame.

Group Yoga at Ramanuj Mini Stadium

On occasion of Int'l Yoga Day June 21

Central Chronicle News

Koriya, June 19: On occasion of World Yoga Day on June 21, the district-level combined group Yoga programme will be held at city's Ramnuj Mini Stadium from 7:00 am to 8:00 am. For the district-level programme on occasion of Int'l Yoga Day, the SDM (Revenue) has been appointed as the Nodal Officer.

Collector Vinay Kumar Lageh has directed all the concerned officers to ensure Yoga programmes in all the schools, Colleges, institutions, block hq's; urban bodies and at Gram Panchayat-level from 7:00 am 8:00 am.

On Yoga day the school children will also take part in the district-level programme. In the urban bodies and block hq's level, the public representatives and Sarpanchs and other reps will take part in Yoga session at Gram

Panchayat-level. In this district-level Group Yoga programme, all the departmental heads and officers,

employees, businessmen, and farmers. The teachers, Khilleshwar Sahu and Rameshwar Prasad Sahu, stressed that in this crucial phase of a child's life, it is not only the responsibility of parents but also the society to guide them towards the right subjects and career paths.

CHANGE OF NAME
IT IS INFORMED TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC THAT I RAJESH TIWARI S/O PREM SHANKAR TIWARI RESIDENT OF WARD NO.12, WYPAR BIHAR ROAD, NAGDAUNE COLONY, TALAPARA, BILASPUR (C.G.) 495001 HAVE CHANGED MY OLD NAME RAJESH TIWARI S/O PREM SHANKAR TIWARI, SO IN FUTURE I SHOULD BE RECOGNIZED BY MY NEW NAME RAJESH KUMAR TIWARI S/O PREM SHANKAR TIWARI IN ALL GOVERNMENT AND OTHER DOCUMENTS.
RAJESH KUMAR TIWARI
WARD NO.12, WYPAR BIHAR ROAD, NAGDAUNE COLONY, TALAPARA, BILASPUR (C.G.) 495001

बैंक ऑफ इंडिया BOI RAIPUR ZONAL OFFICE:- G.D. Shesh Nilayam, Tatyapara Chowk, Kankalpara Road, Raipur, Chhattisgarh, Ph.: 0771-4212422/3212

NOTICE
E-auction notice was published by our office on 18.06.2023 in Haribhoomi and Central Chronicle, in which the following points need improvement:-
In which Property No. 01 Kosmunda Branch : Mr. Ashwini Kumar Kashyap S/o. Mohan Lal Kashyap & Mrs. Santoshi Kashyap W/o. Ashwini Kashyap Reserved Price 10.22 lakhs, and E.M.D. Amount 1.02 Lakh, Bid Increase Amount 0.25 Lakh., Property No. 02 Bilaspur Branch :-Borrower -M/s. Shree Sai Mohan Furniture Prop. Mr. Ashutosh Sahu S/o. Netram Sahu Guarantor -M/s. Shivkali Sahu, W/o. Netram Sahu Reserve Price 16.65 Lakh, E.M.D. Amount 1.66 Lakh, Bid Increase Amount 0.25 Lakh., Property No. 15 Bemetara Branch :- Borrower : Mr. Rashid Khan Reserve Price 12.60 Lakh, and E.M.D. Amount 1.26 Lakh, Bid Increase Amount 0.25 Lakh., Property No. 08 Bhalil Branch :- Borrower: M/s. Shiv Shakti Fruit Co. Proprietor : Mr. Shivkumar Jaishwal S/o. Shri Rampreet Jaishwal Demand Notice Dated 02.04.2019, Possession Dated 19.06.2019, read the outstanding amount 35.89 Lakh.

Authorized Officer, Bank of India

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank Champa Branch, Dist- Janjgir-Champa (C.G.)

DEMAND NOTICE
NOTICE U/S 13(2) OF THE SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002

Borrower's & Guarantor's Name & Address	Type	Details of Mortgaged Property
	Limit	
Borrower: Smt. Kanta Devi Sharma, W/O Hanuman Prasad Sharma, Co Galaxy Automobiles, Near Barpali Chowk Champa, Champa Chhattisgarh-495671.	CANARA RENT	EMT of Land & Building situated at Khasra No. 7/3, P.H. No. 04, Tahsil Office Road Ward No. - 21, Beside Guha Complex in Nagar Palika Parishad Champa, Block-Barnhanideeh, R.N.M. & Tahsil- Champa & Dist. Janjgir/Champa (C.G.). Area: 0.03Acr or 0.12 Hect. Boundary: North: land of Manglu Yadav, South: Land of Raja Guha, East: Road, West: Land of Raja Guha.
Guarantor: Mr. Hanuman Prasad Sharma S/O Ram Gopalji Sharma, Co Galaxy Automobiles, Near Barpali Chowk Champa, Champa Chhattisgarh-495671.	₹ 17,00,000/-	
	Total Dues	
	₹ 9,54,175.67	
	as on 29.05.2023	
	NPA Dt. 29.05.2023	

The Borrower mentioned above has availed total credit facilities as mentioned above from CANARA BANK and the mentioned Guarantors provided guarantee and secured by way of mortgaged of above mentioned property. The borrower failed to adhere to terms and conditions of sanction. The account became irregular and classified as NPA as mentioned above as per RBI guidelines. The Bank intends to enforce the said property mortgaged by you and issued Demand Notice as mentioned above for recovery of outstanding amount as mentioned above with interest and expenses thereon under registered post with acknowledgment due which were not served to the borrowers and guarantors. Hence this publication issued. Hereby Borrower/Guarantor are called upon to pay the amount mentioned above with rate of interest (Contractual Rate), costs, charges etc., thereon within 60 Days from the date of publication failing which the undersigned will be constrained to initiate action against mortgaged property under section 13(4) and the provision of said Act to realize our Bank's dues. Your attention is invited to provisions of the Sec (8) of Sec (13) of the act in respect of time available to you to redeem the secured assets.

Date: 19.06.2023 Place: Champa (CG) Authorised officer / CANARA BANK

BRIEF



A family rides a country boat after fishing at the Kochi backwaters, Monday.

Bus overturns

Dehradun: At least 25 pilgrims from Punjab were injured when a bus in which they were returning from the Reetha Sahib Gurudwara overturned in Uttarakhand's Champawat district, police said on Monday. The accident occurred on NH-9 near Dhaun on Sunday night when the bus carrying around 50 pilgrims was on its way to the Ropar district in Punjab. Local police and the State Disaster Response Force carried out a relief and rescue operation, they said. Seven of the injured are in critical condition and have been referred to the district hospital in Haldwani, the police added.

Woman held

Thane: The Government Railway Police (GRP) have arrested woman who allegedly stole jewellery worth Rs 4.2 lakh from a commuter at a railway station in Maharashtra's Thane district last month, an official said on Monday. The Kalyan GRP crime branch arrested the woman on June 17 for the theft that took place at Thakurli railway station on May 21, senior inspector Asharuddin Shaikh. The complainant was waiting for a train at Thakurli railway station when her bag containing jewellery was stolen, he said.

History-sheeter dead

Malappuram: A murder accused was found dead in front of a shop in a town in this north Kerala district on Monday morning, police said. They said Adam (43) was found dead in front of the shop inside the bus stand in Tirur with a serious head injury. Adam is accused in around 10 criminal cases, including a murder case in 2018. He was out on bail, police said. "He was a habitual offender. There are nearly 10 cases against him. He usually sleeps in front of some shops in the bus stand. There's a serious injury to the head, but the reason for death can be ascertained only after the post mortem," a senior police official told PTI.

Tributes paid

Chandigarh: The Punjab Assembly on Monday paid tributes to the Odisha rail tragedy victims, former chief minister Parkash Singh Badal, actor Mangal Dhillon and other departed members. The opening day of the two-day assembly session began here with obituary references. Among others, the House also paid tributes to former minister Chaudhary Swarna Ram, ex-MLA Rupal Chand, freedom fighter Ujagar Singh, martyr Mandeep Singh and boxer Kaur Singh, who passed away recently.

LG reviews Amarnath Yatra preparations

Srinagar, Jun 19 (PTI)

Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Monday directed for higher resource mobilisation and increasing manpower to ensure the completion of all the ongoing work in time for the commencement of the Amarnath Yatra next month.

The LG chaired a high-level meeting to review the preparedness for the annual pilgrimage to the 3,888-metre-high cave shrine in the south Kashmir Himalayas and took stock of the preparedness of the departments and agencies concerned.

The meeting was attended by Mandeep Kumar Bhandari, CEO, Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board (SASB), GOC, 15 Corps, Lieutenant General Rajiv Ghai and other senior officials of the civil administration, SASB, Border

Roads Organisation (BRO) and representatives of telecommunication service providers.

Sinha directed the officials for higher resource mobilisation and increasing manpower to ensure the completion of all related work well before the scheduled commencement of the yatra on July 1. He was apprised of the work to upgrade the yatra tracks by the BRO, the installation of safety railings on all vulnerable stretches, snow clearance, installation of Army tents and strengthening of the telecommunication network.

The LG directed the telecom service providers to enhance the network connectivity and increase the bandwidth along the yatra route.

He also took stock of the work taken up by the irrigation and flood control department.

Army commander reviews Amarnath Yatra preparations

Udhampur (J&K), Jun 19 (PTI) Multi-tiered arrangements, including night vision devices, snipers, drone systems and dog squads, will be put in place to ensure foolproof security during the upcoming Amarnath Yatra, officials said on Monday.

According to the Army officials, the road stretches on the twin routes of the pilgrimage to the 3,888-metre-high cave shrine are almost clear. This was revealed during the inspection-cum-review of the yatra arrangements by Northern Army commander Lieutenant General Upendra Dwivedi, the officials said.

The 62-day pilgrimage to the cave shrine in the south Kashmir Himalayas is scheduled to start on July 1 and continue till August 31. The Amarnath Yatra takes place annually via two routes —

the southern route through Baital in Ganderbal and the northern route through Pahalgam in Anantnag district.

"Army commanders reviewed the ongoing preparations for the Amarnath Yatra that will commence on July 1 for two months," PRO, Defence, Udhampur, Lieutenant Colonel Devende Anand said. The Army commander inspected the arrangements on both the routes of the yatra. He was briefed on the multi-tiered security arrangements, including night vision devices, snipers, drone systems, bomb disposal squads, dog squads, counter-IED equipment, vehicle repair-and-recovery teams to ensure a smooth movement of convoys and synergy with civil agencies, to ensure that the yatra is incident-free, Lieutenant Colonel Anand said.

AMBUBACHI MELA



A sadhu blows conch with others ahead of the annual Ambubachi mela at the Kamakhya temple in Guwahati, Monday.

BJP MP Diya Kumari to Union minister 'Reconsider decision to have weekly off in tiger reserves'

Jaipur, Jun 19 (PTI)

BJP MP Diya Kumari has requested Union minister Bhupender Yadav to reconsider the decision to have a weekly off in tiger reserves, saying such a closure in addition to the mandatory 92-day monsoon shutdown would affect the tourism-based local economy.

"Tiger reserves are closed for 92 days every year during the monsoon. The provision of weekly offs would further reduce the number of days tourism can be allowed. This would affect the tourism-based local economy," the MP from Rajsamand in Rajasthan said.

Kumari, a member of the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA), said the provi-

sion of weekly offs would not serve any conservation purpose and staffers of tiger reserves can be given weekly offs on a rotational basis.

In a statement, she said she has requested the Union minister for environment, forest and climate change to reconsider the issue and advise the NTCA to withdraw its order that will come into effect from July 1, 2023.

Tiger reserves across the country will be observing a weekly off according to the NTCA order.

Rajasthan has four tiger reserves — Ranthambore Tiger Reserve (Sawai Madhopur), Sariska Tiger Reserve (Alwar), Mukundra Tiger Reserve (Kota) and Ramgarh Vishdhari Tiger Reserve (Bundi).

Significant no of students across globe struggling to gain foundational literacy and numeracy skills: Education MoS

Pune, Jun 19 (PTI)

Various surveys from across the globe suggest that there is a learning crisis and a significant portion of students in elementary school are struggling to gain Foundational Literacy and Numeracy skills, Union Minister of State for Education Rajkumar Ranjan Singh said on Monday.

"The ability to read and write, and perform basic operations with numbers, is a necessary foundation and an indispensable prerequisite for all future schooling and lifelong learning. Various surveys from across the globe suggest that we are in a learning crisis and a significant portion of students in elementary school are struggling to gain FLN," he said.

"Attaining Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN) for all children thus becomes an urgent priority for our educational systems requiring immediate measures to be taken on many fronts and with clear goals which will be attained in the short term (including that every student will attain foundational literacy and numeracy by Class 3)," he added.

The minister made the comments during a keynote address at the fourth and final G20 Education Working Group (EdWG) meeting.

"India's G20 EdWG Presidency is focused on building and carrying forward deliberations in past presidencies and on addressing concerns which

are impediment in realising full transformational potential of education by bridging gaps in quality education and skilling, as well as on accelerating the pursuit of the SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals).

"Our new National Education Policy lays particular emphasis on the development of the creative potential of each individual as it is based on the principle that education must develop not only cognitive capacities — both the foundational capacities of literacy and numeracy and higher-order cognitive capacities, such as critical thinking and problem solving — but also social, ethical, and emotional capacities and dispositions," he said.

Danve asks Koshiyari to get UN to declare June 20 as 'World Traitor Day'

Mumbai, Jun 19 (PTI)

The Shiv Sena (UBT) on Monday mocked former Maharashtra governor Bhagat Singh Koshiyari by asking him to write to the United Nations to declare June 20, the day Eknath Shinde's rebellion that brought down the Uddhav Thackeray government last year began, as 'World Traitor Day'.

Koshiyari was the governor when the rebellion, the split in the Shiv Sena and the fall of the state government took place and he has been at the centre of accusations from Maha Vikas Aghadi constituents of acting in a partisan manner to benefit the Bharatiya Janata Party. Koshiyari's role in the chain of events that led to the formation of the Shinde government with the support of the BJP was also criticised by the

Supreme Court while hearing petitions on disqualification of rebel Shiv Sena MLAs.

In a letter laced with sarcasm, Leader of Opposition in the Maharashtra Legislative Council Ambadas Danve asked Koshiyari to write to the UN to declare June 20, when several MLAs including Shinde left for Surat in Gujarat and then to Guwahati in Assam, as 'World Traitor Day'.

"Shinde's decision is said to have taken note by some 32-33 countries. If so many people across the globe are keen on it, it should be declared as World Traitor Day. I request you to pursue the matter with the United Nations through your Delhi-based lords (a reference to the BJP-led Centre)," Danve, a senior Shiv Sena (UBT) leader, said.

Cabinet approves amendment to Sikh Gurdwara Act to ensure 'free telecast' of Gurbani from Golden Temple

Chandigarh, Jun 19 (PTI)

The Punjab Cabinet on Monday approved a proposal to amend the Sikh Gurdwara Act, 1925 to ensure "free telecast rights" of Gurbani from the Golden Temple, Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann said.

Mann also said that the

government will bring an amendment Bill in the state assembly in this regard.

According to an official statement, Mann said the Sikh Gurdwara (Amendment) Act, 2023 will pave the way for eliminating the undue control of 'modern day masands' over the free to air telecast

of the sacred Gurbani.

The statement quoting Mann said the Cabinet has approved to amend the Sikh Gurdwara Act, 1925 and to insert Section 125 A in the Act thereby casting duty on the SGPC to ensure "free to air" live telecast of the holy Gurbani from Sri Harmandir Sahib (Golden Temple).

Congress to stage protests against Centre for 'denying' rice to fulfil poll guarantee

Bengaluru, June 19 (PTI)

The Congress in Karnataka will stage demonstrations on Tuesday across all district headquarters against the BJP-led Central government for "denying" rice for the State's 'Anna Bhagya' scheme which offers 10 kg rice to each member of families living below the poverty line.

The Centre recently discontinued the sale of rice and wheat from the central pool under the Open Market Sale Scheme (OMSS) to state governments.

According to an order is-

sued by the Food Corporation of India (FCI), "The sale of wheat and rice under the OMSS (domestic) for state governments is discontinued". However, the sale of rice under the OMSS will be continued for north-eastern states, hilly states and states facing law and order situations, natural calamities at an existing rate of Rs 3,400 per quintal, it said.

The move comes amid the slow progress of the monsoon and rising prices of rice and wheat. Rice prices have increased by up to 10 per cent in the last one year at the mandi level

and by 8 per cent in the last one month, as per official data.

Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar, who is also the Congress state president, said on Monday the protest is against the Centre for "troubling the state government by denying rice". "The Centre has decided to trouble us so that we cannot give rice to the poor people. We are not asking them to give us rice free of cost. There has been a system from the beginning. If there was rice in the central warehouses, it was given to those demanding it," Shivakumar told reporters here. "We

will stage a demonstration across all the district headquarters in the state tomorrow. We have asked our leaders to participate. I will also participate in the agitation in Bengaluru," he said.

Meanwhile, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said the state needs 2.28 lakh metric tonnes of rice to fulfill its "guarantee" scheme of 10 kg rice under the Anna Bhagya scheme. "Only Chhattisgarh has offered us 1.5 lakh metric tonnes. Nowhere else rice in such a huge quantity is available, including Punjab," Siddaramaiah told reporters.

FARMERS DEMANDING COMPENSATION



Members of Rayat Kranti Sanghatana and farmers block Solapur-Tuljapur highway demanding adequate compensation for the acquisition of land for road construction projects, in Solapur, Monday.

RTI activist found dead in quarry lake

Hyderabad, June 19 (PTI):

Three persons were arrested for allegedly kidnapping and killing a retired Mandal Parishad Development Officer (MPDO) and RTI activist over a land dispute, police said on Monday. The murder of 70-year-old Nalla Ramakrishnaiah came to light on Sunday when his body was found in a water-filled quarry in Jangaon district, three days after he went missing, they said adding that his son had earlier filed a missing complaint. G Anjaiah, the prime accused, who had a dispute with Ramakrishnaiah, nursed a grudge against him for complaining against him to government officials over a land issue, police said. He allegedly hired a supari (contract

killing) gang to eliminate him, a police official said.

The gang members allegedly kidnapped Ramakrishnaiah on June 15 at Pochannapeta. They "strangled" him to death and dumped the body in a quarry pond, police said.

Police apprehended Anjaiah and two supari killers on Sunday and efforts are on to nab other absconding accused, based on interrogations. Ramakrishnaiah had filed RTI applications, civil suits in the court and had also approached Human Rights Commission against Anjaiah for cancellation of pattas pertaining to a government-assigned land in Pochannapeta village which he had allegedly occupied.

Amid rising mercury Adityanath ask officials to ensure no power cuts happen

Lucknow, Jun 19 (PTI)

In view of the heatwave conditions in Uttar Pradesh, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath Monday held a meeting with the officials asking them to ensure no unnecessary power cuts happen in the state and said there should be a provision to purchase more electricity if needed. The issue of power transformers catching fire should be immediately resolved and a heatwave action plan should be implemented in zoological parks and sanctuaries, he said in a statement. "In the prevailing heatwave, there should not be any unnecessary power cuts in the villages and

cities. If needed, there should be provision to purchase more electricity," Adityanath said.

There should be no shortage of drinking water and arrangements should be made for drinking water in all municipal bodies and rural areas besides the markets and on the main roads, he told officials. For this, cooperation of social and religious organisations should also be taken, the chief minister said. The common public should be made aware of the symptoms of heatwave and ways to protect themselves from it, he said, adding that people under the weather should be provided immediate medical care.

BRIEF



Indigenous people protest against proposed legislation that would change the policy that demarcates Indigenous lands, in Sao Paulo, Brazil.

Migrants rescued

Athens (Greece): Greece's coast guard says 68 people have been rescued in the eastern Aegean Sea after the sailboat they were on sent a distress signal while off the coast of island of Leros. The sailboat, which is believed to have set sail from Turkey carrying migrants hoping to reach Greece, issued a distress call early Monday, and the passengers were initially picked up by a passing merchant ship before being transferred to a coast guard vessel, the coast guard said. All were safely transported to Leros, and there were no reports of any injuries or people missing. The nationalities of those on board were not immediately available.

Weekend shootings

Washington: A spate of weekend mass shootings and violence across the US killed at least six people, including a Pennsylvania state trooper, and left dozens injured. The shootings follow a surge in homicides and other violence over the past several years that experts say accelerated during the coronavirus pandemic. They happened in suburban Chicago, Washington state, central Pennsylvania, St. Louis, Southern California and Baltimore.

Guard stabbed

Tunis (Tunisia): A security agent guarding the Brazilian Embassy in Tunisia was stabbed in the heart Monday and was hospitalised in critical condition, according to the Tunisian Interior Ministry. The suspected assailant was shot in the leg by police and arrested, the ministry said in a statement. It said the agent was stabbed after he asked the suspect why he was outside the embassy. The area, in a residential zone of the capital, Tunis, was cordoned off by police. Ministry spokesperson Faker Bouzghaya said the security guard was wounded in the heart.

Suspect arrested

Kellogg (US): Police in Idaho arrested a suspect in a shooting that killed four people on Sunday, according to a news report. The Shoshone County Sheriff's Office said in a Facebook post that it responded with the Kellogg Police Department to a residence in Kellogg around 7:30 pm. Police found four people who died of gunshot wounds, news reports said. The shooting occurred at multi-dwelling units behind the Mountain View Congregational Church in the city about 36 miles (58 kilometers) east of Coeur d'Alene, the Shoshone News-Press reported on the newspaper's Facebook page.

Modi euphoria captures US ahead of first State Visit



Indian-Americans gather to send a message of welcome to Prime Minister Narendra Modi ahead of his state visit, in Washington, USA.

Washington/Houston, Jun 19 (PTI)

Hundreds of enthusiastic Indian-Americans gathered at iconic locations across 20 US cities and organised unity marches to send a message of welcome to Prime Minister Narendra Modi days ahead of his State Visit here.

Prime Minister Modi is visiting the US from June 21-24 at the invitation of US President Joe Biden and

First Lady Jill Biden. They will host Modi at a state dinner on June 22. The visit also includes an address to the Joint Session of the US Congress on June 22.

He will address an invitation-only gathering of diaspora leaders from across the country at the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center in Washington on June 23. A few hundred Indian Americans from in and

around the Washington DC area gathered near the National Monument on a bright Sunny Sunday to convey a message of unity and tell the prime minister that they are eagerly waiting for his arrival in the city. Chanting slogans of "Modi Modi" and India-US friendship, Indian Americans walked in a procession for over an hour towards the historic Lincoln Memorial where the participants busted

into an impromptu dance.

In Houston, the community members gathered at the iconic Sugarland Memorial Park, holding placards and Indian tricolour to coincide with the timings of other cities like Boston, Chicago, Atlanta, Miami, Tampa, Dallas, Los Angeles, Sacramento, San Francisco, Columbus, and St Louis.

Similar scenes were visible at many iconic locations in the United States like Times Square in New York and Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco.

"The Indian American community and major business stakeholders in various industries like energy, space, health, education and IT, are really excited and optimistic all across the USA, about the historic visit of PM Modi," said Aseem Mahajan, Consul General of Houston.

"We are receiving an overwhelming number of messages, welcoming PM Modi, from all across the country from elected officials, major business houses and other Indian American organisations on a daily basis that are being shared on social media," Mahajan said.

At least 4 Palestinians are killed as Israeli troops clash with militants

Jerusalem, Jun 19 (AP)

Israeli helicopter gunships struck targets on Monday in the occupied West Bank as a gunbattle raged in the city of Jenin between Israeli troops and militants, killing four Palestinians, including a 15-year-old boy, officials said.

The violence marked a rare use of Israeli airpower in the territory. During the clashes, Palestinian militants detonated a roadside bomb next to an Israeli military vehicle.

At least 45 Palestinians were wounded, five seriously. The Israeli military said seven members of the

paramilitary border police and the army suffered light and moderate wounds.

The escalation was the latest in more than a year of near-daily violence that has wrecked the West Bank.

The Israeli military said troops came under a "massive exchange of fire" during an arrest raid in Jenin and shot back at Palestinian gunmen.

"As the security forces exited the city, a military vehicle was hit by an explosive device, damaging the vehicle," the army said, adding that helicopters "opened fire toward the gunmen in order to as-

sist in extraction of the forces". Israeli military spokesman Lt. Col. Richard Hecht said that hours after the initial firefight, the army had flooded the area with troops in order to extract personnel pinned down in five disabled vehicles at the scene, describing it as an "evacuation" operation.

"We're bringing in heavy equipment to get these vehicles out," Hecht told reporters.

The militants' use of a roadside bomb in the West Bank was "very unusual and dramatic," Hecht said, adding that it may affect future military strategy in the territory.

'Will not surrender even if they put me in jail'

Lahore, Jun 19 (PTI)

Pakistan's former prime minister Imran Khan has said he will continue fighting for the rule of law in the country, asserting that he will neither strike a deal nor surrender even if the government puts him in jail. Addressing the nation via YouTube on Sunday evening, Khan said his fight is for the better future of his country and its people. "I will neither make a deal nor surrender even if they put



me in jail. I will continue fighting for the rule of law and a better future for the people of my country," Khan said. The 70-year-old Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party chief travelled to Islamabad from Lahore

on Monday to seek an extension to his pre-arrest bail in 19 cases. Khan is facing over 140 cases. The cases mostly relate to terrorism, inciting the public to violence, arson attacks, blasphemy, attempted murder, corruption and fraud. Meanwhile, police in Lahore arrested 30 PTI workers, including former football star Shumaila Sattar, on Sunday for trying to meet Khan at his Zaman Park residence in Lahore, a police officer said on Monday.

President Xi says agreement reached on 'some specific issues' with US

Beijing, Jun 19 (PTI)

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken on Monday met with Chinese President Xi Jinping who said that an agreement on "some specific issues" has been reached during the extensive talks between the top diplomats of the two countries amidst tense ties. Blinken met Xi on the last day of his two-day high-stakes visit to Beijing during which the Chinese president spoke of the agreement without providing any details.

Xi said that China's top diplomat and Director of Foreign Affairs Wang Yi and Foreign Minister Qin Gang described their talks with Blinken as candid and in-depth.

The Chinese side has made its position clear, and the two sides have agreed to "follow through with the common understanding US President Joe Biden and I had reached in Bali," state-run CGTN quoted President Xi as saying. "The two sides also made progress and reached an agreement on some specific issues," Xi said, without providing details. "State-to-state interactions should always be based on mutual respect and sincerity. I hope that Secretary Blinken, through this visit, could



US Secretary of State Antony Blinken shakes hands with Chinese President Xi Jinping in the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, China, Monday.

make a positive contribution to stabilising China-US relations," he said.

Blinken's visit to China was among the key outcomes of the Xi-Biden meeting in which they agreed to work on improving ties. Earlier, Blinken met top diplomat Wang, who urged the US to "reflect deeply" and manage differences with China while attributing worsening ties to Washington's "erroneous perception" of Beijing. Wang told Blinken that his trip to Beijing came at a "critical juncture" in US-China ties and it was "necessary to make a choice between dialogue and con-

frontation, cooperation and conflict".

"Sino-US relations have experienced ups and downs, and it is necessary for the US to reflect deeply and work with China to jointly manage differences and avoid strategic surprises," he said.

"With an attitude of being responsible to the people, history and the world, we must reverse the downward spiral of Sino-US relations, push for a return to a healthy and stable track and work together to find a correct way for China and the United States to get along in the new era," he said.

Nepal bans screening of Hindi movies amid 'Adipurush' dialogue row

Kathmandu, Jun 19 (PTI)

All Hindi films, including "Adipurush", were banned in Nepal on Monday following a controversy over its dialogues, including the mention of Sita as "India's daughter".

According to reports, the screening of Om Raut-directed "Adipurush" has been halted nationwide, after the movie, a retelling of epic Ramayana, was banned in Kathmandu and Pokhara.

Police personnel were deployed across 17 halls in Kathmandu to ensure that no Hindi film was screened.

Kathmandu Mayor Balendra Shah on Sunday said no Hindi film will be allowed to run in Kathmandu Metropolitan City until the dialogue

"Janaki is a daughter of India" in "Adipurush" is removed not just in Nepal but also in India.

Sita, also referred to as Janaki, is believed by many to have been born in Janakpur in southeast Nepal.

Pokhara Metropolitan Mayor Dhanaraj Acharya said "Adipurush", starring Prabhas and Kriti Sanon, will be barred from screening from Monday onwards.

According to Kathmandu mayor, screening "Adipurush" without getting one of its dialogues removed will cause "irreparable damage".

"Screening of all the Hindi films will be barred within Kathmandu Metropolitan City from Monday, June 19, as the objectionable words in the

dialogue of the film 'Adipurush' has not yet been removed," he said in a Facebook post on Sunday.

As controversy spiralled, "Adipurush" dialogue writer Manoj Muntashir Shukla on Sunday said the makers of the movie had decided to "revise some of the dialogues" after the film was criticised heavily for its pedestrian language.

Shukla, who has penned the Hindi dialogues and songs of the multilingual saga, said the amended lines will be added to the film by this week.

Raju Pandey, Kathmandu Metropolitan City (KMC) Police chief, said the police inspected the cinema halls within the city on Sunday in accordance with the

mayor's instructions.

"We got a positive response during the inspection on Sunday and we are now monitoring all the cinema halls from Monday morning," Pandey said.

"While monitoring QFX Hall at Civil Mahal in Kathmandu... they said they will show Nepali and English movies instead of Hindi ones. We will not allow screening of Hindi movies until the KMC authority gives permission," he added.

A security guard at Q's Cinema situated at the Rising Mall in Kamaladi Kathmandu said the theatre stopped screening "Adipurush" after showing the movie once on Friday evening. "Now, we are screening Nepali film 'Neer Phool' from Monday," he informed.

Ugandan border town buries victims of rebel massacre



The coffins of Florence Masika and her son Zakayo Masereka are carried to their burial in Nyabugando.

Kampala (Uganda), Jun 19 (AP)

A bereaved Ugandan border town on Sunday began burying the victims of a brutal attack on a school by suspected extremist rebels that left 42 people dead, most of them students, as security forces stepped up patrols along the frontier with volatile eastern Congo.

One of eight people wounded in Friday night's attack, in which 38 students were killed, died overnight, said Selevest Mapoze, mayor of the town of Mpondwe-Lhubiriha.

"Most of the relatives have come to take their bodies" from the morgue, he said.

In addition to the 38 students, the victims include a school guard and three

civilians. At least two of them, members of the same family, were buried Sunday.

Some students were burned beyond recognition; others were shot or hacked to death after militants armed with guns and machetes attacked Lhubiriha Secondary School, co-ed and privately owned, which is located about 2 kilometers (just over a mile) from the Congo border. Ugandan authorities believe at least six students were abducted, taken as porters back inside Congo.

U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres condemned the attack in a statement, urging "the importance of collective efforts, including through enhanced re-

gional partnerships, to tackle cross-border insecurity between (Congo) and Uganda and restore durable peace in the area."

The atmosphere in Mpondwe-Lhubiriha was tense but calm Sunday as Ugandan security forces

roamed the streets outside and near the school, which was protected by a police cordon.

The attack is blamed on the Allied Democratic Forces, or ADF, which rarely claims responsibility for attacks.

GOVERNMENT OF CHHATTISGARH, WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER
MAHANADI PROJECT, RAIPUR (CHHATTISGARH)

e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE
eProcurement Portal: <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>
(First Call)

System Tender No. 138316/NIT No.: 09/SAC/23-24
Dated : 16.06.2023

Online Tenders are invited for the following works up to 07.07.2023 at 17:30 Hours.

Name of work: Remodelling and Cement Concrete lining works of Thanaud, Tarra, Nawagaon, Ugetara, Dhamni-A, Dhamni, Sonpairi Minors of Mahanadi Main Canal.

Probable Amount of Contract: - Rs. 472.13 Lakhs
(As per S.O.R dated 01.08.2010 and amended upto dated 22.08.2022)

The details can be viewed and downloaded online directly from the Government of Chhattisgarh Integrated e-Procurement Portal (<https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>) from Date 23.06.2023, at 17:31 Hours. (IST) onwards.

NOTE :- All eligible/intrested contractors/bidders are mandated to get enrolled on the Integrated e-procurement portal (<https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>) and get approval on specific vendor class from PWD under Centralized Contractor/Supplier Registration in order to download the tender documents and participate in the subsequent bidding process.

Executive Engineer
Water Management Division No. 1, Raipur
For, Chief Engineer, Mahanadi Project
Raipur (C.G.)

G-02465/3



CENTRAL Chronicle

Since 1974 Volume 11 No. 80

Unveiling the Trails

Combating Terror Financing

In a proactive response to the alarming rise of militants exploiting the financial resources of their families, especially in Pakistan and PoJK, authorities have taken a decisive step to curb the menace. It has been reported that they will now be able to attach a portion of the militants' share in properties and accounts, even if they are not directly registered under their names. This crucial measure aims to freeze and seize the proceeds of terror funding, even when they are camouflaged under innocent transactions or hidden within intricate financial webs. The relentless efforts of investigative agencies have yielded significant breakthroughs in tracking the trails of terror money. Armed with a range of sophisticated techniques and bolstered by close collaboration with intelligence agencies, they have successfully unraveled the intricate paths followed by funds associated with terrorist activities. These investigations have entailed rigorous financial scrutiny, meticulously analyzing bank transactions, closely monitoring suspicious money transfers, and meticulously identifying the individuals and organizations involved in financing terrorism. By meticulously tracing the money trails, investigative agencies have gained invaluable insights into the elaborate networks, channels, and mechanisms utilized by terrorist organizations to fund their operations. Through strategic asset seizures and the freezing of funds connected to terrorist activities, the financial networks that sustain these nefarious operations have been dealt a severe blow. Disrupting the flow of money severely impairs the ability of terrorist organizations to carry out their deadly missions, procure weapons, and recruit new members. It weakens their very infrastructure, severely limits their capacity to plan and execute attacks, and creates a substantial barrier to their growth. Moreover, these decisive seizures of assets send a resounding message to potential financiers of terrorism: their illicit activities will not go unnoticed or unpunished. Such actions serve as a major deterrent, dissuading individuals and organizations from extending financial support to these ruthless groups. By deterring the inflow of funds, we effectively hinder the expansion and growth of terrorist networks, thereby safeguarding our society from their heinous acts. The fight against terror financing is an ongoing battle that demands continuous vigilance and proactive measures. Alongside robust investigative efforts, it is imperative for authorities to strengthen international cooperation to stem the cross-border flow of illicit funds. Sharing intelligence, collaborating on financial monitoring, and harmonizing legal frameworks will further enhance the effectiveness of these endeavors. Furthermore, public awareness and active participation play a pivotal role in curbing terror financing. Citizens must remain vigilant, reporting any suspicious financial activities or suspected links to terrorist organizations. Emphasizing financial literacy and promoting responsible banking practices can empower individuals to recognize and reject any attempts to manipulate the financial system for illicit purposes. In our quest for peace and security, unveiling the trails of terror money is a vital step forward. By relentlessly following the money, freezing assets, and disrupting the financial lifelines of terrorist networks, we strike at the very core of their operations. Let us stand united in this collective endeavor, leaving no stone unturned to safeguard our society from the perils of terror financing. Together, we can ensure a safer and more resilient future for generations to come.

Neglected Potential

Political Parties and Young Talent in India

India, known for its youthful population with over 60 percent under the age of 35, possesses a valuable demographic dividend. However, this potential asset is being wasted as political parties exploit young people for their own gains rather than nurturing their abilities and skills. The misuse of young talent by political parties manifests in various forms. One common practice is employing young individuals as campaign foot soldiers during elections, exploiting their willingness to work long hours for minimal pay. Yet, once the election concludes, they are cast aside and forgotten. Another method involves political parties utilizing young people as proxies to advance their own agendas. Young individuals, seen as idealistic and less corrupt, become pawns in promoting party interests without raising suspicion. This manipulation results in their exploitation, sacrificing their well-being for the benefit of others. Furthermore, political parties contribute to the misuse of young talent by neglecting to provide avenues for growth and development. Young individuals are often relegated to menial tasks that fail to harness their skills and potential. They are denied access to decision-making positions, even when possessing relevant experience and expertise. Consequently, disillusionment sets in, eroding their belief in effecting change through politics. The misappropriation of young talent by political parties poses a significant issue in India. It hampers the realization of young people's full potential and impedes their contribution to the nation's development. Moreover, it fuels growing cynicism and apathy towards politics among the youth. Addressing this problem requires a multifaceted approach. First and foremost, political parties must shift their perspective, viewing young people as valuable assets rather than liabilities. They should invest in the development of young individuals, providing them with opportunities for growth and learning. Secondly, the government must create a conducive environment for youth political participation. This necessitates enacting laws that facilitate young people running for office and ensuring they have access to necessary resources for effective campaigning. Lastly, young people themselves must take an active role in demanding their rights and holding political parties accountable. Although the misuse of young talent by political parties is a pressing issue, it is not insurmountable. Through necessary reforms, it is possible to level the political playing field for young individuals and afford them the opportunity to make a meaningful difference in the country. By valuing and nurturing young talent, India can harness its demographic dividend and cultivate a generation of leaders committed to the nation's progress.

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.

YOGA PREPARATIONS



Students do yoga as a preparation for the International Day of Yoga, in Mirzapur, Monday, June 19.

Strengthening Accountability for Ending Tuberculosis

SHOBHA SHUKLA



Accountability and the Unfulfilled Promises

The 2018 UN HLM on TB resulted in an action-oriented political declaration, yet the commitments made have fallen short of expectations. The number of TB cases and deaths continues to rise, with 10.6 million people falling ill with TB and 1.6 million losing their lives to the disease in 2021 alone. Examining the targets outlined in the 2018 declaration reveals that progress has been insufficient.

Key Targets and Achievements

Diagnosis and treatment: Only 66% of the target to diagnose and treat 40 million people with TB, including children and those with drug-resistant TB, was achieved by 2021. Additionally, a mere 38% of people with TB were diagnosed using recommended rapid molecular diagnostics.

TB preventive treatment: Only 42% of the target to

provide preventive therapy to 30 million people was met by 2021. Although 10.3 million people living with HIV received preventive treatment, more efforts are needed to reach the intended goals for children and household contacts. Financing the global TB response: By 2021, only 42% of the target to finance the global TB response with an annual funding of at least USD 13 billion had been met. The estimated spending on TB services in low and middle-income countries was USD 5.4 billion in 2021.

TB research and development: Less than half of the targeted USD 2 billion for TB research and development was available in 2021, illustrating a lack of investment in crucial areas of innovation.

The Imperative for Action and Accountability

The forthcoming 2nd UNHLM on TB in 2023 must address these per-

sistent challenges and build upon the commitments outlined in the 2018 declaration. It is essential to include clear and measurable targets, increased funding, robust accountability mechanisms, and a human rights-based approach that leaves no one behind.

Minimum Expectations for the Political Declaration

The Stop TB Partnership and other TB advocates call for specific commitments from all countries during the period 2023-2027. These include diagnosing and treating 40 million people with TB, providing preventive therapy to 35 million people, improving data collection and analysis, recognizing gender-specific needs, implementing rights-based policies, accelerating research and development, and mobilizing sustainable financing.

Creating an Accountability Framework

To ensure progress, a comprehensive accountability framework is crucial. It should encompass public annual reports, high-level country reviews, national strategic plans, involvement of TB-affected communities and civil society, and the development of community-led reports. Such measures will hold governments and stakeholders accountable for their commitments and progress toward ending TB.

Conclusion

To achieve a TB-free world, we must move beyond grandiose declarations and prioritize accountability and political will. The forthcoming UNHLM on TB presents an opportunity to reinforce commitments, address key issues, and develop a time-bound roadmap for accelerated progress. By following through on promises and prioritizing the needs and rights of vulnerable populations, we can realize our shared vision of a world without tuberculosis.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Tragic murder

Two sisters, Pinky (30) and Jyoti (29), were tragically shot dead in Delhi's Ambedkar Basti area of RK Puram on Sunday morning. Following the incident, three individuals named Arjun, Michael, and Dev have been arrested in connection with the murder. It appears that the assailants initially targeted the victims' brother over a financial dispute, but when they couldn't find him, they resorted to shooting the two sisters. Delhi Chief Minister (CM) Arvind Kejriwal swiftly criticized the Modi government, suggesting that under his AAP administration, the national capital would be safer. However, people question whether CM Kejriwal can truly prevent all crimes if the Delhi police were under his control. It is essential to remember that no government can provide police presence everywhere, except for politicians and VIPs. Our heartfelt condolences go out to the grieving family. May the souls of the departed rest in peace.

Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee, Faridabad

Father: The Guiding Light of Life

A father holds a significant role as a friend, philosopher, and guide in my life. He is like the comforting shade of a banyan tree, offering security, smoothness, and a hassle-free existence. A father embodies trust, reliability, and a stress-free image of joy, happiness, prosperity, and a thriving future for the generations to come. He knows best how to bring a smile to the faces of his children. He effortlessly solves problems, shields them from danger, and imparts valuable life lessons on resilience, courage, and overcoming obstacles. A father is the embodiment of hope, patience, and a vibrant character. He performs his duties with laughter, even in the face of adversity, inspiring his children to become icons in their own right. Silently, a father imparts the wisdom of life, becoming the true embodiment of our personal philosophy. He is the rhythmic beat that guides our journey through life.

Rathin Kumar Chanda, Hooghly

Seeking Justice

Despite the minor retracting her allegations of sexual harassment against WFI chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, there remains a glimmer of hope for justice in the fight of the protesting wrestlers. Had the minor's initial statement been included in the chargesheet, the arrest of the WFI chief would have been inevitable. It is reasonable to assume that the minor's family faced pressure to alter their original statement in support of the BJP MP. Now that progress has been made in the case, it is crucial to shield the legal process from political influence. We commend our wrestlers for their unwavering resolve, demonstrating that they will not surrender or yield to pressure.

MK Nair, Raipur

Why not eavesdrop in positive sense!

Kajal Chatterjee

"Amrito Kumbh Sandhane" (In search of Amrita Kumbha)—a real-life experience of renowned Bangla author Samaresh Basu converted into an epic novel. The novel was picturised as a film by director Dilip Roy almost four decades ago. As the name suggests, the novel was based on the experience of Basu in the Kumbh Mela of Prayag.

The protagonist or the observer in the film is the character of the writer is roaming around the "unending" canvas of the fair, Ganga bank, the fort beside the Sangam, the Akharas of the Sadhus observing the mass of people as well as meeting talking with them. He has got introduced to many families or singletons, ladies gents, young old, rich poor, Sadhus as well as pilgrims from different corners of India. Even to the blind Maulvi of the Masjid within the fort beside the Sangam. Since he was staying throughout the period of the

fair, he was meeting common persons again and again either in camps banks or fair ground. He got introduced to a family from rural Uttar Pradesh. A talkative smiling lady from that family was inquisitive about the author as he is paying no interest in having the "holy dip" in the Sangam. Then why is he visiting Kumbh Mela at all. On persistent quizzing, the author gave out the actual reason of him visiting the Prayag— "To know people, To understand people".

Theft was very common in the camps. One new acquaintance even warned the author to remain always alert as the "very dangerous" thieves can even steal adult human beings as well. Now the path of the author often used to cross with a young woman. She was quite pretty but with signs of abject poverty. The author used to notice her sometimes asking for alms, sometimes wandering aimlessly — always all alone. Or on another occasion talking "naughtily" with strangers. The author used to be curious about the

identity of the lady. One day the author went a bit outskirts from the Mela arena. The area was desolate with few trees here and there. He saw a very old wrinkled Bengali gentleman sitting under a tree. The appearance was very vulnerable, sitting somehow by taking the support of a stick. The inquisitive author desired to meet him. As he was approaching him, suddenly that "mysterious" young woman emerged from nowhere rushing. Noticing her the author stopped in his track and partially hid himself behind a tree. He saw the woman wrap a red shawl around the old man. The trembling weak devastated man felt much warmth in that cold Prayag. Thereafter few personal conversation happened between the two enabling the author to realise that she is the daughter in law of that old man. And they have come to Kumbh to search the missing son of the old man or the husband of the young lady. Their conversation enlightened the author and the

readers/spectators within us that the family fortune collapsed after the disappearance of the son landing them in abject poverty. The old man was also thanking the young woman for not forsaking him. And for taking care of him despite she not being her daughter by blood! As she claimed that it is her duty; the old man, with tears welling up in his both eyes, muttered with utmost indebtedness — "I don't think that even my own son could have done better. At least he could not have resorted to stealing for the sake of his father". The stunned author wandered "I know eavesdropping is a sin. But to witness these scenes, I would eavesdrop thousands of times". The author has not dwelt on the goodness or badness of the path of stealing to survive or ensure survival of another. But he has only got moved by the utter helplessness of the poor unfortunate hapless ones who get compelled in undertaking this path just to survive. It is being alleged by a

quarter that all communication or messages through phone mobile and social media are being eavesdropped by certain agencies. For the sake of security, communication of people connected with terrorist organisation should definitely be eavesdropped. But even of the interaction of common people! Can it be possible in a democratic country where freedom of speech is guaranteed by none other than Constitution. Still if indeed eavesdropping has become the norm; then why not exercise it for a positive cause! Instead of nabbing who is criticising against any Government policy step or questioning the antics of any party or ideology, why don't eavesdrop the conversation of the vulnerable lot and know the pain of poor downtrodden people suffering from hunger poverty and inaccessibility to basic education and medical attention. And thereafter why not forward the hand of cooperation and help towards these deprived citizens of the State.

BRIEF



Join

New Delhi: Aalok Kumar, Corporate Officer & Sr VP - Head of the Global Smart City Business, NEC Corporation, and President & CEO, NEC Corporation India, has been appointed as a member of the Asian Development Bank's (ADB) High-level Advisory Group on Digital Technology for Development with effect from May 1, 2023.

OFS

New Delhi: The government will sell up to 92.44 lakh shares or 0.15 per cent stake in Coal India to its employees at a price of Rs 226.10 a share. "The employee OFS (Offer for Sale) shall remain open from June 21, 2023 to June 23, 2023," Coal India said in a stock exchange filing. Under the share sale offer, 92,44,092 equity shares (representing 0.15 per cent of the total paid up equity share capital of the company) would be offered to eligible CIL employees at a price of Rs 226.10 per equity share.

Nod

New Delhi: Adani Transmission has got shareholders' approval to raise up to Rs 8,500 crore through issuance of equity shares on qualified institutional placement basis. The company had sought shareholders' approval through postal ballot to raise up to Rs 8,500 crore by way of qualified institutional placement through issuance of equity shares and/or other eligible securities to eligible investors on May 15, 2023.

Injection

New Delhi: Pharma major Lupin on Monday said it has launched in the US its generic Thiamine Hydrochloride injection 200 mg/2 mL (100 mg/mL) multiple-dose vials used for treatment of thiamine deficiency. The launch follows alliance partner Caplin Steriles receiving an approval for its ANDA (Abbreviated New Drug Application) from the US Food and Drug Administration (USFDA).

Expansion

Chennai: Private sector Karur Vysya Bank on Monday under its expansion drive inaugurated its 800th branch in the city, a top official said. The Tamil Nadu-based lender also inaugurated its digital banking unit on the occasion.

Low demand

New Delhi: Gold prices on Monday fell by Rs 9 to Rs 59,345 per 10 gram in futures trade as speculators reduced their positions. On the Multi Commodity Exchange, gold contracts for August delivery traded lower by Rs 9 or 0.02 per cent to Rs 59,345 per 10 gram in a business turnover of 13,744 lots.

RBI REPORT

'Rs 2,000 note withdrawal can boost growth'

GDP expansion can exceed 6.5%

Mumbai, Jun 19 (PTI):

The Rs 2,000 note withdrawal decision and response to it so far suggest that the move can help boost FY24 GDP growth to beyond 6.5 per cent estimated by the RBI, a report said on Monday.

The real GDP growth for the first quarter of FY24 will come at 8.1 per cent with an upward bias and the Reserve Bank of India's 6.5 per cent estimate can also be exceeded, economists at the country's largest lender SBI said.

"We expect Q1 FY24 GDP growth at 8.1 per cent with an upward bias due to the impact of Rs 2000 note withdrawal event...this reinforces our projection that FY24 GDP could be higher than 6.5 per cent, basis the RBI estimate," a note said. It can

be noted that earlier this month, the RBI informed that over half of the currency notes in the denomination have returned back, with 85 per cent of it coming as deposits into banks, while the remaining 15 per cent have been exchanged at bank counters. Based on this experience, the SBI note said the consumption can get a Rs 55,000 crore boost because of the move.

It estimated Rs 3.08 lakh crore to come back as deposits into the system, of which Rs 92,000 crore will come into saving banks accounts, of which 60 per cent will get withdrawn, thus giving an immediate increase in consumption at Rs 55,000 crore.

In the long run, the boost can be Rs 1.83 lakh crore because of the consumption multiplier, it added. "One of the major

benefits of withdrawal of Rs 2000 note might be the immediate uptick in consumption demand," the report said.

It is expected that high-value amounts could move to high-value spends, such as gold/jewellery, high-end consumer durables like AC, mobile phones, and real estate, according to the note.

It cited reports of an increase in fuel payments and cash on delivery, with online food aggregator Zomato reporting three-fourths of users opting for cash payments by Rs 2,000 notes.

The SBI economists also said that the RBI move is expected to increase donations to temples and other religious institutions through Rs 2,000 notes and will push sundry purchases like consumer durables and boutique furniture.

Markets retreat from record highs; Sensex falls 216 pts

Mumbai, Jun 19 (PTI):

Equity benchmarks Sensex and Nifty pared early gains to close lower on Monday as investors offloaded telecom, power and utility stocks amid a bearish trend in global markets and profit booking.

Besides, intense selling in Reliance Industries, ICICI Bank and Kotak Bank counters also hit investor sentiments, traders said.

After hitting its lifetime high on Friday, the 30-share BSE index fell 216.28 points or 0.34 per cent to settle at 63,168.30. During the day, it declined 336.75 points or 0.53 per cent to 63,047.83.

The NSE Nifty went lower by 70.55 points or 0.37 per cent to end at 18,755.45. The index regis-

Rupee falls 3 paise to 81.93 against US dollar

The rupee depreciated by 3 paise to close at 81.93 against the US dollar on Monday amid strong American currency against major rivals overseas. However, the inflow of foreign funds into local equities and a downward trend in crude price capped the fall in the domestic unit, forex traders said. At the interbank foreign exchange, the domestic unit opened lower at 81.93 and moved in the range of 82.01 to 81.90 during intra-day. The unit settled at 81.93 (provisional) against the US dollar, reflecting a loss of 3 paise over the previous close. On Friday, the rupee settled at 81.90 against the dollar.

tered its lifetime peak of 18,826 on Friday.

There was accelerated selling, particularly in the afternoon trade, dragging the key indices from record highs.

"Indian equities shied away from closing at all-time high levels amid profit-booking, primarily driven by private banks. Global markets also took

a breather after a strong rally last week as investors looked forward to China's rate decision and the Fed chair's testimony," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

Kotak Mahindra Bank was the biggest loser from the Sensex pack, skidding 1.83 per cent, followed by Axis Bank, NTPC,



Volocopter CEO Dirk Hoke poses for a picture next to the Volocopter 2X, an electric vertical takeoff and landing multicopter, during the Paris Air Show in Le Bourget, north of Paris, France, Monday.

AIR SHOW

'Withdrawal of duty benefit scheme by UK to benefit labour intensive goods'

New Delhi, Jun 19 (PTI):

The UK's decision to withdraw duty benefit scheme GSP may impact Indian exporters from certain labour-intensive sectors such as leather and textiles as they were the major beneficiaries, according to experts and traders.

The UK is replacing the Generalised Scheme of Preferences (GSP) with a new Developing Countries Trading Scheme (DCTS) from June 19.

Labour intensive sectors, including certain textile items, leather goods, carpets, iron & steel goods and chemicals may get impacted due to this.

Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI) said the US, European Union (EU),

Australia, Japan and many other developed countries grant unilateral import duty concessions to developing countries under their GSP schemes.

"As the UK has come out of the EU, it has designed its own GSP scheme. Each country sets a product-wise threshold limit, if a country's exports cross the limit, the GSP concessions stop. The UK withdrawing GSP concessions on labour intensive products was expected as the two countries are negotiating a free trade agreement," GTRI co-founder Ajay Srivastava said.

GSP concessions are available in full to exports from Least Developed Countries (LDCs). China does not get such concessions. He added that the

firms, associations and countries request for restoration of concessions but it is rarely considered.

"Since the concessions are small, India should stop participating in GSP schemes and stand tall like China does. GSPs are vestiges of colonial mind-set and should be used by only LDCs," Srivastava said.

India's exports worth USD 2.5 billion are entitled for the GSP benefit in the UK.

Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO) Director General Ajay Sahai said exports' share of certain Indian goods in the UK has increased from a specified limit due to which those sectors would not be able to enjoy the GSP benefits now.

Airbnb inks pact with tourism ministry

To promote heritage stays, cultural tourism

New Delhi, Jun 19 (PTI):

Online accommodation hosting platform Airbnb on Monday said it has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Union Ministry of Tourism to showcase India's heritage stays and promote cultural tourism. The company will partner the ministry in its vision to promote inbound tourism as a part of its 'Visit India 2023' initiative and under the MoU, it will launch a dedicated 'Soul of India' microsite for the global audi-

ence showcasing India's rich culture and built heritage, Airbnb said in a regulatory filing. Additionally, Airbnb will also offer support to hosts in untapped tourist areas, assist them in promoting their homestays, build host capacity, and foster a culture of responsible hosting, it added. Under the MoU, Airbnb will endeavour to train hospitality micro-entrepreneurs in emerging destinations that are part of the ministry's flagship scheme, the company said, adding, it would also share travel and homestay insights with the ministry for informed responsible tourism policies and training requirements.

Kamdhenu Paints targets Rs 1,000 cr revenue

By FY28:



New Delhi, Jun 19 (PTI):

Kamdhenu Paints is targeting a four-fold jump in its revenues to Rs 1,000 crore over the next three years, its CMD Satish Kumar Agarwal said. In

the financial year ended March 31, 2023, the company had earned a revenue of about Rs 251 crore, he told PTI. Kamdhenu Group recently separated its paints and steel business to increase its pres-

ence in the two segments in India. "We are looking a four-fold growth in the revenue to Rs 1,000 crore by the end of FY28. Last financial year 2023, the company has closed the revenue at Rs 251 crore," he said. Agarwal further said with the increasing demand for company products, Kamdhenu Paints is planning to enhance its market share in the south and western regions of the country by expanding product portfolio with the launch of new and innovative products.

The company will further tap the markets in the north and east regions by increasing its dealers and distribution network to over 8,000 from 4,000 at present, he said.

Silicon India recognises PR organization for outstanding achievements

Indore, June 16: PR 24x7, the leading PR organization in the country, has once again been recognized for its outstanding achievements. The renowned business magazine, Silicon India, has awarded PR 24x7 with the prestigious title of 'Most Promising PR Agency 2023'. This remarkable accolade serves as a testament to the agency's exceptional accomplishments. PR 24x7's commitment to its clients, unwavering dedication, and ability to provide effective solutions during challenging times have been instrumental in earning them this award. The agency's consistent delivery of outstanding services and its track record of

fulfilling commitments have led to this recognition for the second time, following their initial honor in 2021. PR 24x7's consistent excellence demonstrates their ongoing commitment to growth and success. Atul Malikram, the founder of PR 24x7, expressed his gratitude and stated, "As a company, our entire team remains dedicated to working in the best interest of our clients and providing them with the highest quality of service. Being awarded the prestigious title of 'Most Promising PR Agency 2023' by Silicon India reflects our commitment to fulfilling our promises and delivering exceptional results to our clients.

Maersk fixes uniform shipment rate of USD 1

For online retailers

New Delhi, Jun 19 (PTI):

Logistics firm AP Moller-Maersk on Monday announced a uniform rate of USD 1 (around Rs 80) for online retailers for shipment of orders to the customers' doorstep across the country.

"The new e-commerce fulfilment solution will provide single-window access to the entire logistics ecosystem for brands selling their goods online, including e-commerce system integration, warehousing, country-wide distribution and returns at a flat rate of Rs 80/USD 1 per order," the company said in a statement.

The fixed charge includes 60 days of storage, delivery across India cov-



A warehouse of integrated logistics firm A.P. Moller - Maersk in Farrukhnagar.

ering 18,000 pin codes in 48 hours, 20 per cent returns to origin (RTO) and no fixed monthly costs or no minimum orders, it said.

Vikash Agarwal, Managing Director, Maersk South Asia, said, India's e-commerce business has great growth potential. But the highly fragmented market and

supply chain complexity are hurdles to many businesses' growth.

"With our new solution, we want to stay true to our purpose of improving life for all by integrating the world. With our 'one country one price' solution, we will take complexities out of our customers' supply chains and grow with

them as they focus on what they do the best," he said.

The solution, Maersk said, has primarily been targeted at a typical small or medium e-commerce business in India that relies on multiple logistics partners for different activities. With this solution, Maersk is taking the complexities out of its customers' supply chains by providing single-window access to all required solutions, such as storage in warehouses, last-mile deliveries and executing return orders, all while providing end-to-end visibility at unified pricing.

AP Moller-Maersk is an integrated logistics company operating in more than 130 countries and employs over 100,000 people worldwide.

Int'l toy fair to begin from July 8

Buyers from 25 countries to participate

New Delhi, Jun 19 (PTI):

A three-day toy fair will begin on July 8 in the national capital, which is expected to see participation from about 5,000 buyers and industry players from at least 25 countries, the Toy Association of India said on Monday. The industry body said that CEOs of about 20 global sourcing companies, including Walmart and Lego, would also visit the fair. More than 250 Indian brands would display their products during the fair, which is being organised at Pragati Maidan.

Toy Association of India Chairman Manu Gupta said that the 14th Toy Biz International B2B Expo 2023 is the largest fair in South Asia.

"This is a great opportunity for Indian toy makers to showcase their products and capabilities to the global audience.

This exposure can help them attract new customers and partners, expand their market reach and increase their brand recognition," he said.

In addition, he said, Toy Biz also provides a platform for industry players to network and connect with each other, which can help foster collaborations, partnerships and joint ventures. "This can lead to new business opportunities and innovations, as well as access to new markets and distribution channels," Gupta said, adding the expo also provides a platform to drive innovation in the Indian toy industry, by providing a forum for industry experts to discuss new trends, technologies, and best practices. He added that the expo can also help raise awareness about the importance of the Indian toy industry, both domestically and international-

ly. Wooden toy maker Little Genius Toys CEO Naresh Kumar Gautam, who is participating in the fair, said that such events would help India position itself as a key player in the global toy market, and attract investment and support from stakeholders across the world. "Three-four years back, we used to request people to participate in this expo, but because of a series of measures by the government, the Indian toy industry is growing at a faster pace and now people are in queue to participate in the expo. We have also invited 250 foreign participants," Gautam said. Gautam also informed that his company and playground equipment maker Maskeen Toys would ink agreements with Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce (Philippines) for doing business in the sector.

Milestone journey of Babasaheb's graduation



Dr. B.R. Ambedkar was a great proponent of equality and the role of education in creating an equitable society. He made history by becoming the first graduate in the community. Despite many challenges, Babasaheb promoted education for social and economic progress, inspiring others to pursue higher education and become graduates too. His legacy encouraged individuals to fight for the right to education and strive for an equal society. His journey as a graduate demonstrates his unwavering commitment and determination to overcome social barriers and discrimination. And this accom-

plishment made him a beacon of hope for the community. On graduating, he received a scholarship from His Highness Sayajirao Gaikwad of Baroda to complete his studies at Elphinstone College, Bombay. The forthcoming track in &TV's Ek Mahanayak-Dr B.R. Ambedkar will present this momentous journey of Babasaheb's graduation, starting June 20th. Remembering Dr. Ambedkar and talking about his inspiring journey to obtain a graduation degree, Atharva, who essays Bhimrao in Ek Mahanayak - Dr B.R. Ambedkar show, says, "This track in the show is quite significant, and I feel extremely fortunate to have been given a chance to portray such an inspirational leader. We are confident that the viewers will be deeply inspired by it. Babasaheb was a highly skilled academician who achieved great success, attaining numerous degrees, including a Doctor of Philosophy in Economics from Columbia University. He utilized his knowledge to champion the cause of marginalized communities, striving for social justice and equality. Babasaheb emerged as a vocal proponent for education for all, particularly focusing on communities that were unjustly denied education opportunities due to social discrimination. He worked tirelessly to establish educational institutions, ranging from schools to colleges while combating discriminatory practices within existing educational systems. Babasaheb's unwavering commitment to education and recognition of its pivotal role in societal and economic advancement has left an indelible mark on India."

Watch this significant and inspiring story track on Dr. Ambedkar's Graduation starting June 20th at 8:30 pm in &TV's Ek Mahanayak Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, airing every Monday to Friday.



Hina Khan Reflects on 'Barsaat Aa Gayee' Pairing Comparisons

Actress Hina Khan and Shaheer Sheikh's on-screen chemistry always receives a lot of appreciation, and with the release of their new song 'Barsaat Aa Gayi', their fans are in for a visual treat. However, there has been comparison between their pairing and Karan Kundrra and Tejaswi Prakash commonly known as 'TejRaan' pairing. The actress feels if they both would have done the song, it would have been equally good or even better.

At the launch of the song, the actress expressed her joy of being in a music video again with Shaheer. The monsoon song 'Baarish Aayi Hai' was released last year with Karan and Tejaswi.

When being compared to them, the actress said: "Karan and Tejaswi looked beautiful as a couple in their song last year. The song was very good and they looked beautiful. I don't think we should compare anyone. When a writer writes a song, he has an artist in mind. So this time we got this opportunity to work. I am sure if Karan and Tejaswi would have done this song they would have done it equally good or even better than us. We are thankful that this time the team chose us."

Talking about the song, she said: "This is my second video with VYRL for barish. The first song was shot in Kashmir. So we were very worried about the locations for this one. The story of the song is so beautiful and catchy. I am very happy Shaheer and I got this opportunity to be a part of this song."

'Barsaat Aa Gayi' has been composed by duo Javed Mohsin and lyrics have been penned by Kunal Verma. Shreya Ghoshal and Stebin Ben are the singers. The song has been released under the label of VYRL.

New characters will make entries to delight fans



In &TV's Doosri Ma, Happu Ki Ultan Palatan and Bhabiji Ghar Par Hai, new characters will make entries to delight fans by adding new twists and drama in shows. About &TV's Bhabiji Ghar Par Hai track, Leena Goenka entering as Dimple shares, "Out of joy, after finally winning his long-awaited lawsuit, David Mishra (Annu Upadhyay) aka Vibhuti's (Aasif Sheikh) Chacha ji loses his mind and starts talking in Urdu. Doctor says Chacha ji has lost his memory and that the only way to bring him back to his senses is by recreating everything he has done in his life. Anita (Vidisha Srivastava) suggests that Prem (Vishwajeet Soni) arrange for a wicked girl to flirt with him. He hires a girl named Dimple (Leena Goenka), who tries her hardest but fails. Anita later tells Vibhuti to flirt with her to make Chachaji jealous. However, Dimple falls in love with Vibhuti instead."

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

Shoaib embraces the Peshawari dialect to perfectly disguise his role as 'Pathan'



Popular television actor Shoaib Ibrahim has taken on a challenging new character in the hit show 'Ajooni' on Star Bharat. In order to authentically portray the character of a 'Pathan', Shoaib has dedicated himself to learning the Peshawari dialect, adding depth and realism to his performance. 'Ajooni' has captivated audiences with its gripping storyline and exceptional performances. Shoaib, known for his versatility and dedication to his craft, is ready to leave no stone unturned in bringing his character to life. In this new track, Shoaib's character, 'Pathan' the bodyguard, will play a pivotal role, adding a fresh and exciting dynamic to the show. To ensure his portrayal is as authentic as possible, Shoaib has embarked on an intensive language learning journey. He has spent countless hours studying the Peshawari dialect, embracing its nuances, and incorporating them seamlessly into his dialogue delivery. This commitment to excellence demonstrates Shoaib's unwavering dedication to his craft. Reflecting on his transformative experience, Shoaib says, "I have found learning the Peshawari dialect to be a really pleasant experience. My connection to the part has become stronger as a result of being able to fully grasp the essence of the character I am playing. I hope that the audience will love my new appearance and that my performance will do the role justice".

Stay tuned to watch 'Ajooni' every Monday-Friday at 8:30 Pm only on Star Bharat.

Kiara Advani joins Hrithik, NTR Jr in 'War 2'

Actress Kiara Advani has been roped in by Aditya Chopra for the spy thriller 'War 2' starring Hrithik Roshan and NTR Jr. A source said: "Kiara Advani fits the bill to the T as far as YRF Spy Universe and 'War 2' is considered. The YRF Spy Universe is a league of all-time blockbuster films like 'Ek Tha Tiger', 'Tiger Zinda Hai', 'War' and 'Pathaan', and the expectation from each movie coming out from this franchise is sky high."

"Look at the superstars who have graced this Universe. It's the most coveted film Universe in India that stars the biggest superstars of the country. Kiara is right now at the top of the heap and Aditya Chopra taking her for 'War 2' loudly signifies that."

The source also said that 'War 2' right now has the 'hottest' cast.

"You have three superstars like Hrithik Roshan, NTR Jr and Kiara Advani in the film! Then you have the brightest young director of the country, Ayan Mukerji, directing 'War 2'! Aditya Chopra is going all out to make this film the coolest action entertainer that this country has ever seen. It will be really exciting to see Kiara in this Universe and how Ayan and Adi present her in 'War 2'."



Western culture teaches us to be not considerate: Kangana

Actress Kangana Ranaut, who is gearing up for her upcoming directorial 'Emergency', where she will be seen portraying the late Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, has drawn the line of difference between Indian and Western cultures.

The actress took to the Stories section of her Instagram on Friday and shared a note talking about the "essence of Indian culture".

The actress's statement came as a response to a Netizen's statement about supporting his family.

The Internet user had tweeted that he is a 23-year-old with Rs 1.5 lakh plus monthly income. Yet he does not own an Apple product, does not live on his own and does not own a bike or car. Giving the reasons, he wrote:



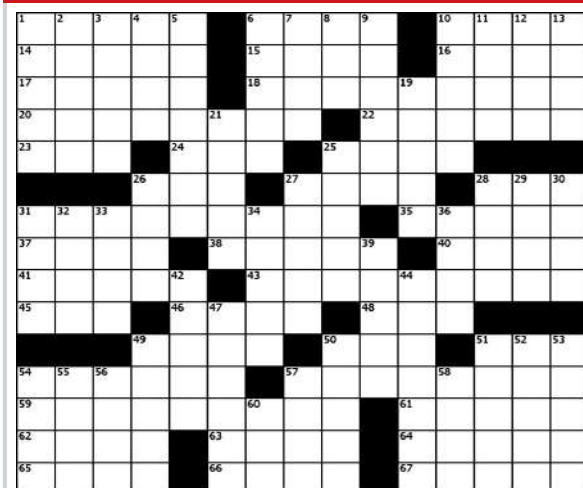
"Responsibilities of an Indian son who retired his parents, pays all the bills, plans for his family's future. I want to glamorize this (sic)".

Responding to the same, Kangana took a screenshot of the tweet and shared it on Instagram Stories and wrote: "Such a lovely thing to say. This is the essence of Indian culture. It teaches us to live for our family, and honestly there's a higher possibility of finding our own happiness in theirs (family's happiness) as opposed to what Western culture teaches us 'my life my rules' shallow and foolish ideas."

She added: "It's impossible to find happiness in a self-centered, selfish life. There is no logic to why it is like this but it is true if you chase happiness it's bound to run away with double the speed."

CROSSWORD

678



ACROSS

- Whittled down
- Final
- Defame
- Love dearly
- Poker fee
- Lima's locale
- Sings alone
- Sports performance listing
- Enter illegally
- Sofa
- Naval officer (abbr.)
- Hullabaloo

DOWN

- Hereditary carrier
- River (Sp.)
- Bridge hand
- Pekoe, e.g.
- Thin ray of light (2 wds.)
- Sneer at
- Scored on serve
- Some curves
- Put down
- Gorge
- Love songs
- Barbie's beau
- Milky stone

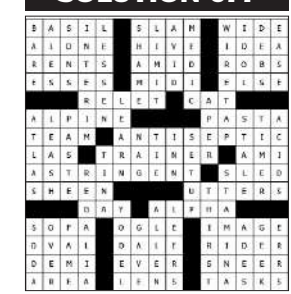
- Dawn dampness
- Remain
- Neptune's domain
- Clairvoyant's letters
- Keyboard instruments
- Burrito ingredient
- Determine for sure
- Stopped
- "Wish You ___ Here"
- She, in Seville
- Direct
- ...do-well
- Sly glance
- Rich dessert

DOWN

- Scrapbook need
- Embellish
- Parts
- Greek mythology figure
- Lose hope
- Cowboy's tool
- Industrious insects
- Amtrak terminal (abbr.)
- Verb forms
- Grudge
- Gave temporarily
- Impel
- Trick
- Small depressions
- Sun-dried brick
- Player
- Cincinnati baseballers
- Artist's tripod
- Warty amphibian
- Buffalo's lake
- Connecting words
- Shortcoming

- Soreness
- Actor ___ Penn
- Writing assignment
- Talon
- Jewish feast
- Engine
- Least cluttered
- Pale color
- Look of contempt
- Radar's kin
- Senior
- Ice pellets
- Pedro's father
- Hock
- Understood! (2 wds.)
- Farm measure
- Floor covering
- Fascinated by
- Pub order

SOLUTION 677



Bhavani Devi settles for bronze in Asian Fencing C'ships

New Delhi, Jun 19 (PTI):

Olympian C A Bhavani Devi on Monday created history by

securing India's first-ever medal at the Asian Fencing Championships — a bronze — after losing in the women's sabre semifinal at the continental event in Wuxi, China.

Bhavani lost to Uzbekistan's Zaynab Dayibekova in a hard-fought semifinals 14-15, but ensured India its maiden medal in the prestigious event.

Bhavani had earlier stunned reigning world champion Misaki Emura of Japan 15-10 in the quarterfinals to script history.

Misaki had won the women's sabre gold medal at the 2022 World Fencing



Championships held in Cairo. It was Bhavani's first win over Misaki as she had lost all her matches against the Japanese in the past.

The 29-year-old Bhavani had received a bye in the round of 64 before beating

Dospay Karina of Kazakhstan in the next round.

Bhavani then upset third seed Ozaki Seri 15-11 in the pre-quarterfinals.

Fencing Association of India secretary-general Rajeev Mehta congratulated Bhavani on her historic achievement.

"It is a very proud day for Indian fencing. Bhavani has achieved what no one could achieve before. She is the first Indian fencer to win a medal at the prestigious Asian Championships. On behalf of the entire fencing fraternity, I congratulate her," Mehta told PTI.

"Although she lost in the semifinal, the contest was very close. It was a matter of just point. So it's a big improvement."

Prannoy to lead India's challenge in Taipei Open badminton

Taipei, Jun 19 (PTI):

The semifinal loss in Indonesia a thing of the past now, HS Prannoy will look to carry on his good form when he spearheads the Indian challenge at the Taipei Open badminton tournament, starting here on Tuesday.

World No.9 Prannoy is seeded third here and will take on a qualifier in the men's singles opening round of the BWF World Tour Super 300 event.

Prannoy, who claimed the Malaysia Masters Super 300 title last month, put up an impressive display at the Indonesia Open, a Super 1000 tournament, making it to the semifinals, where he lost 15-21 15-21 to world No.1 and eventual winner Viktor Axelsen of Denmark. Prannoy would be desperate to make up

for that loss. The other Indians in the men's singles are Meiraba Luwang Maisnam, who is up against fifth seed Angus Ng Ka Long of Hong Kong, Kiran George, Sathish Kumar Karunakaran, Mithun Manjunath and S Sankar Muthusamy Subramanian.

Subhankar Dey and Parupalli Kashyap will have to go through the qualifiers.

Kodai Naraoka is the top seed in men's singles. The other top male players in the tournament are Chinese Taipei's Chou Tien Chen (2nd) and Kenta Nishimoto (4th).

London Olympic bronze medallist Saina Nehwal will look to regain her form in the women's singles alongside compatriots Malvika Bansod, Aakarshi Kashyap and Ruthvika Shivani Gadde.

Ashwini-Tanisha pair clinches Nantes International badminton title

Nantes (France), Jun 19 (PTI):

The Indian women's badminton duo of Ashwini Ponnappa and Tanisha Crasto clinched the Nantes International Challenge title defeating Hung En-Tzu and Lin Yu-Pei of Chinese Taipei 21-15, 21-14 in just 31 minutes.

The pair was initially trailing 0-4 at the Salle Metropolitana de la Trocardaiare but rallied well to level the scores at 10-10, and finally won the first game 21-15.

The second game saw the pair display even greater dominance. After breaking the tie at 3-3, Ashwini and Tanisha hit a remarkable seven-point winning streak. However, India suffered a setback in the mixed doubles final, where Tanisha and K. Sai Pratheek, who had ad-



vanced through the qualifiers to reach the final, fell short against the Danish duo of Mads Vestergaard and Christine Busch 21-14, 14-21, 17-21 in 51 minutes.

The International Challenge tournaments are not part of BWF World Tour series. "A win hasn't been on the cards for a long time for me, so it feels

really great. Tanisha and me have been playing since January, so it is great to win," said Ashwini.

On partnering Tanisha after having a long association with Sikki Devi, Ashwini said, "Sikki and I played for a long time but we had got stagnant a bit. We couldn't go beyond a particular set of results."

ODI World Cup: Pak wary of Afghan spinners, not keen to play them in Chennai



New Delhi, Jun 19 (PTI):

The Pakistan cricket team is not "comfortable" playing some of the participating teams at specific venues during the ODI World Cup in India, including Afghanistan in Chennai and Australia in Bengaluru. The deadlock over the Asia Cup staging has ended and now Pakistan are expected to travel to India for the World Cup in October-November. The much awaited contest between India and Pakistan is likely to place in Ahmedabad on October 15.

Before announcing the World Cup schedule, the International Cricket Council (ICC) has asked members boards including the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) for suggestions on the proposed itinerary. A reliable source in the PCB told PTI that the board's data, analytics and team strategy experts have been given the task of approving the venues where the ICC and BCCI have tentatively scheduled Pakistan's matches for the 50-over mega event. "The PCB sent the tentative itinerary for the team to the selectors

/experts who apparently are not comfortable with some of the Pakistan team's scheduled matches and venues like they have reservations on Pakistan playing Afghanistan in Chennai and Australia at Bengaluru," the source said.

Playing Afghanistan in spin-friendly Chennai would mean facing the likes of Rashid Khan and Noor Ahmad, who did well for Gujarat Titans in the 2023 Indian Premier League.

Conditions in Bengaluru are usually batting friendly and it is hard to understand why Pakistan would have reservations playing Australia at the Chinnaswamy Stadium.

The PCB source said the selectors, who are also part of the team management, has advised the board not to accept Chennai as the venue for the match against Afghanistan as it was historically, data, analytics and team strategy experts have been given the task of approving the venues where the ICC and BCCI have tentatively scheduled Pakistan's matches for the 50-over mega event. "The PCB sent the tentative itinerary for the team to the selectors

SSCB crowned champions at Youth National Boxing Championships

New Delhi: Defending champions Services Sports Control Board once again stamped their authority by clinching the team championship at the 6th Youth men's National Boxing Championships in Gangtok, Sikkim. Haryana and Chandigarh claimed the second and third position with 54 and 20 points respectively. While Haryana won four gold, two silver and three bronze medals, Chandigarh concluded their campaign with two silver and one bronze.

SSCB boxers pulled off a stunning show on the last day of the competition as nine of their 11 finalists emerged victorious and took home the gold medal as well as team championship trophy with 85 points, finishing at the top of the table with 13 medals, including 2 silver and bronze medals each.

Rishi (48kg) and Aryan (51kg) started the day's proceedings for Services with identical 5-0 wins over Bihar's Rahul and Manipur's Thokchom Singh respectively to bag the gold medal.

Miandad doesn't want Pakistan to tour India for WC



Karachi, Jun 19 (PTI):

Batting great Javed Miandad spewed fresh venom at India, saying Pakistan should not travel to the neighbouring country for matches, including this year's ICC ODI World Cup, until the BCCI agrees to send its team to his nation first.

As per the draft schedule prepared by the ICC, Pakistan are scheduled to play India in the blockbuster World Cup clash at the Narendra Modi stadium in Ahmedabad on October 15.

But the 66-year-old former captain feels it is now India's time to recip-

rocate by touring Pakistan.

"Pakistan has been to India in 2012 and even in 2016 now it is the turn of the Indians to come here," Miandad said.

"If I had to make a decision I would never go to India to play any match, even the World Cup. We are always ready to play them (India) but they never respond in the same manner."

"Pakistan cricket is bigger...we are still producing quality players. So I don't think even if we don't go to India it will make any difference to us," he added. India last visited

Haryana blank Maharashtra 4-0 in Senior Women's football championship

Amritsar, Jun 19 (PTI): Haryana scored two late goals to complete a commanding 4-0 win over Maharashtra in their second round Group B match of the Senior Women's National Football Championship, here. In their previous match, Maharashtra had lost to Manipur 1-3. Renu Rani scored one goal on either side of half-time to put Haryana on their way to a big victory, which was completed by two more goals in the second half at the Guru Nanak Dev University Ground here on Sunday. Renu scored the opening goal in the 34th minute when she beat Maharashtra goalkeeper Anjali Barke, and doubled the lead with another fine strike after the resumption of the play in the second half.

Tongue lashing from coach at half time pepped us: Chhetri

Bhubaneswar, Jun 19 (PTI):

The "tongue lashing" they got from head coach Igor Stimac at half time was the wake-up call India needed to win the Intercontinental Cup, said national football team captain Sunil Chhetri.

India failed to break Lebanon's defence in the first half before Chhetri's 87th international goal and Lallianzuala Chhangte's strike to help the hosts lift the title.

"We got some tongue lashing from the boss at half time. We were nowhere close to where we were in the last game. It was the wake-up call that we needed," said Chhetri. "A lot of words were spoken, some of which I can't repeat here. But the main thing is that we knew we had it in our tanks, and at the end of the day, we have no regrets. Of course, it's easier now to say this at 2-0, but we are happy with the win." Chhetri was impressed with India's performance in the tournament and termed the victory "sweet". "We could



not win the last time in the Hero Intercontinental Cup, but this win was sweet. It was not easy, but we were very happy, especially to keep the clean sheets," he said.

Head coach Stimac admitted that he was not pleased with his team's performance against Lebanon in the first 45 minutes. "Every game is important, every win is important, especially clean sheets, so I am very happy. But I can tell you that I was not at all happy at half time. We played

well in the first 10 minutes, and then we disappeared," the Croatian said.

"We should not have allowed them (Lebanon) to control the game for 20 minutes like that. It's best I don't mention what was said at half time, but it worked. The reaction from the boys in the second half was brilliant. This is the India I like to see."

Stimac said a plenty of work awaits India ahead of the AFC Asian Cup to be hosted by Qatar from January 12 to February 10 next year.

India are clubbed in a strong Group B along side Australia, Uzbekistan and Syria.

"There's plenty of work for us ahead of the AFC Asian Cup. We need to understand better positioning, timing of runs, when to play on the ground, and when not," the coach said.

"Lebanon had 7-8 good transitions. That cannot happen against Australia or Uzbekistan. It's not important how we play today, it's important how we play in January (in the Asian Cup)."

Spain wins Nations League final as Unai Simon saves two penalties

Rotterdam, Jun 19 (AP):

Spain's 11-year trophy drought is over. Croatia and its veteran captain Luka Modric are still waiting for their first international title. Goalkeeper Unai Simon saved two shots as Spain beat Croatia in a penalty shootout after their tense Nations League final had finished 0-0 on Sunday.

The Bilbao goalkeeper used his feet to save a penalty by Lovro Majer when the shootout was level at 3-3 and then dived full-length to tip Bruno Petkovic's spot kick around the post. Dani Carvajal converted his penalty with a "Panenka" chip to seal the victory. Spain coach Luis De La Fuente said Carvajal had taken penalties well in practice ahead of the final.

"He has a fantastic personality and that's the way he decided to take it," he said. "We have total confidence in his ability to take penalties."

Spain's other previous titles came in the 2010



World Cup and the European Championships in 1964, 2008 and 2012.

Midfielder Rodri, who punched the air after scoring his penalty, has four titles this season after also winning a historic treble with his club, Manchester City. He was named the player of the Nations League tournament to cap his memorable year.

Spain did not manage a shot on target until the 84th minute of the match and when substitute Ansu Fati finally looked like breaking the stalemate, Ivan Peric ic was on the goal line to block his effort. It was Spain's only goal-bound attempt, com-

pared to five by Croatia.

In the first period of extra time, Majer broke through and fell in the penalty area under a challenge by Nacho, but German referee Felix Zwayer ruled that the Spain defender had played the ball and waved off Croatia's appeals for a penalty.

"I think it makes the win even more epic doing it this way," De La Fuente said.

Croatia's fans many wearing shirts with Modric's name and No. 10 on the back far outnumbered their Spanish counterparts at De Kuip stadium in Rotterdam.

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'Telangana on top in various indices'

BRS will return to power after Assly elections

Hyderabad, June 19 (PTI):

The ruling BRS in Telangana will return to power after the Legislative Assembly elections scheduled to be held later this year, party supremo and Chief Minister K Chandrababhan Naidu asserted on Monday, confident about the growth of the state under his party's government.

Rao, who addressed a public meeting here on the occasion of 'Haritotsavam' (green day) as part of the decennial celebrations of state



formation day, said he had no doubt about the BRS coming to power again in the state.

The chief minister, who planted a sapling as part of the 'Haritotsavam' celebrations at Tummaluru here, said greenery increased by about 7.7 per cent in Telangana with the implementation of the state government's green drive 'Harita

Haram' (green ornament).

"In Telangana, we have already planted 276 crore saplings. That is why greenery is visible wherever we see. We are so advanced that there is a nursery in every village, a 'palle prakruti vanam' in every village with open gyms for children," he said.

The increased greenery is a collective effort, he said.

KCR also said he asked the state Chief Secretary (A Santhi Kumari) to freely distribute fruit-bearing saplings to the people from this year as part of the green drive.

Alleging that the Palamuru lift irrigation project in the state got de-

layed because of Congress leaders who obtained a stay (imposed on works) by approaching the Supreme Court, the CM assured that I b r a h i m p a t n a m, Maheswaram and Vikarabad assembly constituencies would soon get water.

He further said those who ridiculed Telangana during the separate state agitation, saying it does not know how to do farming, were now in seventh place whereas Telangana is at the top in the country. He also pointed out that Telangana is number one in the country in per capita power utilisation, per capita income, paddy production, 24x7 power supply and other indices.

ENJOYING RAINS



A young woman enjoys rain at Kartavya Path, in New Delhi, Monday.

Experts, spiritual leaders ask people to come together

To deal with water crisis

New Delhi, Jun 19 (PTI):

Several water conservation experts and spiritual leaders on Sunday warned of an unrest across the world due to water crisis and asked people of all sections to come together to prevent it.

At a meeting held here ahead of the UN Water Conference next year, Rajendra Singh, president of People's World Commission on Drought and Flood and 'waterman' of India, said that due to the water crisis, an unrest will take place

across the globe and people of all sections will have to come together to stop it, only then peace will prevail. The spiritual leaders unanimously resolved to awaken the society through their discourses on water conservation and management. They said that in all the religious texts of the world, the protection of nature has been described as the most important thing.

According to a statement from the organisers, the religious leaders said that now the time has come in the whole world, including India, for everyone to come together for peace through water conservation.

Kerala cops take away bride from interfaith wedding

Thiruvananthapuram, Jun 19 (PTI): In a dramatic incident in Kerala, a young bride was forcibly taken away from the groom by the police on Sunday evening minutes before the inter-faith couple were set to tie the knot at a temple near Kovalam here.

The entire incident played out like some movie scene as visuals of the incident showed the bride, who was screaming she does not want to go, being pushed and yanked towards a private vehicle by police personnel outside Kovalam police station. The police even prevented the groom from going near her, according to the visuals. One of the officers could also be seen

and heard shouting at the screaming bride to get inside the vehicle and after she was shoved inside it, other officers also got in and drove away.

The couple on Monday told a TV channel that the woman — Alfia — was, thereafter, taken to a magisterial court where she gave a statement that she had left with the groom — Akhil — of her own free will and wanted to go with him.

"After recording my statement, I was allowed to leave with Akhil who had also reached there," she said.

Meanwhile, a senior police officer of Alappuzha district said that there was a missing person complaint lodged in

Kayamkulam police station and as part of it they had to produce the woman before a court there.

"The officers were directed to produce the woman before the court. So they were just doing their duty. Not aware about any use of force by them. The girl told the court she wants to leave with the groom and she left with him," the officer told PTI. He also said he will look into whether there was any use of force by the officers involved.

Alfia, on the other hand, said that the police took her away despite she having already given a statement a few days back that she was leaving with Akhil, whom she knew for over an year, of her own

free will to get married to him.

"The missing person complaint was lodged in Kayamkulam police station after that. It was done by my parents. They do not want me to live with him. They want to take me away," she said.

Narrating what transpired just minutes before they were set to tie the knot, Akhil said, "The police arrived in two vehicles from Kayamkulam. They stopped the wedding from happening and forcibly dragged her away.

"At Kovalam police station also they did not allow me to go near her, pushed me away and misbehaved with me. The police were not expected to behave in such a manner."

DRAMATIC INCIDENT

Maha Guv presides over 25th Annual Convocation of BATU



Mumbai, Jun 19:

Maharashtra Governor and Chancellor of State universities Ramesh Bais presided over the 25th Annual Convocation of the Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Technological University (BATU), Lonere Dist Raigad through online mode on

Mon (19 June).

Minister of Higher and Technical Education Chandrakant Patil, Minister of Industries Uday Samant, Vice Chancellor of BATU Dr. Karbhari Kale and Members of the Executive and Academic Council, members of faculty, invitees and graduating students were present.

Degrees, Post Graduate Degrees and diplomas were awarded to 22267 graduating students on the occasion. These include 13 candidates who were awarded Ph.D.

'Secular parties have teamed up to defeat BJP, not to gain power'

Ranchi, June 19 (PTI):

CPI general secretary D Raja on Monday said all secular democratic parties have teamed up together to defeat the BJP in the upcoming 2024 general elections and not for grabbing power.

In an interview to PTI, Raja, who is on a two-day Jharkhand visit, said the current situation in the country "is grave and disturbing" and there is a need to uproot the saffron party for the sake of democracy.

"Secular democratic parties are of the view that all must come together to defeat the BJP. This is not for getting political power, but to safeguard the Constitution, the democracy, the nation and its future. That understanding is gaining momentum..." Raja said.

"Who will be the leader of the group is not an issue at all. Everything can be discussed and decided collectively as the parties are matured enough," he said.

"We had such experi-



ences when the United Front was formed and leadership questions were addressed after winning. Even a common minimum programme was discussed and accepted. There was no problem. Everything went smoothly and everything was discussed collectively. There are no preconditions for the unity of the secular democratic parties," Raja said.

The veteran leader said he will be representing the Communist Party of India

(CPI) in the June 23 meeting of opposition parties in Patna which will be attended by many chief ministers and top leaders of various parties.

The meeting, called by Bihar Chief Minister and Janata Dal (United) leader Nitish Kumar, will see anti-BJP players chalk out a strategy for the 2024 Lok Sabha polls.

Raja alleged that RSS was forcing the saffron party to push its agenda that resulted in increasing attacks on Dalits, minorities, women and others in the country.

"Ever since the BJP came to power, the RSS has become aggressive and is forcing the government to follow its agenda. That is the reason why we are witnessing increasing attacks on minorities, Dalits, Adivasis and women... The public sector is being dismantled and privatised. The government is openly siding with big corporate houses and even Parliament is being made redundant," the senior leader said.

He said the opposition

was not allowed to raise the issue of Adani in the last Parliament session.

"This government has become adamant and arrogant... It does not allow opposition parties to raise their concerns," he said.

On the situation in Manipur, Raja blamed the BJP for the violence in the northeastern state.

He attacked Prime Minister Narendra Modi for maintaining a "studied silence" on Manipur where over 100 people have lost their lives in the ethnic violence since May 3.

"Modi has been claiming that the double engine governments are making big progress in several states, including Manipur. But look at the situation. The government will have to take all the political parties into confidence. It should appeal to both sides to maintain peace, harmony and tranquility. It is the government which has created the situation," he alleged.

The senior CPI leader also questioned the manner the wrestlers' protest was handled.

Andhra books first case under Transgender Protection Act against four men

Visakhapatnam, June 19 (PTI)

In a first, Andhra Pradesh police has booked a case under the Transgender Person (Protection of Rights) Act 2019 and arrested four men for molesting a transgender woman in Visakhapatnam.

On June 8, a 26-year-old Dalit transgender woman, after watching a movie at a local theatre, boarded an autorickshaw from Jagadamba junction to Hanumanthavaka in which three men were already on board, police said.

After a little while, the three men started touching her private parts, forcing her to raise a hue and cry, and ultimately disembark from the autorickshaw at Pedagadili Junction, the police said.

Once she alighted, all four men, including the auto driver, started beating her up, especially on her head, her complaint states. "Soon after she got down from the vehicle, she complained and immedi-

ately we registered a case under the Transgender Act," Visakhapatnam Police Commissioner Trivikram Varma told PTI on Monday.

Police arrested Vasupalli Srinivasu (33), Hanish Kumar (26), Satish Kumar (30) and Manoj Kumar (23) for molesting the transgender woman.

They booked a case under IPC Sections 354 (assaulting a woman) and 323 (voluntarily causing hurt) read with 34 (Acts done by several persons in furtherance of common intention) and Section 18 (d) (endangering life and safety) from the Transgender Person (Protection of Rights) Act 2019.

"This is the first case in Andhra Pradesh (under the transgender protection act)," ACP Vivekananda, who is also the nodal officer for the transgender protection cell of the coastal district said, but added a caveat against the misuse of the law: "Kindly, my request is that transgenders should not take this as an advantage."

HONOUR KILLING

Couple murdered, bodies thrown into Chambal river

Morena, Jun 19 (PTI):

A man along with his kin allegedly shot dead his teen daughter and her lover in Morena district of Madhya Pradesh and threw the bodies in the Chambal river, a police official said on Monday.

Rajpal Singh Tomar (55) has confessed to killing his daughter Shivani (19) and her friend Radheshyam Tomar (21) and throwing their bodies in to the Chambal river on June 3, Ambah police station inspector Vinay Yadav told PTI. "Tomar and two of his relatives were detained on Saturday and their confessions were recorded. They were picked up on the complaint of Radheshyam's father Lakhan Tomar. State Disaster Response Force personnel and a diver have been deployed for the past two days to retrieve the bodies," he said. "The SRDF team and the diver have not been able to find

the bodies so far. We are also trying to check various running water sites," the official added.

Shivani, from Ratanbasai village, and Radheshyam, from Balupura hamlet, eloped on June 3, he said.

Lakhan Tomar told reporters that five days before Radheshyam went missing, accused Rajpal had called him and asked him to send his son away from the village or face the consequences.

He said he had made the rounds of the local police station and the superintendent of police's office since June 3 seeking action against the accused lest he destroy evidence.

"But the police only registered a missing person complaint claiming the two had eloped," Lakhan alleged. However, Yadav said a murder case will be registered only after the bodies are retrieved and as per proof and the rule book.

RATH YATRA PREPARATIONS



Devotees offer prayers in front of elephants ahead of the annual Rath Yatra (chariot procession), in Ahmedabad, Monday.

'Even god is not spared by BJP when it comes to corruption'

Ujjain, Jun 19 (PTI):

The "huge scam" in the construction of the Mahakal Lok corridor in Madhya Pradesh shows the ruling BJP has not even spared God when it comes to corruption, state Congress chief Kamal Nath alleged on Monday. He claimed this scam is so big that it has not only sullied the image of Ujjain but that of Madhya Pradesh in the entire country.

Addressing a public meeting in Mahidpur town, Nath claimed the Bharatiya Janata Party has been using religion as means of corruption and turned Madhya Pradesh into a "corrup-



Kamal Nath

tion state." "The recent scam in the Mahakal Lok corridor is so big that it has not only sullied the image of Ujjain but also of the state in the country. The BJP has not even spared God when it comes to corruption," Nath said.

To tackle addiction'

New Delhi, Jun 19 (PTI):

There is a need for introducing early-stage awareness programmes in the school curriculum to prevent children from falling into the trap of substance abuse and addiction, experts have said.

Think Change Forum (TCF), an independent think tank, conducted a qualitative analysis to look into new trends in substance abuse among adolescents with specific focus on the concerns of mothers. It held over 12 consultations among

women experts and mothers from varied fields on the subject in the past few months.

Mothers and women experts have proposed a six-point agenda to address the rising threat of addiction among children.

There is a need for introducing early-stage awareness programmes for children in all school curricula to prevent them from falling into the trap of substance abuse, they have said.

They also said that growing popularity of fancy electronic vaping devices among school children is a matter of

grave concern as they are being positioned as cool and safer by the international tobacco industry.

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