



Villagers themselves are repairing a road at Putung - Khoipait village in Mirik. -- DEEP MILAN PRADHAN

Authorities in Kishtwar crack down on WhatsApp groups spreading rumours

JAMMU, JULY 11 /--/ Cracking down on those using social media to show enforcement agencies in bad light and generate sympathy for terrorists, authorities in Kishtwar district of Jammu and Kashmir have booked three individuals and issued notices to 21 WhatsApp group administrators, a senior police officer said. Senior superintendent of police, Kishtwar, Abrar Chowdhary said the action comes after police collected the details of various social media forums including WhatsApp groups over the last three months. The police collected details of social media forums including

Maharashtra Assembly adjourned after ruckus over Nanar refinery issue

SENNA, CONG MLAs TRY TO TAKE AWAY SPEAKER'S MACE
NAGPUR, JULY 11 /--/ The proceedings of the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly were adjourned for the day today after MLAs of Shiv Sena and the Congress created a ruckus on the Nanar refinery issue and tried to take away the Speaker's mace. As soon as the proceedings of the House began, Sena MLA Sunil Prabhu demanded that the party MLAs be allowed to speak first on the issue as they wanted to participate in a motion opposing the project. However, Leader of Opposition Radhakrishna Vikhe Patil (Congress) opposed the Sena's demand, saying the Opposition had already submitted a notice for adjournment motion on the issue. He told Speaker Haribhau Bagde that members of the Congress and NCP be allowed to speak on the issue immediately after SKM.

Organic mission without vision, says SKM

From page 1
Recently the Chief Minister had said that the opposition parties were trying to torpedo the organic mission. "We are never against the organic mission but the way it is being implemented without proper plan is something sad for us," Khaling said on Wednesday. Talking on the long pending demand of the Limboo and Tamang communities for seat reservation in the state assembly he said: "If SDF had remained honest towards the Limboo-Tamang community then the L-T community would have got their reserved seats in the assembly by now. SDF argues that seat reservation falls under the Central list; hence the state cannot do anything. But the fact is that the state has a major role to play by suggesting a good formula to the Centre." On Wednesday two former bureaucrats L. B. Dad and L. B. Chhetri joined SKM while one SDF supporter Bodei Tshering Bhutia also joined SKM.

Bombay HC acquits man of 'unsound mind' in murder case

MUMBAI, JULY 11 /--/ The Bombay High Court has acquitted a 41-year-old man in a murder case, observing that he was of an "unsound mind" and could not be held liable for his actions. A bench of Justices B R Gavai and Sarang Kotwal took into consideration the man's acquittal in another case in which he was charged with murder in 2001, after he pleaded that he was suffering from paranoid schizophrenia. The court rejected the prosecution's argument that if the man was acquitted, he might commit a third murder. The bench had last month acquitted the man, a resident of Mira Road in the neighbouring Thane district, while hearing a petition filed by him. The man had challenged an order of the Thane sessions court sentencing him to life imprisonment in 2013. While quashing and setting aside the sessions court's order, the High Court said: "...the appellant was incapable of knowing the nature of the act by reason of unsoundness of his mind and thus, is entitled to benefit of section 84 (act of a person of unsound mind) of the Indian Penal Code." According to the prosecution, the man assaulted his building's watchman on November 8, 2007 with a knife because the latter did not follow his order of watering some plants at his residence. The guard was rushed to a hospital by other residents, but he was declared dead. An offence under section 302 (murder) of the IPC was subsequently registered at the Mira Road police station against the man. The accused's lawyer argued before the high court that while his client did not dispute that he had committed the said act, he had done so under a spell of "insanity". The trial court should not have convicted him as he was entitled to benefit under IPC section 84 (act of a person of unsound mind), he said. The assistant public prosecutor

Strong evidence against those arrested for having Naxal links to Bhima-Koregaon violence: Fadnavis

NAGPUR, JULY 11 /--/ Several pieces of evidence have been found against those arrested for alleged Naxal connection to the Bhima-Koregaon violence, Maharashtra chief minister Devendra Fadnavis today said. Evidence suggesting a direct link of the accused with Naxal leaders was found during the probe, Fadnavis told the Legislative Council here. Police also found some e-mails (sent or received by the accused) pertaining to "conspiracies", the chief minister said. MLC Kapil Patil had raised the issue during Question Hour, noting that there was a lawyer among those accused. There is a difference between sympathising with an ideology (such as Naxalism) and actually practising it, he asked, whether the government will consider releasing the accused from prison until the judicial inquiry in the matter is complete. Neelam Gorhe of the Shiv Sena sought to know the status of investigation and when a chargesheet will be filed. Replying to Gorhe's question, Fadnavis said: "A judicial inquiry is underway, and hence making a comment on this will not be appropriate." Police will file the charge sheet in the stipulated period, he said. Last month Pune Police arrested five people from Mumbai, Nagpur and Delhi, including Dalit activist Sudhir Dhavale, for allegedly having close links with the Naxals. Dhavale was one of the organisers of Elgar Parishad, organised to commemorate 200 years of the Bhima-Koregaon battle on December 11 last year. Police said they were probing whether the Naxals instigated the violence that took place the next day at the Bhima-Koregaon war memorial in Pune district.

Curbs in parts of Srinagar as separatists call shutdown over civilian killing

SRINAGAR, JULY 11 /--/ Authorities today imposed restrictions in parts of Srinagar city to thwart any protests by separatists, who had called for a shutdown against killing of a civilian allegedly in security forces firing on protesters in Shopian district of Jammu and Kashmir. Restrictions under section 144 of CrPc were imposed in five police station areas -- Khanayr, Maharajgunj, Nowhatta, Safakadal and Rainawari -- as a precautionary measure to maintain law and order, a police official said. Meanwhile, normal life was affected across the Valley due to the strikes. Schools and other educational institutions remained closed while attendance in government offices was thin due to lack of public transport, the official said. Two Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) militants, including a Pakistani national, were killed in an encounter while the civilian died and 20 others sustained injuries during clashes with security forces near the scene of gunbattle in Shopian on Tuesday.

Kerala HC rejects pre-arrest bail pleas of 3 priests accused of rape

KOCHI, JULY 11 /--/ The Kerala High Court today rejected the anticipatory bail petitions of three priests of a church accused of raping a woman, ruling that the charges against them were serious and the relief, if granted at an early stage of investigation, will adversely affect its progress. The priests - Abraham Varghese alias Sony, Job Mathew and Jaise K George - had approached the court soon after the crime branch of Kerala Police slapped rape charges against four of the five Malankara Syrian Orthodox Church priests, who were accused of sexually exploiting the victim. Dismissing their bail pleas, Justice R Vilaragabhan of the Kochi bench of the court said allegations against them were serious and that their release at a time when the probe was at a preliminary stage would hamper its progress. Earlier, the court had directed police to produce before it the complaint of sexual harassment of the woman filed by her husband and other documents related to the case. In their bail applications, the priests had rejected the woman's allegations of sexually assaulting her. They claimed the case was registered against them solely "under political pressure exerted by certain vested interests to derive political mileage". The crime branch registered an FIR against four priests, including the three who pre-arrest bail petitions were rejected today, after recording the alleged victim's statement. The woman's husband had

Training programme on cropping practices



ROINGPO, JULY 11 /--/ Krishi Vigyan Kendra and ATMA West Sikkim on Wednesday conducted a one-day training programme on Integrated Cropping Practices under Krishi Kalyan Abhiyan as an aspirational districts at Omchung Block 14th Geizing GPU West Sikkim. Among those present were panchayat members H B Pradhan, Bishnu Lal Thapa and Rajan Karki, Block Technology Manager Safal Pandey and chairperson of the programme vice-president Priya Rai. A total of 65 progressive farmers participated in the programme. The Block Technology Manager welcomed the participants. Resource person Jaya Prakash Dulal created awareness on aspirational districts and explained in details about integrated cropping practices with best practices to the participants. There was also a training-cum-demonstration of oranges and their distribution under KKA West Sikkim at Timburbung village. The program was chaired by the Zilla Panchayat President, Panchayat members and departmental officers. A total of 100 farmers participated in the programme. The farmers were given demonstration on orchard plantation. It concluded with the distribution of five seedlings each seedling to 100 participants.

CBI court chargesheets UP BJP MLA in 2017 Unnao rape case

LUCKNOW, JULY 11 /--/ The CBI today chargesheeted Uttar Pradesh BJP MLA Kishore Singh Sangar for the alleged rape of a minor girl in Unnao at his residence on June 4 last year, officials said here. In the chargesheet filed in special CBI court here, Sangar and his associate Sashi Singh have been charged with criminal conspiracy and other offences under IPC and section 2 and of The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act (POCSO Act) which relates to rape of minors. The development came three months after the agency was handed over the probe in the alleged rape of the minor girl who was lured at the residence of the politician with the promise of job. The agency has found that the girl was again gang raped at the residence of the MLA on June 4, 2017 at 8 pm where she was taken by Sashi Singh, officials claimed. The agency has alleged that the girl was raped by a different set of accused between June 11 and June 20, 2017 which is also being probed by the CBI, they said. The officials said local police had not registered an FIR related to the alleged rape by the MLA which took place on June 4. They had only registered an FIR related to the gang rape, they said. The role of doctors, police and officials of district administration is still under probe, they said. The victim has alleged that she was raped by the MLA, they said. Sangar, a four-time MLA whose presents Bangerma in UP legislative assembly, was arrested on April 13. The case came to light after the victim allegedly attempted self-immolation out chief minister Adityanath's residence. A purported video of the girl's father before his death had gone viral in which he had alleged that he was mercilessly beaten up, including with rifle butts, by the MLA's brother and others in the presence of police. The case caused a huge embarrassment to the BJP government in the state which recommended a CBI probe in April this year. (PTI)

Akali temple after its inauguration at Panighatta police station



A Akali temple after its inauguration at Panighatta police station. -- DEEP MILAN PRADHAN

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