

National & International News

Prime Minister Modi arrives in Sochi for informal summit with Putin

Agency
New Delhi, May 21

UPA chairperson Sonia Gandhi, Congress President Rahul Gandhi and others today paid homage to former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi on his 27th death anniversary. Priyanka Gandhi along with

her husband Robert Vadra also paid tributes to the former PM at his memorial-Veer Bhumi here. They were joined by Congress leaders Sheila Dixit, Ashok Gehlot, Sushil Kumar Shinde, Mallikarjun Kharge, former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and former President

Pranab Mukherjee. Rahul took to Twitter thanking his father (Rajiv Gandhi) for teaching him how to love and respect every one. "My father taught me that hate is a prison for those who carry it. Today, on his death anniversary, I thank him for teaching me to love

and respect all beings, the most valuable gifts a father can give a son," he tweeted.

"Rajiv Gandhi, those of us that love you hold you forever in our hearts," he added. West Bengal Chief Minister and Trinamool Congress chief Mamata Banerjee also remembered Rajiv Gandhi and conveyed a message through Twitter. "Solemnly and very fondly remembering former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi on his death anniversary," she said.

Congress leaders Digvijay Singh, PL Punia, Randeep Singh Surjewala, Sanjay Nirupam and Bhupinder Singh Hooda were among those who paid tributes to Rajiv Gandhi through social media. A recipient of Bharat Ratna, Rajiv Gandhi was assassinated in Chennai's Sriperumbudur on May 21, 1991.

Indian women's Hockey team fail to defend its crown at 5th Asian Champions Trophy

Agency
Donghae, May 21,

The Indian women's Hockey team failed to defend its crown at the fifth Asian Champions Trophy, as it lost to hosts South Korea, 0-1 in the summit clash at Donghae City today. A goal, in the 24th minute by Youngsil Lee, clinched the Korean team as the winner of Champions Trophy. Yesterday, in their final round-robin match, both teams had played out a 1-1 draw. Today's was India's first defeat of the tournament.

South Korea has lifted the title for the third time after having won it in 2010 and 2011. India, on the other hand, finished second best for the second time after having lost to Japan in the final of the 2013 edition. Indian striker Vandana Katariya was declared player of the tournament while youngster Lalremsiami was named as the upcoming player of the tournament. Besides, striker Navneet Kaur and Vandana Katariya finished as joint top-scorer in the tournament along with China's Xiaoming Song.

Nadal beats Zverev to win Italian Open

Agency
Spain, May 21,

Rafael Nadal has beaten Germany's Alexander Zverev to win Italian Open title for a record eighth time.

With this win, Nadal regained the world number one ranking before the French Open beginning next Sunday.

Nadal survived a stunning fightback. He cruised to the first set before Alexander, the defending champion, won nine of the 11 games to take the second set 6-1 and lead 3-1 in the decider.

Nadal turned the match around following a lengthy rain delay and closed out a 6-1, 1-6, 6-3 victory.

He has now won three clay-court titles from four tournaments in the lead-up to his bid for an 11th Roland Garros title in Paris.

GOC assess Indo-Myanmar International Border along Nagaland Sector

IT News
Kohima, May 21,

General Officer Commanding-in-Chief of Eastern Command, Lieutenant General Abhay Krishna yesterday undertook assessment of Assam Rifles operations along the Indo-Myanmar International Border along Nagaland sector. PRO Defence Col. C Konwer in a release said that the GoC-in-C was in Nagaland as part of his ongoing visit of Spear Corps Zone since Saturday. He said that the General Officer as part of the operational assessment visited the forward Assam Rifles post at Longwa in Mon district as well as the Assam

Rifles Sector Headquarters in Tuensang district. He said that at the two locations, the General was briefed on ongoing operations by Assam Rifles commanders responsible for border management operations on the ground. The General has reportedly expressed satisfaction over the hard-work and operational acumen of Assam Rifles. He departed for Kolkata last evening. Meanwhile, Col Konwer also informed that the earlier scheduled visit of the Union Defence Minister, Nirmala Sitharaman to Spear Corps Zone yesterday did not materialise due to unforeseen technical contingencies

Army organizes medical camp cum health awareness camp

IT News
Imphal, May 21,

5 Jammu & Kashmir Rifles of 9 Sector Assam Rifles under the aegis of HQ IGAR (South) conducted a Medical Camp cum Health Awareness Capsule at Great Star Sports Club Football Ground at Sagolband Awang Leikai, Imphal West District yesterday. A total of 250

people including children were examined during the camp and were provided with free prescriptions, by the Regimental Medical Officer of Battalion. The locals were extremely grateful to the unit for this earnest endeavor and requested for more such camps in near future for benefit of the people as well as the community.

AR conducts lecture on social menace

IT News
Imphal, May 21,

11 Assam Rifles of 26 Sector Assam Rifles under the aegis of HQ IGAR (South) conducted a lecture on the topic 'Social Menace' at Pangal Basti Ward No 5, Moreh, Tengenoual District on May 19. A total of 50 villagers participated. The villagers were briefed regarding prevalent social issues like drug abuse, consumption of alcohol, insurgency, illiteracy etc. The villagers were also encouraged to educate themselves and their families regarding such social menace and how to keep away

from them. The villagers participated with active interest in the lecture and displayed profound attentiveness in educating their children regarding moral values so that they restrain themselves from various bad habits and establish virtuous moral conscience. The villagers were also made aware about how they could eradicate social menace by promoting higher education for the youth and by teaching upright moral values to their children. All attendants of the lecture unanimously pledged to contest against all social menace and ensure peace and prosperity.

Jharkhand Disom Party's bandh disrupts train services

Agency
Kolkata, May 21

Train services in various parts of West Bengal and Jharkhand were disrupted today as a result of a bandh called by the Jharkhand Disom Party, demanding recognition of tribals' 'Sarna Dharma' as a religion, a South Eastern Railway official said. Sarna Dharma is centred around the worship of nature.

The Jharkhand Disom Party has called the dawn-to-dusk bandh in Jharkhand, Bengal, Assam and Odisha in association with some other outfits to demand 'Sarna Dharma' as a religion. At least eight passenger trains were cancelled and three express trains, including New Delhi-Bhubaneswar Rajdhani Express and Puri-New Delhi Purshottam Express were diverted through different

routes, the South Eastern Railway spokesman said here. The SER spokesman also said the railway has short-terminated five other passenger trains at different stations in its Adra division owing to blockades at several stations by bandh supporters. Bandh supporters blocked train movement at Kantadih, Indrabil and Madhukunda stations in Purulia district of West Bengal, the spokesman said

India successfully test-fires BrahMos supersonic cruise

Agency
Balore, May 21

India today successfully test-fired the Indo-Russian joint venture BrahMos supersonic cruise missile from a test range along the Odisha coast to validate some new features.

The missile was test-fired from a mobile launcher stationed at Launch pad 3 of the Integrated Test Range (ITR) at Chandipur near here at 10.40 am. Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) officials said.

The trial was conducted to validate its "life extension" technologies developed for the first time in India by DRDO and team BrahMos, said an official of the ITR. Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman congratulated DRDO scientists and team BrahMos for the successful launch of BrahMos missile with new technology today. "Smt @nsitharaman congratulates Team BrahMos & @DRDO_India for successful flight test carried out at 1040 hrs on 21 May 2018 from ITR, Balore to validate BRAHMOS missile life extension technologies

developed for the first time in India," her office said in a twitter post.

The successful test will result in huge savings of replacement cost of missiles held in the inventory of the Indian Armed Forces, it said. The two-stage missile - first being solid and the second one, a ramjet liquid propellant - has already been introduced in the Army and Navy, while the Air Force version had witnessed successful trial, the DRDO scientists said. BrahMos variants can be launched from land, air, sea and under water. India successfully launched the world's fastest supersonic cruise missile from a Sukhoi-30 MKI combat jet for the first time against a target in the Bay of Bengal in November, 2017, they said.

The missiles land and naval variants are already in service. At least two Su-30 squadrons with 20 planes each are planned to be equipped with the air-launch variant BrahMos missile, 500 kg lighter than land/naval variants.

India has already extended the range of the three-tonne missile from its earlier 290 km

to 400 km and successfully test-fired the variant in March 2017.

Increasing the missile's range from 400 km to further 800 km is now possible after India's induction into the Missile Technology Control Regime in June 2016, they said.

Prior to that, India was bound by restrictions that limited the range of the missile, which is an Indo-Russian joint venture product, to less than 300 km. Currently the Army is equipped with three regiments of Block 111 version of BrahMos missile. Induction of the first version of BrahMos missile system in Indian Navy began with INS Rajput in 2005. It is now fully operational with two

regiments of the Army, said the scientists.

After two successful test trials of BrahMos missile from INS Kolkata in June 2014 and February 2015, the test firing from INS Kochi on September 30, 2015, had validated the newly commissioned ship's systems.

The air launch version and the submarine launch version of the missile system are in progress.

So far, the Army has placed orders for the BrahMos missile which are to be deployed by three regiments. Two of them are already operational. The last land-based trial was conducted from the same base on March 11, 2017 successfully.

Kejriwal to attend Kumaraswamy's swearing-in ceremony

Agency
New Delhi, May 21

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal will attend the swearing-in ceremony of

Janata Dal (Secular) leader H D Kumaraswamy as the chief minister of Karnataka, according to a government official.

"Kejriwal will attend HD Kumaraswamy's oath taking ceremony. He has been invited by former prime minister H D Deve Gowda," the official said.

Kumaraswamy is visiting the national capital today to meet Congress president Rahul Gandhi and the party's senior leader Sonia Gandhi for a discussion on allocation of ministerial berths.

On Saturday, B S Yeddyurappa had stepped down as the chief minister without facing the floor test in the state Assembly as the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) fell short of numbers, following which Kumaraswamy met state Governor Vajubhai Vala, and said he had been invited to form the government.

The May 12-Karnataka Assembly polls threw up a hung assembly, with the BJP emerging as the single-largest party with 104 seats.

Delhi Dynamos appoint Mridul Banerjee as assistant coach

Agency
New Delhi, May 21

Indian Super League outfit Delhi Dynamos has appointed Mridul Banerjee as the new assistant coach of the club. The 59-year-old will take over from Shakti Chauhan who left the side earlier this month. Banerjee joins Dynamos after completing his stint as the Head Coach of Mohammedan Sporting where he guided the team to a fourth-place finish in the I-League Second Division Group C.

The former East Bengal head coach joins the club on the back of close to three decades of coaching experience that has seen him being associated

with the likes of Mohun Bagan, Indian Arrows, India U-16 and India U-19 among others.

The highly acclaimed Banerjee is no stranger to success as he comes on the back of guiding West Bengal to a Santosh Trophy title last year. His impressive record also saw him being awarded with the prestigious Amal Dutta Memorial Trophy.

The AFC-A-Licensed coach guided the West Bengal U-21 team to two successive championships in 2001 & 2002 and also led Mohammedan Sporting to a second-place finish in the Calcutta Premier League in

2016, where he was adjudged as the Best Coach'. As a player, Mridul represented various Premier Division clubs in Kolkata during the period of 1975-1988.

It is the ideal step in my career at this point. ISL has grown immensely and is now the premier league of India and I am delighted to be a part of a club that has done extremely well during the last four years," Banerjee said following his appointment.

"The club has shown great faith in young footballers and as a coach it is a philosophy that I have as well, so I am looking forward to this new challenge with Delhi Dynamos, he added.

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