



BATTLE-2024
Hing market: Neglect and discontent prevail Pg 05



Central Chronicle

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Even Chanakya was trolled for his appearance: UP Board Topper

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI: Prachi Nigam, who topped the Class 10 UP Board examinations this year by securing 98.5 per cent marks, has responded to the people who have been trolling her for her facial hair. Prachi said what ultimately matters are her marks and not her appearance. "When I saw that people were trolling me, it didn't bother me much. My marks matters, not my facial hair," she said. Prachi also thanked the people who supported her. "When my picture was shared on social media as the UP Board examination topper, some people trolled me. At the same time, there were people who supported me. I want to thank them all," she said. Those who feel weird because of my facial hair can continue trolling, it doesn't make a difference, Prachi said.

'Shehzada' has insulted maharajas, says PM Modi

If Congress comes to power, they will do the 'X-ray' of the country

Press Trust of India
BENGALURU: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday accused Congress leader Rahul Gandhi of insulting India's rajahs and maharajas, but remaining silent on the atrocities committed by nawabs, nizams, sultans and badshahs for the sake of appeasement politics. Addressing back-to-back rallies in Belagavi, Sirsi, Davangere and Hosapete, he also continued his attack against the Congress on the "inheritance tax" issue and targeted the party's government in Karnataka on law and order, corruption and development issues. "The BJP is working on increasing the assets of the people, but Congress's shehzada (referring to Rahul Gandhi) and his sister (Priyanka Gandhi Vadra), both are announcing that if they come to power, they will do an 'X-ray' of the country,"



PM Modi being felicitated during a public meeting. | Photo: PTI

HIGHLIGHT
● Cong has ensured the writing of our history and our freedom struggle with an eye on appeasement and vote bank

BJP will work to increase the assets of the people
Narendra Modi
Prime Minister

Modi said. "They will X-ray your property, bank lockers, lands, vehicles, also 'streedhan' and ornaments of women, gold, the 'mangalsutra'. These people will raid every house and capture your assets. After capturing, they are talking about redistributing it, they want it to give it to their loved vote bank...will you allow this loot to happen?" he asked. "I want to warn the Congress," Modi said. "Let go of this intention. Until Modi is alive, I will not allow it..." Modi said, "Congress has ensured the writing of our history and our freedom struggle with an eye on appeasement and vote bank. Even today, the Congress's shehzada (prince) is carrying forward that sin. You might have heard Congress' shehzada's recent statement -- he says Bharath's rajahs and maharajas were atyachari (oppressive)."

Your vote ensured the implementation of Ayushman Yojana for free medical treatment of up to ₹5 lakhs to over 50 crore citizens

This time with your vote Every senior citizen above 70 years of age will get guaranteed free medical treatment of ₹5 lakhs

THIS IS MODI'S GUARANTEE

Right Intent Right Results

Phir Ek Baar Modi Sarkar

Press the lotus button Make BJP win

SIT detains actor Sahil Khan

Press Trust of India
The police said it had recovered more than 2000 SIM cards and had details of 1700 bank accounts, all of which needed verification.



has been arrested in connection with the Mahadev betting app case, in police custody till May 1. Khan was apprehended from Jagdalpur in Chhattisgarh on Saturday after the Bombay High Court rejected his pre-arrest bail plea. Khan was

FACTFILE
● Khan is remanded in police custody till May 1. His advocate told the court, Khan was cooperating with the probe

brought to Mumbai, placed under arrest and produced in a magistrate court in Dadar. The Mumbai cyber cell's SIT sought his remand saying he was not cooperating in the investigation. The police said it had recovered more than 2000 SIM cards and had details of 1700 bank accounts, all of which needed verification.

SC to hear Kejriwal's plea today

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court is scheduled to hear on Monday a plea by Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal challenging his arrest in a money laundering case stemming from the alleged excise policy scam. A bench of Justices Sanjiv Khanna and Dipankar Datta is likely to hear the matter.

Election Commission notice to BJP Korba candidate Saroj Pandey

Press Trust of India
KORBA: The Election Commission has issued a show cause notice to the BJP candidate from the Korba Lok Sabha constituency in Chhattisgarh for violating the model code of conduct (MCC) after her photograph allegedly appeared on posters and banners for a religious programme, an official said on Sunday. Following a complaint from the Congress party, the office of the assistant returning officer of the Korba Lok Sabha constituency on Friday served a notice to BJP candidate Saroj Pandey and sought her reply by April 29, the official said. As per the complaint, the BJP had put up banners and posters with photographs of Pandey and ministers of the BJP-led state government for a religious programme of Dhirendra Giri Shastri in Chirmiri town in the Manendragarh assembly segment on Friday, he said. The Manendragarh assembly segment falls under the Korba Lok



Sabha constituency. The Congress, in its complaint, alleged that the BJP candidate had misused the religious programme for electioneering and demanded that the expenses from the event must be included in her poll expenditure, the complaint said. Meanwhile, the election expenditure observer of the Raigarh Lok Sabha constituency served a notice to BJP candidate Radheshaym Rathiya on Saturday over discrepancies in his poll expenditure, an official statement said. Rathiya had declared Rs 7.09 lakh as his poll expenditure so far, while the observation register indicated that he had spent Rs 13.83 lakh, it said. The BJP's Pandey is pitted against sitting MP Jyotsana Mahant of the Congress, and Rathiya is contesting against the Congress's Menka Devi Singh in the Korba and Raigarh Lok Sabha constituencies, respectively.

NEWSLINE
CHHATTISGARH
Father and daughter killed in road accident
A devastating collision on Dongargaon to Pinkapar road claimed the lives of a father and daughter, leaving five others critically injured. Page 7



SPORT
Kane scores twice in Bundesliga
Harry Kane scored his 34th and 35th Bundesliga goals of the season for Bayern Munich to warm up for Real Madrid with a 2-1 victory over Eintracht Frankfurt on Saturday. Page 14

NATION
Man gets lifer for killing wife
Nearly 15 years after a man killed his wife by setting her ablaze, a court in Maharashtra's Thane district has sentenced him to life imprisonment. Page 10

Doc removes nose pin screw from woman's lung

Press Trust of India
KOLKATA: A team of doctors in Kolkata successfully removed the screw of a gold nose pin from a woman's right lung after she accidentally inhaled it. At first, 35-year-old Varsha Sahu wasn't too concerned after inhaling a part of the nose pin that she had been wearing since her wedding 16 or 17 years ago, media

reported. She thought the pin had gone into her stomach and would naturally pass through her digestive system. However, things took a turn for the worse when she started facing health issues, including shortness of breath. A month after inhaling the screw, she went to a doctor complaining of a persistent cough, and pneumonia.



She was first prescribed medicines which didn't work. She then consulted a pulmonologist, who conducted a CT scan and a chest X-ray. These tests revealed a small object lodged in her lung, later

NUMBER
35
● Varsha Sahu (35) underwent this rarest medical procedure

identified as the screw from her nose pin. "I didn't know that the screw had come loose. I was just chatting and I took a deep breath and I

inhaled it. I had no idea it went into my airway. I thought it had gone into my stomach," Ms Sahu told the media. The woman was then referred to Dr Debraj Jash, a pulmonologist at Medica Superspecialty Hospital. Dr Jash mentioned that if a second bronchoscope attempt failed, they might have to resort to invasive surgery.

Raipur



BJP would win in all the three seats in the second phase of polling in the state

Vishnu Deo Sai
CM Chhattisgarh

Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

BOOTH INSPECTION

Dr. Gaurav Singh inspects over 75 polling booths of rural assembly

RAIPUR: In preparation for the upcoming Lok Sabha elections, Collector and District Returning Officer Dr. Gaurav Singh has undertaken extensive inspections of polling stations across the rural assembly. With a commitment to facilitating voter turnout, Dr. Singh emphasized the importance of encouraging voters and motivating others to participate in the democratic process. During his inspections, Dr. Singh prioritized ensuring adequate facilities at each polling station. Notably, he underscored the necessity of two doors, separate toilets for men and women and arrangements for polling party accommodations. Additionally, he emphasized the provision of amenities such as coolers, fans, electricity, and drinking water to ensure the comfort of polling staff, particularly those staying overnight.

CRITICIZES CONGRESS

Kedar Kashyap criticizes Congress, defends BJP's welfare initiatives



RAIPUR: Senior minister in the Chhattisgarh government, Kedar Kashyap, launched a scathing attack on the Congress during a press conference, accusing the party of hypocrisy regarding welfare policies. Kashyap asserted that while Congress leaders often speak about poverty alleviation, they failed to effectively address the issue during their six-decade-long tenure in power.

Table Tennis tournament

Chamber of Commerce initiates Voter encouragement campaign with discount offers



RAIPUR: In a bid to boost voter turnout in the Lok Sabha elections, various trade associations in Raipur have pledged to offer discounts on their products to voters who show ink on their fingers after casting their votes. This commendable initiative was announced during a meeting between the Chamber of Commerce representatives and Collector and District Returning Officer Dr. Gaurav Kumar Singh.

Led by Chamber of Commerce President Amar Parwani, the initiative aims to incentivize voters to exercise their democratic right by providing discounts on a wide range of products and services. Praising the initiative, Dr. Singh expressed confidence that it would encourage higher voter participation in the elections.

As part of the initiative, several

trade associations have committed to offering discounts on their products. The Furniture Association will provide a 10 percent discount, while the Textile Traders Association and Raipur Optical Association will offer discounts of 10 percent and 15 percent, respectively. The Plywood Association will provide a 5 percent discount, and the Bullion Association will offer a 15 percent discount on gold making charges.

Additionally, the Ravi Bhavan Traders Association will provide a 10 percent discount on accessories products and offer a free mobile guard with mobile repairing services. The FMCG Wholesale Distributors Association at Banjari Market will offer a 15 percent discount on MRP, while the Cafe and Restaurant Association will provide a 10 percent discount.

The Day's NUMBERS

NUMBER OF SEATS IN MBBS COURSE IN 6 GOVT COLLEGES IN CHHATTISGARH

Nehru Medical College, Raipur	230
Durg Medical College	200
Bilaspur Medical College	180
Rajnandgoan Medical College	125
Ambikapur Medical College	125
Jagdalpur Medical College	100

EDUCATION

CGBSE introduces stress management help number

RAIPUR: With the objective to provide free consultation ahead of the exam results, the Chhattisgarh Board of Secondary Education (CGBSE) has made the Toll free number available to provide consultation to the students.

According to the information received, the officials have started the above facility with the objective to check any untoward incident or action during the exam results.

Officials feel that stress is a natural process before the declaration of the exam results, but many times children become depressed due to that stress. Many times the negative role of parents has also come to the fore regarding the exam results. If any student shows signs of stress and seems to need counseling, then you can get free consultation by contacting the toll free number 18002334363 of Board from 1 May to 15 May from 10.30 am to 5 pm on the mental health helpline Toll free number 14416 24 hours a day and 7 days a week.

TRAGIC DEMISE

Congress alleges BJP Govt's responsibility in murder of Joga Podium



RAIPUR: In a poignant accusation, senior state Congress spokesperson Dhananjay Singh Thakur held the BJP government accountable for the murder of Congress leader Joga Podium by Naxalites in Dantewada district. Joga Podium, a former district member known for his steadfast opposition to Naxalites, was tragically targeted, according to Thakur.

Thakur pointedly referenced Joga Podium's unwavering dedication to democratic principles, noting his efforts to encourage voter participation despite Naxalite threats.

'Contribution of Rotary Club in serving is commendable'

Governor Harichandan underscored the essence of "Madhav Seva," equating human service to divine service, a principle deeply entrenched in Rotary's ethos.

Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: In a momentous occasion, Governor Vishwabhusan Harichandan inaugurated the District Rotary Assembly, emphasizing the profound ethos of humanitarian service embodied by Rotarians. Hosted by the Rotary Club of Raipur Greater, the two-day assembly, titled 'Sankalp,' convened at a private hotel in Raipur, witnessed Governor Harichandan lauding the Rotarians' unwavering commitment to societal well-being. Governor Harichandan underscored the essence of

"Madhav Seva," equating human service to divine service, a principle deeply entrenched in Rotary's ethos.

He lauded Rotarians' remarkable contributions during crises, citing their pivotal roles in addressing natural disasters like the Odisha cyclone in 1999 and the ongoing battle against the Covid-19 pandemic. Their global efforts in polio eradication were also highlighted, signifying Rotary's impactful initiatives on a worldwide scale. Highlighting Rotary's multifaceted endeavors in health, education, environment,

HIGHLIGHT

● Governor Harichandan emphasized the organization's selfless dedication to societal betterment.

● 2. Rotary's global efforts in polio eradication were also highlighted, signifying Rotary's impactful initiatives on a worldwide scale

and poverty alleviation, Governor Harichandan emphasized the organization's selfless dedication to societal betterment. He encouraged

Rotarians to leverage every opportunity to serve their communities earnestly. The assembly featured addresses by Rotary District Governor Manjeet Arora and District Governor (2024-25) Akhil Mishra, who provided insights into the organization's activities and future endeavors. Notably, all Rotarians present pledged to exercise their franchise in the upcoming 2024 elections, reflecting their commitment to civic participation.

The event, marked by traditional folk dance performances to welcome Govern-

or Harichandan, was attended by distinguished Rotary officials, including Program Chairman Sankalp Varavankar, Secretary Vinay Agarwal, and Treasurer Manish Agarwal, alongside Rotarians from Chhattisgarh, Mahakoshal, and Western Odisha regions under the Rotary District's purview.

The District Rotary Assembly served as a platform for Rotarians to reaffirm their dedication to service and solidarity, setting the stage for continued impactful initiatives in the service of humanity.

IMD WARNING

IMD issues warning for intense heat in coming days

Central Chronicle News

Expectations suggest temperatures rising from the current range of 40 to 42 degrees celsius to potentially reach 43 to 44 degrees celsius.

RAIPUR: As the weather pattern in Chhattisgarh undergoes a shift, residents of Raipur have experienced a brief respite from the sweltering heat.

However, the relief may be short-lived, as the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued a warning indicating the onset of intense heat in the coming days.

Attributing the recent drop in temperature to a



Girls cover her face with cloth to protect from heat wave

FACTFILE

● Tilda registered the highest temperature at 43.2 degrees celsius. Overnight temperatures in Raipur settled at 27.8 degrees celsius.

cyclonic circulation over South Chhattisgarh, the IMD forecasts a return to high temperatures as May approaches.

The changing low-level air dynamics are expected to bring in hot north-westerly winds, leading to a surge in temperatures. Expectations suggest temperatures rising from the current range of 40 to 42 degrees celsius to potentially reach 43 to 44 degrees celsius. In anticipation of Monday's weather, the IMD forecasts the

possibility of scattered light rain accompanied by thunderstorms in certain areas. This rainfall could temporarily curb the rise in temperatures, with recorded rainfall of 4 mm in Jagdalpur and 0.6 mm in Ambikapur over the past 24 hours. Sunday saw a mix of sunshine and clouds in Raipur, with a 25 percent cloud cover observed.

STRESS MANAGEMENT

Smiling is a good way to avoid stress: Aditi Didi

Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: A transformative session on stress management unfolded at the Shanti Sarovar Retreat Center, captivating students and faculty members of the AAFI University of Mass Communication and Arts. Renowned Rajyoga teacher Brahma Kumari Aditi Didi delivered insights into the

art of stress alleviation, emphasizing the profound impact of smiling on overall well-being.

Aditi Didi espoused the notion that smiling serves as a potent antidote to stress, asserting that it shields individuals from over eighty percent of diseases. She underscored how smiling not only dissolves internal stress but also fosters a

positive energy exchange in the environment. Drawing parallels to the innate joy of children, Aditi Didi encouraged embracing a childlike perspective devoid of rank or position to achieve stress-free living. Furthermore, Aditi Didi elucidated on the spiritual dynamics of stress, likening stress to a depletion of the soul's energy. She elucidated that discord

in interpersonal relationships signifies a drained spiritual battery, advocating for the replenishment of divine power through meditation and connection with the Supreme Soul. Brahma Kumari Diksha Didi supplemented the discourse by elucidating the significance of recognizing the interconnectedness of all souls as children of one divine Father.

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Smiling serves as a potent antidote to stress, it shields individuals from over 80% of diseases

Brahma Kumari Aditi Didi
Renowned Rajyoga teacher

Congress' hidden agenda is to favour minorities: BJP

Congress manifesto has announced to favour minorities in Government tenders

Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: The Bharatiya Janata Party has lambasted the Congress for its "alleged" pro-minority manifesto, which reportedly promised privilege to the minority in the government tenders. Addressing a press conference the state convener of the BJP's Election Management Committee Shivaratan Sharma alleged that the hidden agenda of the Congress has been exposed. As the Congress manifesto has announced to favour the minorities in Government tenders, it is also quite apparent that party has overlooked the stake that of the ST, SC and OBC.

Questioning the legitimacy of this promise, Sharma asked how the Congress will ensure equal opportunity for all bidders in the technical and financial bidding, depending upon their working experience as such. Will there be any religious quota in the technical bidding also?, he further asked.

There is a huge anger among the countrymen against the provisions made in the Congress manifesto that is more of the minority appeasement measures, the



BJP's Election Management Committee Shivaratan Sharma addressing press conference at BJP office in Ekatma Parisar, Raipur.

BJP leader pointed out. "Among the many objectionable things written in the Congress manifesto, another worrying factor is the un-due favour to be given to minorities in education, employment, health, sports and cultural activities", he exclaimed. Sharma said, after the recent controversial statement of Rahul Gandhi's advisor Sam Pitroda, on the proposed tax over the ancestral property, now this is the second unexpected shock the people of the country.

'Reservation to minorities by Cong will expose its anti-OBC&ST stand'

If Congress ensures a reservation of sort, to the minorities (which predominantly means the Muslims) then it will certainly expose its anti-OBC and SC stand on major issues, he further said.

What kind of India does Congress want to shape, by dividing different communities, asked Sharma and said, Modi Government, at the Cen-

HIGHLIGHT

• What kind of India does Congress want to shape, by dividing different communities?

• Congress manifesto, is only talking about welfare of minorities, which is going to cause resentment among rest of communities.

tre, has taken substantial initiatives for the furtherance of every economically weaker section of the society, irrespective of caste and creed. The Congress manifesto, however, is only talking about the welfare of the minorities, which is definitely going to cause a huge resentment among the rest of the communities in the country.

First-ever mega bootcamp by Central Govt agencies today

Central Chronicle News

The forthcoming Phase-III bootcamp aims to enhance the innovative capabilities of 225 extraordinary participants from different parts of the country.

RAIPUR: Chhattisgarh and Amity University, Raipur are going to host the first-ever Mega Bootcamp organized by the Central Government agencies in Chhattisgarh.

The Ministry of Education's Innovation Cell (MIC) and the All-India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) are collaborating to organize the Innovation, Design, and Entrepreneurship Bootcamp. The event will be held at Amity University Chhattisgarh from April 29 to May 3, 2024.

The forthcoming Phase-III bootcamp aims to enhance the innovative capabilities of 225 extraordinary participants from different parts of the country. The individuals attending this event consist of Hackathon and Innovation Competition Winners, and students and mentors from Jammu, Kashmir, and Ladakh who are part of the PM-USPY project. They all will convene at Amity University Chhattisgarh, located in Raipur. The virtual commence-

ment of the Innovation, Design, and Entrepreneurship (IDE) Bootcamp Phase III will begin at 09:30 AM, with the inauguration by MIC and AICTE. The inaugural session at Amity University Chhattisgarh is scheduled to take place at 10:00 AM on April 29, 2024. The event will be attended by esteemed guests, including Prof. (Dr.) M.K. Verma, the Vice Chancellor of Chhattisgarh Swami Vivekanand Technical

FASTFACTS

• The bootcamp will be facilitated by experienced trainers Gauri Gopinath and Ajay Jakle

• They will provide mentorship and guidance to the participants during the week

University, Bhilai (C.G), who will serve as the Chief Guest. Vikas Verma, the Managing Editor of AICTE and Nodal Centre Head, will be Distinguished Guest, while Prof. (Dr.) Piyush Kant Pandey, Vice Chancellor of Amity University, will be Char-ing Inaugural session.

The bootcamp will be facilitated by experienced trainers Gauri Gopinath and Ajay Jakle, who will provide mentorship and guidance to participants.

NEWSLINE

ELECTION

Flaws found after reading oppn manifesto: Sanjay



RAIPUR: BJP State General Secretary Sanjay Srivastava retorted to Congress' 'Nyay Patra' statement saying that BJP believes in reading and writing and flaws have come to light only after reading the manifesto of the opposition. People who can read and write are in BJP, the rest is visible in Congress, he said. On Sam Pitroda's statement he asked how inheritance tax is taken. Congress does not love Indian culture, hence it always compares with the British, he said. Regarding the second phase of voting, Sanjay Srivastava said that there was enthusiasm among the general public for voting. According to him reports of two phases of voting are good.

ELECTION

Alka Lamba not allowed to use toilet of govt guest house

BILASPUR: All India Mahila Congress Committee national president Alka Lamba and Raja Sabha MP Phulodevi Netam were not allowed to use the toilet of the government guest house. Citing the model code of conduct, the caretaker of the guest house stopped them from going to the toilet. National President of Mahila Congress, Alka has cited the entire incident while sharing video in her Instagram post. She wrote in her post that today another example of BJP's disgusting and anti-women mentality came to light. President of Pradesh Mahila Congress and a tribal Rajya Sabha member, were stopped from using the toilet citing the code of conduct.

CRIME

Rozdy arrested for brandishing knife near BRT bus stand



RAIPUR: A youth was arrested for allegedly brandishing a sharp edged iron knife to terrorise people passing by BRT Bus Stand in Raipur. The action has been taken under the direction of SSP Santosh Singh.

According to information available 18-year-old Prahlad Dhruv, son of Dhansingh Dhruv, resident of Khokhli Tarid Baloda Bazar was arrested with a sharp edged knife when he was terrorizing people passing through BRT bus stand in Raipur.

Congress goes all out for 3rd phase of election

Central Chronicle News

As the polling for the third phase of Lok Sabha elections is to be held on 7th May on 7 Lok Sabha seats of Chhattisgarh Congress is going all out for the victory of its candidates on these seats.

RAIPUR: Congress's star campaigner and Wayanad MP Rahul Gandhi is visiting Chhattisgarh on Monday 29th April.

He will campaign in favor of Lok Sabha candidate Devendra Yadav from Bilaspur. Preparations for Rahul's election rally in Bilaspur have been completed. Rahul can make many big promises to the public in the meeting.

completed on Bastar, Kanker, Rajnandgaon and Mahasamund parliamentary seats in the first and second phase of Lok Sabha elections. The remaining 7 seats for which voting is to be held on May 7 include Surguja, Raigarh, Korba, Janjgir Champa, Bilaspur, Raipur and Durg.

After Rahul Gandhi's visit to Chhattisgarh, Congress Party National President Mallikarjun Kharge and Congress National General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi are also visiting Chhattisgarh. Mallikarjun Kharge will arrive on 30th April and Priyanka Gandhi on 2nd May to campaign in favor of Congress candidates. Earlier Rahul had addressed an election meeting in Bastar on 13th April.

On 21st April, Priyanka Vadra held a public meeting in Dongargaon and Balod of Rajnandgaon district.

Action on 5 Congmen for unruly behaviour

RAJNANDGAON: Major action has been taken for their unruly behavior in the polling booth on the day of voting in Rajnandgaon Lok Sabha seat of Chhattisgarh. SDM has sent 5 Congress workers to jail in this case under Section 151. In fact voting took place on three seats including Rajnandgaon on April 26 in Chhattisgarh. On the day of voting, clash broke out between Congress and BJP workers at Tedesara polling booth. BJP workers had accused Congress workers of assault. A woman showed the injury on her hand in front of the camera. Nearly 76.24 percent voting was recorded in the second phase of voting in three Lok Sabha constituencies of Chhattisgarh on Friday. According to information available 77.42 percent voting was recorded in Rajnandgaon constituency, 75.02 percent in Mahasamund and 76.23 percent in Kanker.

Brijmohan will win by a record margin: Shiv Sena

Central Chronicle News

Workers of Shiv Sena Shinde faction of Raipur district met Lok Sabha candidate Brijmohan Agrawal and extended their support to him.

RAIPUR: Workers of Shiv Sena Shinde faction said that Agrawal will win by breaking the record by a margin of more than 8 lakh votes.

BJP works for Hindus, said District General Secretary of Shiv Sena, Rakesh Sharma while giving information to the media. PM Modi has made Chief Minister Ekanath Shinde from Shiv Sena in Maharashtra and therefore thousands of workers in Chhattisgarh to support the BJP, he said. 'By appealing to people to vote for Prime Minister Narendra Modi,



Workers of Shiv Sena (Shinde faction) expressing support to Brijmohan Agrawal.

FASTFACTS

• PM Modi has made Chief Minister Ekanath Shinde from Shiv Sena in Maharashtra

• Vishnu Deo Sai's government did a lot of work as soon as the BJP government was formed

we will make the slogan of crossing 400 successful', he said.

State Secretary Krishna Yadav said that Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai's government did a lot of work as soon as the BJP government was formed. 'Presently Education Minister and Raipur Lok Sabha candidate Brijmohan Agrawal is quite popular and he is close to all of us,

we have been watching him from the beginning. Seeing his popularity, all Shiv Sena party workers have decided that we will support BJP and appeal to the general public including the workers to vote for BJP', said Yadav. According to Shiv Sena state spokesperson Santosh Shukla people have got the benefit of visiting Lord Ram temple.

ELECTIONS

Polling facilitation center in Police Line made attractive

Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: Lok Sabha elections-2024 is being celebrated as a festival and is also being called Chunai Tihar in a bid to encourage voters to vote as much as possible on the day of polling.

A special facility center has been set up in the community building of Police Line for the voters of the police and Home Guard personnel engaged in election duty. The poll-

ing facility center was attractively decorated and given look of 'Chunai Madwa'.

In Chhattisgarh, marriages take place during summers and the wedding pavilion is called Madwa and is specially decorated. This structure has been built in the same model and medical, drinking water and other facilities have been provided in the model polling station. Selfie zones have been created, where



voters can take selfies after voting.

Police and home guard voters voted on 27 and 28 April. Voters of Dhar-siwa, Raipur Rural, Raipur West, Raipur North, Raipur South, Arang, Abhanpur and Balodabazar assembly cast their votes in the Voter Facilitation Center established in the community building located at Police Lines.

District Returning Officer and Collector Dr Gaurav Singh said 'our

'Our security and home guard personnel who will be on duty in the elections fulfilled their responsibility by casting their votes'

Dr Gaurav Singh
District Returning Officer

security personnel and home guard personnel who will be on duty in the elections fulfilled their responsibility by casting their votes'. The Collector said that those who are engaged in election work should ensure their 100 percent voting, such employees who do duty in the booth should cast their vote through their EDC and those who are field officers should cast their vote through postal ballot.



"Sacrifice your life but never change your religion"

Rikesh Sen
MLA, Vaishali Nagar

85 plus and PwD electors vote from home for first time

For the first time in a LS election, ECI had provided the facility of home voting.

Central Chronicle News

BHILAI: As per the instructions of the Election Commission of India, special procedure of voting has been made available for the special category electors for the Lok Sabha Elections-2024. Polling teams are reaching the homes of 85 plus elderly and Persons with Disabilities (PwD) voters in all the assembly constituencies in the district. The process commenced on Sunday. The polling teams carried out the entire voting process and facilitated the elderly and PwDs to exercise their franchise. According to the information, 57 out of 59 voters of Assembly Constituency (64) Durg City exercised their franchise. The remaining 2 voters will be given an opportunity to vote on April 30. Divyang woman voter Gyaneshwari Sahu was helped by her assistant to cast her vote. Senior citizens (85 plus age) KSL Sori, Ghanshyam Singh Mahalwar and Vivek Soni also exercised their franchise. Praising the Election Commission's facility for voting at home, the



The elderly and PwDs exercising their franchise from home.

senior citizens said that they would have been deprived of voting if this facility was not available. Expressing happiness for voting even before the scheduled date of voting, they expressed gratitude to the members of the polling team as well as the district administration and government. April 28 was the first day for facilitating the senior citizens and PwDs to cast their votes from home. The polling teams will visit the homes of remaining electors on April 30.

Voting through postal ballot commences in Durg constituency

Polling for parliamentary elections is scheduled on May 07 in Durg constituency. Voters, who will be deployed on election duty on the day of polling, are casting their votes through postal ballot. Assembly wise facilitation center for Postal Voting has been established in the Science Block of BIT College, Durg. A Facilitation centre for cops and

HIGHLIGHT

• Officers, employees and police forces cast postal ballot

• Voting can be done from April 28 to May 01 as well as May 04 to 06

security personnel has been established at the

Police Reserve Centre in Durg. On Sunday, the officers and employees reached the Postal Voting Center and exercised their franchise with great enthusiasm. Additional Collector Yogita Dewanjan visited the centre and inspired the officials of polling parties to conduct fair and transparent polling under Lok Sabha Elections-2024.

Woman held for giving surety with forged documents

Central Chronicle News

It was discovered that the surety had produced tampered documents before the Court.

BHILAI: Police arrested a 40-year-old woman on charges of tampering the property documents (Rin Pustika) and misusing the Court Seal to give surety for bail of an accused. The Reader of the Magistrate remembered that the same lady had given surety for another person but the entry of this surety was not there in the property documents. Later, it was discovered that the surety had produced tampered documents before the Court.

bail in the property document. When enquired from the Tehsildar Office, it was discovered that the office has not issued any duplicate or new Kisan Kitab to Alka Uikey. City Kotwali Police Station lodged a complaint under Section 420 of IPC. During investigation, it was discovered that the accused tampered and forged the pages of the

FASTFACTS

• Accused removed pages of Kisan Kitab and misused Court seal

• Court Reader lodges complaint at Police Station

Kisan Kitab, removed some pages and misused the seal of Tehsildar Durg.

Inspector Mahesh Dhruv (SHO, City Kotwali) informed that they traced the accused and took her into custody. During interrogation, the accused admitted that he removed a page from the Kisan Kitab and placed another page on it.

The accused Alka Uikey (40) wife of Ajay Kumar a resident of Shankar nagar, Durg was produced before the court and has been sent to jail on judicial remand.

CRIME

Woman arrested with illicit liquor



BHILAI: Chhawani Police arrested a woman on charges of peddling illicit liquor. CSP Harish Patil informed that in view of upcoming elections, they are conducting an operation against the people involved in smuggling and peddling of illicit liquor and narcotics. In the sequel, police received a tip off regarding a woman, who was peddling illicit liquor. Acting on this tip off, a police team conducted a raid at a house near Jalebi Chowk in Camp-1 and recovered 30 quarters of liquor from the possession of the accused identified as Asha Singh wife of Late Magad Ram. She was booked under section 34(2) of Excise Act.

CRIME

Blind murder mystery solved

BHILAI: With the arrest of three persons, police claimed to have solved a blind murder mystery. CSP Chirag Jain informed that the body of a chef Shekhar Yadav (41) was found at a public lavatory in Mohan Nagar area. Initially it appeared to be a natural death but the PM report confirmed it to be a homicide. Police quizzed the relatives and friends of the deceased after which three suspects were taken into custody. Deceased's friends Radheshyam Yadav (25), Prakash Yadav alias Pappu (20) and Mahavir Yadav alias Bathu (21), all residents of Gaidi Dubri, Mohan Nagar Durg confessed to beating Shekhar Yadav to death over some money dispute. Later, they dumped the body in the public lavatory and escaped. Police arrested the accused Radheshyam, Prakash and Mahavir Yadav under section 302, 201, 120 (B) of IPC.

SVEEP

Cricket Match for voter awareness today

BHILAI: Under the SVEEP program for voter awareness, a friendly cricket match will be played between Administration XI and Citizen XI at Shanti Nagar Sports Ground, Bhilai on April 29. The cricket match has been organized under the joint aegis of Bhilai Municipal Corporation Bhilai and District Administration, with the objective of ensuring 100 percent voting in the Lok Sabha elections. BMC Commissioner Devesh Kumar Dhruv said that to convey the message that every elector should cast his vote on May 07 to achieve the target of 100 percent voting in the district, a friendly cricket match has been organised between Citizen XI and Administration XI. Officers and employees of the district administration, police and urban bodies will be the participants in the team of Administration XI.

Superannuating employees accorded warm farewell

Central Chronicle News

Total 126, including 4 Executives & 122 personnel posted in various departments and Mining Towns are retiring.



Raza, DGM (IOC- Rajhara Mines), Mangal Prasad Sahu, AGM (RCL), T Satyapal and Balram, Senior Managers (CO & CCD). Anirban Dasgupta, Director I/c (BSP) bid farewell to the departing steel fraternity and wished them a healthy and happy life.

Dasgupta also appreciated the retiring employees for their commendable contributions to their respective fields. The retiring executives also shared their service experience at SAIL and plan for the future, after superannuation.

The Farewell Ceremony for the Non-executives shall be organized at Bhilai Niwas on April 30, 2024.

Patwari suspended by District Collector

BHILAI: Collector and District Election Officer Richa Prakash Chaudhary has issued suspension orders for Ishwar Singh Sewai (Patwari of Village Changori, Halka No 26) for misconduct and gross negligence in complying with official duties under the statutory provisions of the Public Representation Act 1951 and Chhattisgarh Civil Service Conduct Rules 1966. 26.

He has been suspended with immediate effect. According to the Collector's order, during the suspension period, the headquarters of Patwari Ishwar Singh Sewai will be Tehsil Office Durg and he will be eligible for subsistence allowance as per rules. It needs to be mentioned here that the Model Code of Conduct is effective in the district for Lok Sabha Elections 2024. No officer-employee is eligible for leave without the permission of the competent authority.

Durg Police busts gang of five notorious thieves

Central Chronicle News

The ruffians were arrested on charges of stealing machine tools from a construction site.

BHILAI: Police arrested five ruffians on charges of stealing machine tools from a construction site. Two junk dealers were also arrested for purchasing the stolen items.

ASP Sukhnandan Rathore informed that Kumhari Police Station received a complaint regarding thefts of machine tools from a construction site of Vijay Mills located at village Kapsada.

On the instructions of SP Jitendra Shukla, a police team conducted a crime scene investigation and quizzed the people working at the site. Footage of nearby



Police team with the ruffians.

FASTFACTS

• Five accused nabbed within 24-hours of crime

• Other two arrested for purchasing stolen items

CCTV cameras was examined. Police spotted a Tata Ace vehicle and some suspicious persons in the footage.

Police traced the sus-

pects and rounded them up at village Akola near Kharun river bridge. During interrogation, they confessed to committing the crime.

Police arrested the accused identified as Sushil Soni (35) son of Jaichand Soni a resident of Gudhiyari, Raipur; Shailendra Kumar Dhruv (30) son of Tikaram Dhruv a resident of Khamtarai, Raipur; Raju Yadav (35) son of Jeevan Yadav a

resident of Birgaon, Raipur; Laxmikant Netam (28) son of Mansingh a resident of Bhanupratapur (Kanker); and Ram Prasad Meravi (35) son of Shobharam Meravi a resident of Mandla (MP) on charges of theft.

Police also arrested Kamal Das Kurre (38) son of Hirnu Das Kurre a resident of Khamtarai, Raipur, for assisting the accused in selling the stolen items.

FOUNDATION DAY |

Enthusiasm marks celebration of 10th Foundation Day of SARAS

Central Chronicle News

BHILAI: The 10th Foundation Day celebration of Sarada Ramakrishna Sangh (SARAS) was celebrated with great enthusiasm at the auditorium of Kalyan Mahavidyalaya in Bhilai. Present as Chief guests were Revered Swami Sevavratandaji Maharaj, Secretary of Bilaspur Ramakrishna Ashram, and Swami Janardanandaji Maharaj. The program began with

offerings to the statue of Swami Vivekananda by Maharaj, lighting the lamp, and offering flowers to the Trinity. Chanting of Vedic mantras, bhajans, and recitation of the Ashtottarasatanam of Sri Ramakrishna Deva were performed in the initial session, followed by guided meditation by Swamiji. Then, a reading of the Bhagavad Gita was done in Chorus.

In the second session, Swami



Offerings flowers to the trinity.

Sevavratandaji spoke on harmonizing the four yogas in daily life for spiritual progress. He shed lights on various points on how to follow the path of devotion while fulfilling worldly duties. He emphasized that dedicating every work at the feet of Lord is the synthesis of Jnana Yoga, Karma Yoga, Raja Yoga, and Bhakti Yoga. Swami Janardanandaji Maharaj presented melodious bhajans afterward.

"Dedicating every work at the feet of Lord is the synthesis of Jnana Yoga, Karma Yoga, Raja Yoga, and Bhakti Yoga"

Swami Sevavratandaji Maharaj
Secretary, Bilaspur Ramakrishna Ashram

Subsequently, Maharaj answered questions from devotees, and devotional songs were sung by the devotees. Prasad was distributed at the end of the program. More than 100 devotees attended and benefited from this Bhakta Sammelan.

It is noteworthy that the establishment of SARAS or Sarada Ramakrishna Sangha took place on April 21, 2015, on the auspicious day of Akshaya Tritiya.

Battle-2024



The vote-hungry people are forgetting their surname for the sake of votes and using Gandhi surname even today.

Mohan Yadav
MP CM

Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

LOK SABHA POLLS

Just 8 per cent of women candidates in first two phases of Lok Sabha polls

NEW DELHI: Women constituted only eight per cent of the total 1,618 candidates in the first two phases of the Lok Sabha polls, with political activists saying it reflects a deeper issue of gender bias and that the talk of empowering them rings hollow. In the first phase of the Lok Sabha polls, there were 135 women candidates while in the second phase, there were 100 women candidates, bringing the combined total for the first two phases to 235 women candidates. Of the 135 women candidates in phase 1, Tamil Nadu had the highest share at 76, but they account for just 8 per cent of the candidates in the state, while Kerala has the maximum women candidates at 24 in phase 2.

Party-wise, the Congress has fielded 44 women till now while 69 women have been fielded by the BJP in the first two phases.

MUMBAI NORTH CENTRAL

Mumbai North Central voters treated me as family: Poonam Mahajan



MUMBAI: Mumbai North Central MP Poonam Mahajan, who has been denied renomination by the BJP this time, has said people from the constituency treated her like a family for 10 years and she hopes the relationship would always continue. In a post on X on Saturday, Mahajan, who has been replaced by prominent lawyer Ujjwal Nikam, also thanked the BJP and Prime Minister Narendra Modi for giving her an opportunity to serve the people of Mumbai North Central constituency for 10 years.

Chidambaram's swipe at Prime Minister

PM fighting imaginary ghosts, should debate 'real' issues in Cong manifesto: Chidambaram



NEW DELHI: Taking a swipe at Prime Minister Narendra Modi, senior Congress leader P Chidambaram on Sunday said the PM has imagined a Congress manifesto written by one of his ghost speech writers and he should debate the real issues included in the document.

Chidambaram's remarks come amid repeated attacks by the prime minister over Congress leader Sam Pitroda's 'inheritance tax' comments amid the row on the issue of 'wealth redistribution'.

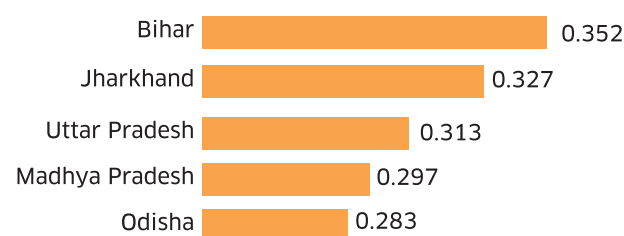
"The Hon'ble Prime Minister continues to discover and read in the Congress' manifesto words and sentences that are not there! He has imagined a Congress' manifesto written by one of his ghost speech writers," Chidambaram, who was the chairman of the committee that drafted the Congress manifesto, said.

The phrase 'inheritance tax' does not occur anywhere in the manifesto, the former finance minister said in his post on X.

The Day's NUMBERS

The MPI takes into account various factors such as health, education, and standard of living to measure poverty.

MULTIDIMENSIONAL POVERTY INDEX (MPI) SCORE TO REPRESENT POVERTY IN DIFFERENT STATES IN INDIA.



Source: Statista

ELECTION FIGHT

INDIA bloc's 7 among 12 sitting MLAs to contest LS polls from Jharkhand

RANCHI: Intriguing dynamics in Jharkhand's political landscape has come to the fore in the wake of the candidate lists that have been finalised by the state's ruling INDIA bloc and its prime opposition, the BJP.

While the INDIA alliance has opted for continuity by nominating seven sitting legislators, the BJP has chosen three MLAs as candidates across the state's 14 Lok Sabha constituencies.

These decisions underscore a combination of factors, including trust in incumbent representatives and a perceived shortage of viable contenders. Interestingly, two sitting legislators from the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) have decided to contest independently, reflecting potential internal discord within the party.

The elections, scheduled to commence on May 13, are poised to witness the participation of 2.56 crore eligible voters in the state.

LS POLLS

Congress, CPI(M) helping BJP in Bengal: Mamata



KALIACHAK: Asserting that the Trinamool Congress is contesting the Lok Sabha elections alone in West Bengal, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Sunday alleged that the Congress and CPI(M) are helping the BJP in the state.

Addressing an election rally here in Malda district, Banerjee claimed that the TMC will put up a spirited fight against the Narendra Modi-led dispensation at the Centre and will play a major role in installing an INDIA bloc government after the Lok Sabha polls. "We don't have any alliance in Bengal with Congress."

Congress alleges PM Modi's 'fear mongering' amidst 'washout' in LS polls phase II

Congress leader questions BJP MPs' effectiveness, highlighting delays in releasing drought relief funds and obstruction of Upper Bhadra and Mahadayi projects.

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The Congress on Sunday alleged that Prime Minister Narendra Modi is indulging in "fear mongering" as he is "desperate" after facing a "washout" in the second phase of the Lok Sabha polls.

Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh posed questions for the prime minister ahead of his rallies in Karnataka.

"After the Phase II washout, a desperate PM is on a spree of Karnataka rallies today. Instead of

lying and fear mongering, these are the questions he should answer," Ramesh said, listing his posers. "Why have BJP MPs performed so poorly as the people's representatives? After a 7-month delay, why has the Centre released less than 20% of drought relief funds? Why is the Centre holding up the Upper Bhadra and Mahadayi projects?" the Congress leader said on X. Elaborating on what he said were "jumla details", Ramesh asked where have BJP MPs been while the Modi government has

HIGHLIGHT

- Congress leader accuses BJP MPs from Karnataka of neglecting responsibilities, citing low attendance and failure to address state's concerns.

- Karnataka government awaits Rs 18,000 crore relief amid prolonged delay.

been "unleashing its vengeance" on Karnataka. Citing the latest data

from the Parliamentary Research Service (PRS), Ramesh claimed that the BJP MPs from Karnataka have shown a blatant disregard for their responsibilities, and displayed lack of commitment to serving their constituents. "While the national average attendance in Parliament was 79%, the average of the 28 Karnataka MPs was even lower at 71%. The review revealed that 26 of these MPs never raised Karnataka's concerns - the release of MGNREGA funds, drought and flood

relief assistance, and the Centre's denial of additional allocations of rice for PDS," he said.

Ramesh also said that it has been more than seven months since the Karnataka government sought more than Rs 18,000 crore of relief from the Centre as per disaster relief rules.

Karnataka is reeling under an acute drought situation, with 223 out of 236 talukas facing drought conditions and 196 taluks being categorised as severely hit, he noted.

| BARAMATI LS CONTEST |

Baramati LS contest: MVA eyes victory, Raut asserts confidence

Press Trust Of India

MVA will win 30-35 parliamentary constituencies out of the total 48 in the state.

PUNE: Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut on Sunday said the Baramati Lok Sabha seat contest was a fight for Maharashtra's pride and claimed the opposition MVA will win 30-35 parliamentary constituencies out of the total 48 in the state. Talking to reporters, Raut said Sena (UBT) head and former state chief minister Uddhav Thackeray will soon hold a rally in Khadakvasala, which comes under the Baramati constituency where polling will be held on May 7.



Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut

FACTFILE

- All the people of Maharashtra are fully behind Supriya Sule and will ensure her win

The NCP (SP), which is part of the opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) along with the Sena (UBT) and the Congress, has renominated its sitting MP Supriya Sule from the Baramati Lok Sabha constituency in Pune district.

Sule, the daughter of NCP (SP) chief Sharad Pawar, is pitted against her sister-in-law Sunetra Pawar, the wife of state Deputy Chief Minister and NCP leader Ajit Pawar. "All the people of Maharashtra are fully behind Supriya Sule and will ensure her win. The Baramati Lok Sabha contest is a fight for Maharashtra's pride," Raut said. The Shiv Sena (UBT) leader accused state Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar of switching sides to the ruling BJP-Shiv Sena alliance to "save his skin". "Ajit Pawar couldn't ensure victory of his son Parth in the Maval seat in the last Lok Sabha elections and now the process of his wife's defeat has begun," Raut claimed. Pradesh on May 13.

| LOK SABHA POLLS |

Hathras hing market: Neglect and discontent prevail

Press Trust Of India

HATHRAS (UP): Before one arrives at Hathras' famed 'hing' (asafoetida) market, the pungent smell of the condiment greets visitors, almost pinpointing the place. As one gets to the market, a scene of disrepair takes over -- roads littered with potholes and cluttered with debris, and congested

lanes dotted with dilapidated houses.

Hathras hing received the coveted Geographical Indication (GI) tag in 2023 but it appears to have done little for the local traders, who are seeking change and accountability in this Lok Sabha election.

"This is the biggest hing market in the world. Hing brought from Iran



Hing market ignored on key issues like inflation, unemployment

Lalit Vashney
Trader



and Iraq is processed here and the market is known for this process worldwide.

Despite the significant business here, we feel ignored when it comes to key issues like inflation, unemployment and infrastructure. The Goods and Services Tax (GST) has devastated our trade," said Lalit Vashney, another hing trader.

There is atmosphere against Modi government all over the country

Deepak Baij
PCC Chief Ch'garh



Chhattisgarh

Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

BEAR RELOCATED

White bear cub drifted from family relocated to Indira Udyan

GAURELA-PENDRA-MARWHI: A white bear cub found lost and drifted from family in the forest of Mahora village of Marwahi forest division, has been relocated to Indira Udyan of Pendra. The cub has been brought to Indira Udyan for treatment and relocating it with its mother as efforts of sending the cub back to the jungle failed. The mother bear present nearby was also not seen by the forest department, after which it was decided to bring the lost cub to Indira Udyan, where it will be further taken care off and reunited with its mother. Giving information, DFO Raunak Goyal said that a team of specialist doctors from Raipur is treating and monitoring it and due to the keeping of the bear cub in Indira Udyan, a complete ban has been imposed on the movement of any kind of outsiders in Indira Udyan of Pendra.

RECOMMENDED

D Sunil Kumar recommended for SECL Director (Finance)

KORBA: PESB has recommended the name of D Sunil Kumar, working as General Manager (Finance) in NCL, for the post of Director (Finance), SECL on 26/04/2024. Having rich experience of more than 35 years in the coal industry, Shri Kumar has a B.Com degree from Acharya Nagarjuna University, Andhra Pradesh and MBA from Andhra University, Andhra Pradesh. He has extensive experience in the field of financial management in the coal industry at HQ and Area levels and is known for his skill in increasing profitability through various cost control measures. SECL family congratulated and conveyed best wishes to Shri Kumar on being recommended for the post of SECL Director (Finance).



Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai addressing a huge gathering in Patna of Korea district

Cong during emergency led to murder of democracy: Sai

CM Vishnu Deo Sai charged that during the emergency period, Congress worked for murder of democracy and made 80 amendments in the constitution

Central Chronicle News

PATNA/LAWAN: Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai addressing a huge gathering in Patna of Korea district came down heavily against Congress. CM charged that during the emergency period, Congress worked for murder of democracy and made 80 amendments in the constitution. On formation of government for the third time, Congress is charging BJP of disturbing the constitution and winding up the reservation and he held these allegations as baseless. Contrary to this it was Congress only who first murdered the democracy, he added.

Sai charged that Congress has done only corruption in the state in five years of its rule and turned it into den of corruption and crime. One of the Collector's of Korba had done massive irregularities in DMF fund and is behind the bars today. Just contrary to this our BJP government had fulfilled almost all the main priorities of Modi-Ki-Guarantee in just three months and today all the farmers, women and tribals have benefited from party's schemes. Therefore the double engine government has to be formed and it is to seek blessings for the same that I have come before

HIGHLIGHT

- Sai charged that Congress has done only corruption in the state in five years of its rule
- Sai appealed all to ensure Saroj Pandey's victory with record votes

all of you, CM added.

All praise for Saroj Pandey: CM Vishnu Deo Sai praising BJP LS candidate Saroj Pandey said that she has served as Mayor, MLA, MP and National President BJP Mahila Morcha and as party's Union Minister and RS MP as well. She holds the record of being a Mayor, MLA

and MP at the same time. So to such a good orator and eligible party leader, Sai appealed all to ensure her victory with record votes by pressing before the 'Lotus' symbol on May 7 and send her to Delhi. The way all the work of Chhattisgarh is being carried out speedily, in the same way the work in Korba LS would be carried out with good momentum if she is elected as MP, he added.

In this public meeting, BJP LS candidate Saroj Pandey, MLAs Bhaiyyalal Rajwade, Rajesh Agrawal, District President Krishna Bihari Jaiswal, BJP leader Shailesh Shivhare and other party office bear-

ers and local public reps were present.

Speaking at the rally in Lawan of Janjgir-Champa LS seat, CM Vishnu Deo Sai said that this election is for making PM Modi as PM of the country for the third time. A son from poor family and a tea seller is concerned about 140 cr people of the country and works day & night for them. He works 18 hours out of 24 hrs and is always concerned about the poor, farmers, labourers and youths of the country and following the formula of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Viaks- Sabka Prayas', PM Modi carried out development of all with efforts of all, he added.

Tamradhwaj Sahu visits Mahasamund LS constituency

KURUD: Congress candidate from Mahasamund Lok Sabha constituency, former Home Minister and senior Congress leader Tamradhwaj Sahu here reached Kurud assembly constituency and inspected various polling stations and met the workers and took stock of the situation and also visited various rural booths and discussed with the workers the progress of the campaigning and poll strategies. District Congress Committee President Sharad Lohana, District Panchayat President Tarini Chandrakar, Assembly Convener Mohan Lalwani, Block Congress Committee President Ashish Sharma, Nagar Panchayat President Tapan Chandrakar and others.

Sand smuggling thrives despite election vigilance

INEFFECTIVENESS ADMINISTRATIVE

Central Chronicle News

The persistence of sand smuggling despite heightened election security paints a grim picture of administrative ineffectiveness

FINGESHWAR: The persistence of sand smuggling despite heightened election security paints a grim picture of administrative ineffectiveness. Despite stringent measures and the deployment of over 100 teams during the Lok Sabha elections, sand-laden vehicles continued to operate freely, evading scrutiny at checkpoints.

The sand mafia's audacity is evident as they brazenly navigate through checkpoints,



The hywa vehicles were found carrying tons of sand due to lack of checking

FACTFILE

- The sand mafia's audacity is evident as they brazenly navigate through checkpoints, seemingly immune to intervention

seemingly immune to intervention. Particularly at night, hundreds of sand-laden vehicles

traverse towards urban centers unchecked, indicating the syndicate's firm grip over the district administration. While citizens endure inconveniences due to election checkpoints, sand smugglers capitalize on the lax enforcement, exploiting the situation for their illicit gains.

The glaring lack of

action against sand smuggling underscores the suspected collusion between the sand mafia and political entities, granting them unchecked freedom to engage in illegal activities. Despite continuous surveillance by investigation teams operating round the clock, the illicit transportation of sand persists unabated.

COMMUNITY MEETING

Tribal remains united over adverse impact

Central Chronicle News

BIJAPUR: A meeting of the entire tribal community and panchayat representatives was held on Sunday at Gondwana Bhawan, regarding the adverse impact on the free lifestyle of the tribals due to fake arrests in the name of Naxal eradication and active pressure IEDs buried in the lands

across the district.

Jaggoram Telami, the district president of the All Tribal Society (ATS), issued a press note stating that panchayat representatives from across the district informed that it has become difficult for the villagers to attend weddings, markets, fairs etc. People are being called from their homes and shown as arrested

Elected panchayat reps being harassed by the jawans
Jaggoram Telami
District President ATS



from the jungles. Even students returning from schools and colleges are becoming victims. Elected panchayat representatives are also being harassed by the jawans. Additionally, deaths of tribal villagers are occurring due to pressure bombs planted by Maoists for security forces, making it difficult for them to go for forest produce collection.

The Day's NUMBERS

Ch'garh boasts a collection of diverse wildlife sanctuaries, each contributing to the preservation of its unique ecological treasures.

WHAT ARE TOP FIVE WILDLIFE SANCTUARIES IN CH'GARH IN TERMS OF LAND AREA (IN SQ. KMS)

ACHANAKMAR	551.55
Barnawapara	245
Bhoramdev	275
Bhairamgarh	235
Badalkhol	220
Sarangarh	215

Source: Statista

INSPIRATION

Newly married couple became a source of inspiration for others

DONGARGAON: In Kabirmath Nadia area, a newly married couple became a source of inspiration for everyone by casting their vote. Soon after the marriage the new bride decided to vote, and before bidding farewell to her dear and near ones, she along with the groom exercised her franchise. The villagers termed this initiative as historic and said that this is the first time in the village that a new bride has voted and meanwhile the bride's brother Mukesh Raote emotionally expressed his views that despite all the busy schedules, his sister has voted, and this will inspire every section of the society to vote. It is noteworthy that the bride Sandhya is married to Bhupendra Meriya of Dongargaon Nagar. After newlywed Sandhya voted, the couple reached booth number 194 of Dongargaon, where Bhupendra voted. Despite being extremely busy with marital work, this couple did not waste their vote and gave a good message to the society.

FELICITATION

Polling team welcomed and felicitated by students and staff



PANDARIA: To increase the enthusiasm of the polling party, the members of the polling party were welcomed and felicitated by students and staff of middle school Kunda centre of the block. Similarly, Inderjit Singh Thakur of Rashtra Jagran Manch, Domsara, Sarpanch Anil Patel Ghasiram Jaiswal, Rohit Bandhekar, Pardeshi Ram Patel, Bhikham Jaiswal, Rajo Nishad, Rajeshwari Nishad and others also welcomed the members of the polling party who came to Domsara. Presiding Officer Dinmohammad Khan appreciated the felicitation and opined that after joining the duty, after being welcomed, the process is getting more comfortable.

Hanuman Janmotsav celebrated with spectacular procession

Colorful procession, cultural performances, and divine tableau illuminate the streets

Central Chronicle News

RAJIM: Rajim witnessed an awe-inspiring spectacle as the town celebrated Hanuman Janmotsav with fervor and grandeur. Led by Nagar Panchayat President Rekha Jitendra Sonkar and esteemed citizens, the procession reverberated with chants of "Jai Shri Ram". The atmosphere lit up with vibrant fireworks, illuminating the night sky in a riot of colors.

At Gayatri Mandir Chowk, residents and visitors alike were treated to refreshing Kulfi, providing relief from the summer heat. The festivities reached new heights with captivating performances by the Rawat dance troupe, enchanting the audience with their mesmerizing costumes and moves.

Adding to the enchantment were dazzling lights, pulsating DJ tunes, and a magnificent tableau depicting the divine marriage of Lord Shiva and Mother Parvati. The portrayal of the divine entourage, including Bhairav, Veerbhadra, and Chandis, left the spectators spellbound.

Notably, the pro-



Akhara dance performance by Mahila Vahini in procession.

cession showcased the remarkable skills of the Akhara team, drawing admiration from onlookers. The enthusiasm of the crowd was evident as Pandit Shyama Charan displayed the revered statues of Ram, Sita, and Hanuman at Shukla Chowk.

The procession, which traversed through Pandit Sunderlal Sharma Chowk, left an indelible mark, marking a historic moment in the annals of the Shobha Yatra tradition.

Police vigilance ensures peace at Rajim's Hanuman Janmotsav

In preparation for the grand procession, police personnel were strategically deployed across the city, ensuring security at every corner. Their vigilant presence at all intersections ensured a disturbance-free environment. Both male and female officers diligently monitored activities, maintaining order throughout the festivities. Meanwhile,

HIGHLIGHT

● **Police patrol ensures smooth celebration amidst vibrant procession and cultural performances.**

● **City adorned in saffron: 1400 flags and colorful archways transform Rajim into a festive haven of celebration.**

Rajim transformed into a spectacle of saffron, with the entire city adorned in vibrant hues. Pandit Sunderlal Sharma's intersection received special attention, swiftly becoming a focal point of attraction. Archways and flags adorned every street and locality, with over 1400 flags and numerous cloth pylons adding to the colorful ambiance.

Father and daughter killed in road accident

Central Chronicle News

A heart-wrenching accident on Pinkapar Road claims lives, sparking calls for road safety measures and improved emergency response protocols.

BILASPUR: A devastating collision on Dongargaon to Pinkapar road claimed the lives of a father and daughter, leaving five others critically injured. Pitambar Sahu, accompanied by his family, was returning home from a wedding ceremony when their bike was struck head-on by an intoxicated rider. The impact of the collision proved fatal, leading to the untimely demise of Pitambar and his six-year-old daughter, Nisha, despite efforts at medical intervention.

The severity of the incident prompted swift

action from passers-by, who alerted emergency services and provided aid until help arrived. Amidst the chaos, media personnel assisted health workers in swiftly transporting the injured to Dongargaon Community Health Centre for urgent medical attention.

Despite concerted efforts by medical staff, the loss of Pitambar and Nisha underscores the tragic consequences of reckless driving under the influence of alcohol. Demin, Pitambar's wife, and their son Khomeendra, along with three others, sustained serious injuries and have been referred to Medical College Rajnandgaon for advanced treatment. The incident has prompted local authorities to review healthcare protocols and address gaps in emergency response systems to prevent such tragedies in the future.

Postal voting center for election duty personnel

KORBA: A facilitation center for postal voting has been established in Korba, catering to officers and employees on election duty for the Lok Sabha General Election 2024 in Parliamentary Constituency Number 4. Additionally, essential service voters falling under the absentee category are accommodated. Located at the District Panchayat Resource Center complex, Korba, the center welcomes polling team members and postal ballot applicants from other districts from April 29th to 30th, and vehicle drivers from May 1st to 6th. For essential service voters, the facility operates from May 1st to 3rd. Similar arrangements are made at Government Mukut-dhar Pandey College, Katghora, for security forces and city army personnel.

VC urges students: Every vote strengthens democracy

Central Chronicle News

Vice Chancellor champions democracy: Students urged to embrace electoral responsibility.

BILASPUR: In a stirring address to 23,000 students at Pandit Sunderlal Sharma (Open) University, Vice Chancellor Bansh Gopal Singh emphasized the pivotal role of voting in fortifying democracy. Singh underscored the significance of robust electoral participation, stressing that a strong nation and society hinge on the active engagement of all voters.

Highlighting India's democratic ethos, Singh reiterated that the foundation of the nation rests upon the outcomes of elections, emphasizing the constitutional right to vote as a fundamental



Vice Chancellor Bansh Gopal Singh

pillar of democracy. He urged students to recognize the transformative power of their votes, emphasizing the collective responsibility to contribute to the progress and development of the country.

Addressing common barriers to voting, Singh called upon youth to transcend apathy and actively participate in the electoral process. He implored students to exercise their franchise on poll-

Korba district leads voter awareness with SVEEP bike rally

Central Chronicle News

Korba district embarks on a spirited endeavor to bolster voter awareness, organizing a district-level SVEEP bike rally led by esteemed officials and enthusiastic citizens.

KORBA: Korba witnessed an inspiring initiative to bolster voter awareness ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha Elections, as the district orchestrated a remarkable district-level SVEEP (Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation) bike rally. Spearheaded by Collector and District Election Officer Ajit Vasant and Superintendent of Police Siddharth Tiwari, the rally saw active participation from citizens, youth, and administrative officials, all riding together to promote democratic engagement.

The rally, flagged off from the Collectorate premises, traversed major routes, amplifying the call for robust voter participation on polling day, slated for May 7. Amidst the energetic procession, riders emphasized the significance of each vote in fortifying democracy, urging citizens to exercise their electoral rights responsibly. Collector Vasant underscored the pivotal role of voters in shaping

the democratic landscape, emphasizing the power of collective participation in the electoral process. He highlighted the Election Commission of India's efforts to facilitate voter information, empowering citizens to make informed choices. Furthermore, the rally served as a platform to advocate for road safety, with a poignant reminder for citizens to adhere to traffic regulations, including wearing helmets while

FASTFACTS

● **Collector and SP spearheaded the rally, urging citizens to vote on May 7, emphasizing the pivotal role of each vote in strengthening democracy.**

● **The rally promoted road safety alongside voter awareness, advocating for adherence to traffic rules and the importance of wearing helmets**

riding. Banners and posters adorned the rally, further motivating voters to fulfill their civic duty.

The meticulously planned route encompassed key landmarks, including Tansen Chowk, Budhwari Bazaar Chowk, and SP Office, culminating back at the Collectorate complex.

NEWSLINE

WARM WELCOME

Warm welcome for polling personnel return from Naxal areas



KHAIRAGARH: Polling personnel, braving Naxal threats, received a hearty welcome upon their safe return from remote forested areas where they facilitated voting. At the Pipariya strong room in Khairagarh, Collector-SP extended warm greetings and congratulations to the courageous team. Departing Thursday morning, they ventured into the heart of Naxalite territory in the district's Vananchal region. Despite formidable challenges in reaching certain areas, their commitment to upholding democracy remained unwavering. Collector Chandrakant Verma and SP Trilok Bansal honored them with bouquets and garlands upon their return from the peaceful polling station at Karelagarh.

ADARSH VIVAH

Adarsh Vivah: A blissful union at Rajim Bhaktin Mata Temple



RAJIM: Amidst the esteemed gathering of officials and revered members of the Sahu community, the auspicious union of Karan Sahu from Parsada Joshi, Gariaband district, and Chetna Sahu from Goji Nari, Dhamtari district, was solemnized today at 3:00 pm within the serene precincts of Rajim Bhaktin Mata Temple. Led by Acharya Pandit Ghanshyam Sahu and Acharya Yamini Sahu, the ceremony resonated with sacred chants.

SVEEP PROGRAM

Collector honoured Devaki



ARANG: As part of the SVEEP program, a spirited women's car rally roared through Shankar Nagar, Raipur, championed by Devki Sahu and Suman Chaturvedi from Arang. Collector Gaurav Kumar Singh commended Devki Sahu's vehicle adorned with voter awareness balloons, capturing moments with it. The Arang SVEEP team, on another day, paraded through Arang's streets with SVEEP-themed cars, garnering praise for their impactful awareness songs and slogans. The community's enthusiasm was palpable, as people snapped selfies with the eye-catching vehicles.

LS ELECTION

Home Voting: A triumph of inclusivity in democratic participation

KORBA: In a heartening display of inclusivity, elderly and disabled citizens in Korba exercised their democratic rights from the comfort of their homes, thanks to the innovative practice of home voting facilitated by the Election Commission. Individuals above 85 years old and those with physical disabilities, who faced challenges in reaching polling stations, found solace in the opportu-

nity to participate in the democratic process.

The Election Commission's initiative aims to ensure universal access to voting, allowing every citizen, regardless of their physical limitations, to actively engage in shaping the nation's future. Polling officers conducted door-to-door voting, bringing the electoral process directly to the doorsteps of elderly and dis-



abled voters.

For many like Hiralal

Vishwakarma and Ramnarayan Patel, the con-

venience of home voting elicited profound gratitude and joy. They expressed heartfelt appreciation to the Election Commission for enabling them to fulfill their civic duty without impediments.

Ramnarayan Patel, despite being paralyzed, hailed the initiative as a game-changer, ensuring that no voter is left disenfranchised. Similarly, 88-year-old Mangalram from village

In democracy, every voice matters, and home voting ensures no citizen is left unheard.

Budhiya Ram Patel

Elderly voter

Binjokot experienced the fulfillment of a long-held dream, thanks to

the simplicity and efficiency of home voting.

Budhiya Ram Patel, an 86-year-old voter, emphasized the importance of voting in strengthening democracy, urging fellow citizens to exercise their electoral rights conscientiously. His words resonate as a reminder of the collective responsibility to elect deserving representatives for community development.



QUOTE FROM THE QUOTABLE

*Simplicity is the ultimate sophistication.
Learning never exhausts the mind. Time
stays long enough for anyone who will use it.*
[A.P.J. Abdul Kalam]

OUR VIEW |

A Precious Resource at Risk: Tackling India's Water Woes

India stands at a critical juncture in its battle against a deepening water crisis, necessitating immediate and concerted action. Recent data from the Central Water Commission paints a distressing picture, revealing that the nation's reservoirs are now holding a mere 30% of their total capacity. This alarming decline, exacerbated by factors such as insufficient rainfall and the pervasive influence of the El Nino phenomenon, has plunged vast swathes of the country into the grip of severe drought-like conditions. The impact of this crisis is acutely felt in the eastern and southern regions, where soaring temperatures have accelerated the rapid depletion of water reserves. States such as Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu find themselves on the brink of catastrophe, grappling with acute water shortages that threaten to disrupt not only daily life but also the very foundation of agricultural livelihoods. Cities like Bengaluru, once hailed as symbols of progress and prosperity, now face the harsh reality of crippling water scarcity, with citizens forced to confront the stark consequences in their everyday lives. Against the backdrop of such adversity, the agricultural sector - the backbone of India's economy - reels under immense pressure, with crops withering and yields dwindling. As India braces itself for the impending monsoon season, there exists a glimmer of hope for relief. However, this optimism must be tempered with pragmatism. Urgent measures are imperative to intensify water conservation efforts across all sectors of society. From households to agricultural practices and industrial operations, every facet of life must embrace sustainable practices to ensure the judicious use of this precious resource. Investments in water infrastructure and management systems must be prioritized, with a focus on enhancing storage capacity and improving distribution efficiency. Additionally, promoting awareness and fostering a culture of responsible water usage are paramount. Through concerted and decisive action, India can navigate this crisis and secure a sustainable future for generations to come.

GUEST VIEW |

Water Provision Concerns on Shatabdi Express

During my recent journey from Howrah to Puri aboard Shatabdi Express on April 18, 2024, I encountered significant issues with the water provision by Eastern Railway catering services. Despite the scorching mid-April heat, I was dismayed to find that only half a liter of water was provided with evening snacks, which proved inadequate for the lengthy 7-hour and 35-minute journey. What surprised me even more was the absence of water with dinner, leaving passengers with no option but to purchase it separately. This lack of water posed a particular challenge for passengers like myself who require regular hydration, especially considering the medical implications for individuals needing water for conditions like sugar intake before meals. It raised profound ethical questions about serving meals without ensuring adequate water provision. I strongly believe that access to drinking water is essential, particularly during summer months, to prevent dehydration and heat-related illnesses. Railway authorities should consider integrating water costs into ticket fares to ensure passenger comfort and safety.



Dr. Manmohan Prakash

Comment

Harmony Through Prayer: Finding Solutions in Spiritual Connection

Does being prayerful work as a solution? With millions of people across the globe resorting to pray in different ways and fashion, prayer has become an indivisible part of human existence. There are many people who don't believe in prayer, for them praying is detrimental. But to see prayer as a weapon that fights all the odds and adversities of life should be an intrinsic approach. Emmeshed in life's complexities and perplexities and chaos, prayer brings little solace to the soul and a compassionate approach with a prayerful vocabulary in vitriolic circumstances gives us inner peace. I personally believe that prayer should not be seen as a religious affair. Every religion does have a systematised manner in which it initiates prayer. But to me prayer is a relentless surrender to an entity that holds control over everything, which you may call almighty. Starting from the Vedic period of Yajnas to the inner spiritual splendour of the yogis, prayer and its outcomes existed in various forms.

At its core, prayer is a deeply personal journey, an invitation to surrender to a higher power and explore the depths of one's soul. It is a silent dialogue between the individual and the cosmos, a sacred space where the burdens of life are relinquished, and the spirit finds refuge. Regardless of religious affiliation, prayer offers a path to inner peace and spiritual fulfillment, guiding seekers through life's tumultuous terrain with grace and resilience.

Throughout history, spiritual luminaries have attested to the transformative power of prayer. Figures like Sri Ramakrishna and Mahatma Gandhi exemplify the profound impact of prayer on personal and societal evolution. For Gandhi, prayer was not merely a religious ritual but a potent weapon against injustice and oppression. Through his unwavering faith and spiritual resolve, he galvanized a nation and inspired a movement that would reshape the course of history. Similarly, the Bhakti movement in Indian history illuminates the diverse manifestations of prayer and its



M.R. LALU

Freelance Journalist

capacity for personal metamorphosis. From Adi Shankara to Valmiki, individuals have traversed the depths of their being through prayer, emerging as beacons of wisdom and compassion. The story of Valmiki, once a notorious bandit who found redemption through prayer and became the revered poet of the Ramayana, epitomizes the transformative journey that prayer facilitates.

Despite its institutionalization within organized religion, prayer transcends mere ritualistic observance. It is a dynamic and deeply personal practice that defies rigid categorization, inviting individuals to explore the boundless depths of their spirituality. Whether through structured ceremonies or silent contemplation, prayer serves as a conduit for divine grace, nurturing the soul and illuminating the path to enlightenment.

In today's fast-paced world, prayer offers a sanctuary from the stresses and anxieties of modern life. It is a refuge for the weary soul, a source of strength and solace in times of uncertainty. By cultivating a prayerful existence, individuals can tap

into hidden reservoirs of inner peace and resilience, navigating life's challenges with grace and equanimity.

Moreover, prayer is not confined to the realm of the individual but extends its transformative power to the collective consciousness. Through communal prayer, communities are bound together in a shared expression of faith and devotion, fostering unity and solidarity in the face of adversity. Whether in temples, mosques, churches, or synagogues, prayer serves as a unifying force that transcends cultural and religious divides, uniting humanity in its quest for spiritual enlightenment.

In essence, prayer is a timeless practice that speaks to the universal yearning for connection and transcendence. It is a testament to the resilience of the human spirit, capable of transcending earthly concerns and communing with the divine. As we navigate the complexities of modern life, may we heed the call to prayer and embark on a journey of inner transformation and enlightenment.

Polarisation is a red herring

Swami Gautamananda's message of unity amidst religious diversity echoes the wisdom of Sri Ramakrishna and Swami Vivekananda, fostering inclusivity and secularism. by *Sujit De*



Bound by Belief: Every Faith, One Humanity | Photo: AP

When polarisation has become a political tool to be used as a red herring during the Lok Sabha election to take people's attention away from the real issues, what Swami Gautamananda has said is timely and needs to be highlighted.

On Wednesday, after being anointed the 17th president of the Ramakrishna Math and Ramakrishna Mission, he said, "All religions are the same and God is one. People just call him by different names - Allah, Jesus, Bhagwan and Thakur. There is a part of God in every individual and we all are a part of him."

He further said, "The world is one family. Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam. If I believe I'm God's son, then automatically I will consider others my brothers and sisters.... kauke bairer mone korbo na (We will not consider anyone an outsider)."

The monk rightly said, "That is what Thakur (Sri Ramakrishna) propagated through his life and teachings that the truth or ultimate reality is one." Sri Ramakrishna used to say, "Many opinions, many paths." This means that every religion has the same goal even though their paths

are different.

Indeed, Sri Ramakrishna practiced what he preached. He embraced Islam and religiously followed its path. Then again he embraced Christianity and did the same. Actually, he lived what he said, "Many opinions, many paths."

On the other hand, Swami Vivekananda had prescribed for India a mixture, "of the two great systems, Hinduism and Islam - Vedanta brain and Islam body." To foil the divisive design to brand Muslims

as 'invaders', 'infiltrators' and the 'Other' in India, we must reflect on Swami Vivekananda's words, "The Mohammedan conquest of India came as a salvation to the downtrodden, to the poor" as well as his action of worshipping a Muslim girl as Goddess Durga as he did in Kashmir in 1898. Actually, Swami Vivekananda did a Sri Ramakrishna who himself practiced Islam, Christianity and other religions to live his words: "many opinions, many paths."

When one in four Indians

practices untouchability in his or her daily life (India Human Development Survey in 2011-12) and 95 among 100 Indians avoid intercaste marriages (National Council of Applied Economic Research Study in 2016), we need Swami Vivekananda to remind us, "Modern caste distinction is a barrier to India's progress. It narrows, restricts, separates. It will crumble before the advance of ideas." He said that millions were oppressed in the name of religion in India and one of the chief causes of India's ruin

was the monopoly of education by a few belonging to the privileged classes. Even today majority of the people cannot afford quality education.

Those who have been suffering from religious paranoia must realise that Islamophobia is a bogus and dangerous bogey. They need to understand that there will be no democracy without secularism. Secularism prevents the conversion from a democracy into a theocracy.

Religion is a personal matter between God and a person. The path of secularism leads many countries to peace and prosperity. Whereas, a number of countries, including some of our neighbours, have to suffer a lot for ignoring secularism. We must not deviate from such a proven path to success. Voters must ignore those political leaders who use religion to hide important issues like social security, employment, education and health care.

Hate not only makes voters oblivious to their problems but also damages their health. Doctors say that those who indulge in hate, can start to deal with some seriously negative effects in terms of their health and their social functioning.

YOUR LETTERS

English's phenomenal growth

English's remarkable expansion, spoken by 1.5 billion people globally and the official language of 67 sovereign and 27 non-sovereign nations, is an evolving phenomenon. Language experts assert that English belongs to the language itself, demanding simplicity, effectiveness, and comprehension. As humanity progresses, English transcends its origins, embraced by diverse communities worldwide. Despite technology's role in language learning, English's cultural and intellectual legacy remains significant.

Dr Ganapathi Bhat, Akola

Bengali Muslims in West Bengal

Amidst political rhetoric, the assertion of Bengali Muslims' rights in West Bengal remains paramount. While some voices advocate expulsion based on identity, constitutional principles stand firm, affirming equality for all citizens. The idea that electoral outcomes could determine the fate of a community contradicts the foundational values of India. Regardless of political affiliations, the inherent rights of Bengali Muslims to their homeland endure, enshrined within the fabric of the nation's constitution.

Kajal Chatterjee, Kolkata

Send your articles (600-650 words) and letters (70-800 words) for this page on: editorcentralchronicle@gmail.com
The letters can be edited or rewritten for clarity.

Business



Boults plans to go public next year

Varun Gupta, Co-founder, Boults

BizBriefs

BEST OF THE REST

QUARTERLY RESULTS

IDFC FIRST Bank Q4 profit falls 10% to Rs 724 cr on higher provisions

NEW DELHI: IDFC FIRST Bank reported 10 per cent decline in net profit at Rs 724 crore for the fourth quarter ended March 2024 due to substantial jump in provisions. The lender had earned a net profit of Rs 803 crore in the year-ago period. Total income rose to Rs 9,861 crore from Rs 7,822 crore a year ago, IDFC FIRST Bank said in a regulatory filing. Interest income grew to Rs 8,219 crore during the period under review, from Rs 6,424 crore in the corresponding quarter a year ago. Net Interest Income (NII) grew 24 per cent from Rs 3,597 crore in Q4 FY23 to Rs 4,469 crore in Q4 FY24, it said. On the asset quality side, the bank's gross Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) reduced to 1.88 per cent of gross advances as of March 31, 2024, from 2.51 per cent by the end of March 2023. Net NPAs also came down to 0.60 per cent of the advances from 0.86 per cent at the end of 2024.

MINING SUMIT

Govt to hold two-day summit on critical minerals from today

NEW DELHI: The government will hold a two-day summit on critical minerals beginning Monday to foster collaboration, share knowledge and drive innovation in the field of critical mineral beneficiation and processing.

The Ministry of Mines, in collaboration with the Shakti Sustainable Energy Foundation (Shakti), Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW), and Indian Institute of Sustainable Development (IISD), will hold "Critical Minerals Summit: Enhancing Beneficiation and Processing Capabilities" from April 29 to 30th, 2024 here.

The summit will bring together a diverse array of Indian and international stakeholders, including industry leaders, startups, government officials, scientists, academics, and policy experts, the mines ministry said in a statement.

Market Analysis

'Corporate earnings, US Fed interest rate decision to drive markets this week'



NEW DELHI: Quarterly earnings from corporates, the US Fed interest rate decision and other global trends will be the major driving factors for determining movement in the domestic equity market in a holiday-shortened week ahead, analysts said.

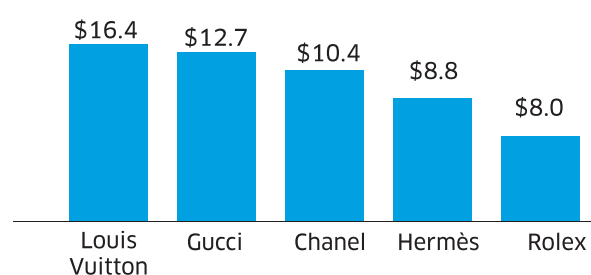
Besides, factors like trading activity of foreign investors, global oil benchmark Brent crude and rupee-dollar trend would also influence trading. Domestic equity markets would remain closed on Wednesday on account of Maharashtra Day. "Domestically, the next batch of Q4 earnings

reports will drive stock-specific movements," said Santosh Meena, Head of Research, Swastika Investmart Ltd. Monthly auto sales figures will be announced at the beginning of May, and the next phase of voting will be significant, he said. "On the global front, the outcome of the US Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) meeting on May 1st will be important. Economic data releases from China and the US, along with movement in the global currency market, will also be the factors to consider," Meena added.

The Day's NUMBERS

(in USD Billions)

LEADING FASHION BRANDS' ANNUAL REVENUE



Source: Statista

YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT

Unemployment among Indian youth is transient: RBI MPC member

NEW DELHI: Unemployment is highest for younger age brackets, but it is 'transient' as Indian youths spend more time acquiring skills and trying hands at entrepreneurship, RBI Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) member Ashima Goyal has said. There is steady improvement in job creation in the country with the strong growth recovery, Goyal added. "Youth unemployment is higher for the more qualified, but they also earn higher wages. "Therefore, youths are spending more time acquiring skills and in job search," she told PTI. Goyal was responding to a question on the International Labour Organization (ILO) report -- which showed that in 2022, the share of unemployed youths in India's total unemployed population was nearly 83 per cent. "Unemployment is highest for younger age brackets but it is transient. While they wait, they do informal work or take risks at entrepreneurship, where a few do very well," she added.

MARKET VALUATION

Market valuation of 6 most valued firms rises Rs 1.30 lakh crore



NEW DELHI: The combined market valuation of six of the top-10 most valued firms increased Rs 1,30,734.57 crore last week, with State Bank of India and ICICI Bank emerging as the biggest gainers in line with an overall positive trend in equities. The valuation of the SBI rallied Rs 45,158.54 crore to Rs 7,15,218.40 crore. ICICI Bank's market valuation rose Rs 28,726.33 crore to Rs 7,77,750.22 crore. Bharti Airtel added Rs 20,747.99 crore to Rs 7,51,406.35 crore, and that of ITC jumped Rs 18,914.35 crore to Rs 5,49,265.32 crore. The market capitalisation (mcap) of LIC advanced by Rs 9,487.5 crore to Rs 6,24,941.40 crore.



SVPEE Icon Mrs. India International Reenu Yadav with members of the third gender community during a fashion show to raise voter awareness in Bhopal.

Startups in India grew over 300 times in ten years: Singh

Singh said, in 2014, India stood as the world's tenth largest economy. In less than ten years, we jumped to 5th position. Hopefully this year it will emerge as the 4th largest.

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: From just about 350 startups in 2014, their number in India grew over 300 times in the past ten years after Narendra Modi took over as the Prime Minister, Union Minister Jitendra Singh said on Sunday. He said the country today has the 3rd largest startup ecosystem globally and is home to the fastest-growing unicorns. "For the first time in the

history of independent India, Modi as PM made a painstaking and conscious effort to educate the youth of this country that employment is not confined only to a government job and he has promoted new avenues of livelihood which may be more lucrative than a government job," Singh, the Minister of State for Personnel, told PTI here. From just about 350 startups in the year 2014, startups in India grew

NUMBER

350

- India of 2024 is ready to take a giant leap, backed by its scientific acumen and technological prowess

- India has emerged as a leading startup ecosystem in the world and the time has come to strategise sustainability

over 300 times in ten years after Narendra Modi took over as the Prime Minister, he said. Singh further said, PM Modi unleashed India's space research by opening up the hitherto conservative and secluded sector. "India has literally reached for the moon and beyond with the twin feats of Chandrayaan-3 and Aditya L1 solar mission in the last year alone," he added. Singh said, the number of space startups has gone up from

a single digit to three digits in just about four years since the space sector was opened up to the private sector. Singh said, in 2014, when PM Modi took over, India stood as the world's tenth largest economy. "In less than ten years, we jumped to 5th position. Hopefully this year it will emerge as the 4th largest economy and during PM Modi's 3rd term, India will be the world's 3rd largest economy, he added.

BANKING PERFORMANCE

AU Small Finance Bank aims to double balance sheet

Press Trust Of India

Endeavour would be to transform AU Small Finance Bank into the bank for generations as it is a public property

NEW DELHI: AU Small Finance Bank is targeting to double its balance sheet size to Rs 2.5 lakh crore in three years, helped by the acquisition of Fincare SFB and the growing consumption trend in the country. The bank earlier this week operationalized Authorized Dealer (AD-I) license with foray in forex with 'AU Remit' and Cross-border Trade with 'AU DigiTrade'. "We are targeting a growth of 25 per cent in the next three years and we should double the balance sheet size to Rs 2.5 lakh crore by the time we complete one decade of existence," AU Small Finance Bank managing director San-



Sanjay Agarwal, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer, AU Small Finance Bank

FACTFILE

- Small Finance Banks are created to provide basic banking services like accepting deposits and lending to the unbanked sections

- We are targeting a growth of 25 per cent in the next three years and we should double the balance sheet size to Rs 2.5

jay Agarwal told PTI. The bank started its business in 2017, with a balance sheet size of Rs 10,000 crore, which has now crossed Rs 1.25 lakh crore. Human resources has gone up from just 3,000 to 46,000 during the same period, he said. At the same time, the branch network has increased from 300 to 2,400 touch points currently, he said. Pointing out

that banks are formed by the people and for the people, he said, the endeavour would be to transform AU Small Finance Bank into the bank for generations as it is a public property. Citing the example of HDFC Bank, Agarwal said, he would like to follow the model adopted by HDFC Bank -- growing business both organically and inorganically.

S&P GLOBAL RATINGS

'Banks may have to slowdown loan growth in FY25'

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Indian banks' credit growth, profitability and asset quality would remain robust in current fiscal reflecting strong economic growth, but they may be compelled to slow down their loan growth as deposits are not growing at a similar pace, S&P Global Ratings has said. In the

Asia-Pacific 2Q 2024 Banking Update, S&P Global Ratings Director SSEA Nikita Anand said the agency expects the sector's strong credit growth to moderate to 14 per cent in FY25, from 16 per cent in FY24, if deposit growth, especially retail deposits, remain tepid. Anand said there is a deterioration in loan-to-deposit



Agency expects the banking sector's strong credit growth to moderate to 14 per cent in FY25

ratio is every bank, with loan growth being 2-3 percentage points higher than deposit growth. "We expect banks to bring down their loan growth in FY25 and bring it in line with deposit growth. If banks do not do that, they would be paying higher to get wholesale funding, which will impact profitability," she said at a recent webinar.



'Fake' Gandhis using their surname for votes

Mohan Yadav
CM, MP

Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

ARREST INEVITABLE

Bail plea of RJD LS candidate Vijay Kumar Shukla Shukla rejected

MUZAFFARPUR: A court in Bihar's Muzaffarpur district has dismissed the anticipatory bail plea of Vijay Kumar Shukla alias Munna Shukla, the RJD candidate from Vaishali Lok Sabha seat, in a case of alleged land grab.

Shukla had moved the anticipatory bail petition on April 3 in the case wherein his wife Annu Shukla, a former MLA from Lalganj, is also an accused along with three others.

A case of alleged land grab was registered against Shukla, also a former JD(U) MLA, and others by the Sadar police station (Muzaffarpur) in August 2023, following a directive by a local court. The court had issued the directive on the basis of a complaint filed by an aggrieved party. It was alleged in the complaint that the accused grabbed the land on the NH connecting Muzaffarpur and Hajipur. **PTI**

CRUCIAL JUNCTURE

Talks with China going on smoothly, India will not bow down: Rajnath

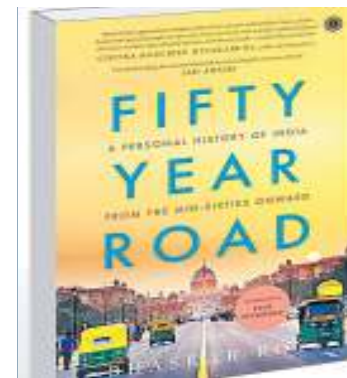


AHMEDABAD: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Sunday said talks between India and China are going smoothly and in a good environment, and India will never bow down.

Singh, who is in Ahmedabad to campaign for BJP candidates contesting the Lok Sabha elections, said India has become a powerful country from a military standpoint and wants to maintain good relations with its neighbours. **PTI**

From around the web on India

Bhaskar Roy's 'The Fifty Year Road' blends the personal and the political



NEW DELHI: As poll fever is gripping the country, a new book provides many election-related nuggets of the past like Madhavrao Scindia's panache while canvassing against his mother, Kanshi Ram asking for a rupee from his voters as pledge and NT Rama Rao's histrionics in broken Hindi.

During the campaigning for the 1989 Lok Sabha elections, Madhavrao waged a battle to prevent the Guna seat from going to his mother - senior BJP leader and matriarch of the Gwalior royal family Vijayaraje Scindia.

Similarly, the target of Vijayaraje's broadside was not Rajiv Gandhi or the

Congress candidate pitted against her, but her son Madhavrao, the Congress heavyweight defending his parliamentary seat in adjacent Gwalior, says writer-journalist Bhaskar Roy in his political memoir "Fifty Year Road".

"Ask your Maharaja why things have not happened. Where's development? If someone throws bricks at us, we will retaliate with stones," the Rajmata would keep blasting away.

"The widow of Maharaja Jivajirao Scindia - the last feudatory ruler of the princely state of Gwalior - Vijayaraje in her younger days, as old photographs would testify, was an elegant princess lending grace to the royal palace. **PTI**

The Day's NUMBERS

POPULATION OF DIFFERENT INDIAN STATES (IN CRORES)

UTTAR PRADESH	23,88,75,000
BIHAR	12,92,05,000
MAHARASHTRA	12,76,84,000
WEST BENGAL	9,97,23,000
MADHYA PRADESH	8,79,54,000
CHHATTISGARH	3,06,38,000

UP has the highest population among Indian states

Source: Statista

CRIME

Woman held in Nagpur for murdering man by hitting him on his private parts

NAGPUR: A woman was arrested in Nagpur for allegedly killing a property dealer she was in a relationship with by hitting him on his private parts with a blunt object, a police official said on Sunday.

The body of 55-year-old Ravindra Kudwe was discovered on April 19 and the post mortem report stated the cause of death as "shock resulting from testicular injuries", after which a murder probe began, said the Hudkeshwar police station official said.

"His son told us the deceased was in a relationship with one Kajal Joge (27), who was now planning to marry someone else but wanted the deceased to fund the ceremony. This caused a dispute leading to the murder," the official said.

"She hit Kudwe on the testicles with a blunt object in a flat in Akash Nagar on April 19. She was arrested on Saturday and has been charged with murder," the official said. **PTI**

GALA EVENT

DAV IFFCO celebrates 15th Annual function 'NAVONMESH'



PARADIP: The most remarkable event, the 15th Mega Annual Day Celebrations "NAVONMESH" (A Quest For Novelty) was conducted on Friday in the Community Centre, IFFCO, Paradeep.

The sparkling Annual Day Celebrations was blessed with the gracious presence of Nilabhra Dasgupta, Deputy Chairman, Paradeep Port Authority as the Chief Guest and K.J.Patel, Unit Head & Director, IFFCO Paradeep and Mamta Patel, the First Lady of IFFCO, Paradeep were present as the guests of honour. **PTI**



A juice vendor hangs different types of fruits at his juice shop to attract customers on a hot summer day, in Kolkata, Sunday.

Want to let world know about 'Chinese repression'

What the Chinese government is showing to the entire world about Tibet is in total contrast to the real situation. The Tibetan people are living under increasing fear

Manash Pratim Bhuyan

DHARAMSHALA: On October 21, 2015, a 15-year-old Tibetan girl along with her sister was picked up by Chinese authorities in the Tibetan county of Ngaba and put behind bars for three years for publicly displaying portraits of the Dalai Lama and demanding a "free" Tibet.

In June last year, the girl, Namkyi, arrived in India weeks after entering Nepal following a 10-day arduous journey on foot with a "firm" resolve to aware people across the world about 'Chinese repression' in Tibet, according to her account. Namkyi, now 24, says she

is currently studying at 'Sherab Gatsel Ling', an educational institution being run by the Tibetan government-in-exile in Himachal Pradesh's Dharamshala.

"What the Chinese government is showing to the entire world about Tibet is in total contrast to the real situation. The Tibetan people are living under increasing fear and repression," she told a small group of journalists. "China has been trying to undermine Tibet's identity," she alleges.

The Tibetan activists have been accusing China of denying religious freedom and trying to stamp out Tibet's cultural heri-

HIGHLIGHT

● China has been trying to undermine Tibet's identity

● After a failed anti-Chinese uprising in 1959, the 14th Dalai Lama fled Tibet

tage and identity. Beijing has been rejecting the charges. "I want to tell the world what is happening in Tibet. I want to be the voice of the Tibetan people to let the world know about their pain and anguish, about the Chinese repression," Namkyi said. The girl, born to a typical nomadic family in Charo village,

also recalled her and her sister Tenzin Dolma's detention following their demonstration at a key locality in Ngaba, "calling for 'Free Tibet' and seeking swift return of the Dalai Lama to Tibet".

"Not more than 10 minutes into our march, four or five police officers came from behind and snatched the portraits (of the Dalai Lama) from our hands," she said about the October 21, 2015 protest. "We did not let the portraits go from our hands and resisted the police action. Finally, the Police dragged us down the road and told us to be silent. But we shouted our slogans continu-

ously," she said.

"They handcuffed our hands, put us into the police van, and took us away to the detention centre of Ngaba County. Then, they took us to another detention centre in Barkam city," Namkyi said she and her sister were subjected to severe torture. "We were interrogated in a small room where a heater was switched on with excessive heat. Different interrogators asked various questions such as who incited us to hold the protest; where did we get the portraits of the Dalai Lama and whether we had any acquaintances from outside etc," she said.

| FACTIONAL FIGHTING |

Delhi Cong chief Arvinder Singh Lovely resigns

Press Trust Of India

In his resignation letter sent to Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Saturday, Lovely also said that he found himself "handicapped" as all decisions were taken by party's central unit

NEW DELHI: In a setback to the Congress ahead of the Lok Sabha polls, senior leader Arvinder Singh Lovely has resigned as the party's Delhi unit chief, citing the alliance with the AAP as one of the reasons.

He said the Delhi Congress unit was against the alliance but the party high command went ahead with it.



Former Delhi Congress chief Arvinder Singh Lovely at his residence.

FACTFILE

● Lovely was appointed as the Delhi PCC President in August last year to support local Cong party workers

In his resignation letter sent to Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Saturday, Lovely also said that he found himself "handicapped" as all unanimous decisions taken by senior Delhi unit leaders have been "uni-

laterally vetoed" by AICC Delhi in-charge Deepak Babria. This comes days after former Delhi minister and AICC member Rajkumar Chauhan resigned from the party following an altercation with Babria.

| SPACE ENTHUSIASTS |

'Is water available on surface of the moon?'

Press Trust Of India

BENGALURU: When Indian Space Research Organisation chairman S Somanath threw the floor open for questions over Instagram on Saturday, not only did people want to know about next Chandrayaan, asteroid missions and space stations, but also if ISRO can find water and if ISRO

can teach 10-year-olds to build nano satellite.

But with only an hour earmarked for #askso-manathisro, Somanath could only answer a fraction of the questions posted by aspiring scientists and space enthusiasts. Questions on water on the moon and nano-satellite classes for 10-year-olds have to wait till next session.

Huge technical challenge remains to create a planet like earth elsewhere

S Somanath
Chairman ISRO

The session on April 27, between 6pm and 7 pm, was attended by nearly 1,500 people.

Somanath chose questions aimed to encourage students and enthusiasts to pursue careers in science and technology, even geology, emphasising that ISRO offers diverse opportunities beyond just astronaut roles.

Drugs worth Rs 600 cr seized from Pak boat off Guj coast

The overnight operation was carried out in coordination with the ATS and the NCB.

Press Trust Of India

AHMEDABAD: The Indian Coast Guard has seized 86 kg of drugs worth Rs 600 crore from a Pakistani boat and arrested 14 persons on board the vessel off the Gujarat coast, the maritime security agency said on Sunday.

The overnight operation in the Arabian Sea was carried out in coordination with the Gujarat Anti-terrorism Squad (ATS) and the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), it said.

In a breathtaking overnight operation, Indian Coast Guard undertook an intelligence-based anti-narcotics operation at sea on 28 Apr 24. Approx 86 kg of narcotics worth Rs 600 crore has been apprehended along with 14 crew from the Pakistani boat, the agency said in a release.

The Coast Guard is yet to disclose what kind of narcotic substances were recovered from the Pakistani boat.

Coast Guard ships and aircraft were deployed for the operation, it said, adding that ICG ship Rajratan was used to identify the suspect boat with the help of NCB and ATS officials on board.

No amount of eva-



Indian Coast Guard (ICG) personnel with 14 crew members of a Pakistani boat after apprehending them from Indian waters.

sive manoeuvring tactics employed by the drug-laden boat could save it from the swift and strong ICG ship Rajratan. The ship's specialist team embarked on the suspect boat and, after thorough checks, confirmed the presence of a sizable amount of narcotics, the Coast Guard said.

The Pakistani boat along with its 14-member crew were apprehended and were being brought to Porbandar for further investigations, it added.

The jointness of

Murder convict gets two week parole to get married

NEW DELHI: The Delhi High Court has granted a man serving a life term for murder two weeks' parole to attend his engagement ceremony and wedding.

Granting the relief to Rahul Dev, the court noted that he was granted parole earlier as well and he had surrendered on time.

The wedding is sched-

HIGHLIGHT

● Dev was convicted and sentenced to lifer in 2014

● The wedding is scheduled for April 30

uled for April 30 at an Arya Samaj temple here. The nominal roll

received from Mandoli Jail, where he is lodged, stated that Dev was in custody for 14 years, six months and 25 days, with remission.

The court noted that the status report submitted by the prison reflected that he had availed parole from January 29 to March 5 and surrendered on time on March 6.

Naidu promises Rs 1 lakh Haj aid if NDA is voted to power

Press Trust Of India

Naidu recalled that the TDP had established Urdu university in Hyderabad and also built Haj Houses but present CM did not take any initiative.

NELLORE: TDP supremo N Chandrababu Naidu on Sunday said that soon after NDA, constituting TDP, BJP and Janasena, forms the government in Andhra Pradesh, financial aid of Rs 1 lakh will be extended to Muslim pilgrims who visit Mecca.

The opposition leader gave this promise at Nellore in the eponymous district during an interaction with the Muslim community.

"Soon after the NDA comes to power in the state, Rs 1 lakh financial assistance will be extended to every Muslim who visits Mecca on Haj pilgrimage," said Naidu, during the interaction with the Muslim community.

Reminding that the erstwhile TDP government had accorded a state festival status to Rotiayaan ki Eid, a Muslim festival in Andhra Pradesh, he noted that Hyderabad Muslims are far ahead when compared to their community members from other places, attributing it to

his party's policies.

Further, Naidu asserted that though TDP was part of the NDA earlier too, it never allowed any kind of injustice to be done to the community.

He recalled that the TDP had established Urdu university in Hyderabad and also built Haj Houses while alleging that YSRCP chief and Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy did not make any attempt to build even a single mosque in the

FASTFACTS

● Election to 25 LS seats in AP is on May 13

● He added that the Muslim community is known for their trust, courage and belief in hard work.

past five years. Similarly, Naidu asserted that the YSRCP government had extended unconditional support for the National Register of Citizens (NRC) and other initiatives by the Union Government.

Naidu added that the Muslim community is known for their trust, courage and belief in hard work.

Elections for the 175-member Assembly and 25 Lok Sabha seats in Andhra Pradesh are scheduled on May 13 and the counting of votes will be held on June 4.

NEWSLINE

BILASPUR

RPF special checking campaign



During the Lok Sabha Elections 2024, the Railway Protection Force/South East Central Railway conducted Pre-Election Seizure operations. On April 26, 2024, the Railway Protection Force/South East Central Railway in Bilaspur, in accordance with the directives of the Election Commission and the Railway Board, initiated a special checking campaign against the unauthorized transportation of intoxicating substances, inflammable substances, cash, and alcohol in trains, platforms, yards, and passenger areas in view of the Lok Sabha Elections 2024. Under this initiative, the Railway Protection Force in the Bilaspur, Raipur, and Nagpur divisions has seized goods worth Rs. 2.21 crore.

UNNAO

Six dead in bus-truck collision

NEW DELHI: Six people were killed and over 20 others were injured here on Sunday afternoon when a speeding truck collided head-on with a bus, ripping through one of its side, police said. The bus driver fled the spot after the accident, while the truck driver has been arrested, they said. The accident took place near Jamaldipur village on the Hardoi-Unnao road in the Safipur police station area, they said. Doctors at the community health centre in Safipur referred the injured persons to the district hospital in Unnao and in Kanpur. Circle Officer Safipur Rishikant Shukla said six people have died in the accident, while over 20 were injured.

BILASPUR

SECR automatic signalling system



The South East Central Railway completed the 14-kilometer Automatic Signaling work in April, adhering to high standards at every new step in the field of Automatic Signaling. The sections from Kumhari to Sarona (7 Km) and Bilaspur-Gatora Fourth Line (7 Km) have been converted to Automatic Signaling. With the completion of this work, the Automatic Signaling from Nagpur to Sarona is now fully operational. The section from Sarona to Raipur will also be completed in the next three months. Under the skilled guidance of Suresh Kumar Solanki, CSTE of SECR, this zone is steadily advancing towards its Automatic Signaling goals.

Link ABHA IDs with health portals, says Health Secretary

Press Trust Of India

As per the ABDM dashboard, total ABHA IDs created in the country as on April 3, 2024 is 5,894.60 lakhs.

NEW DELHI: The Union Health Secretary has urged states and union territories to take necessary action to link Ayushman Bharat Health Account (ABHA) with various health portals, such as Reproductive Child Health (RCH), National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme (NIKSHAY), among others.

As per the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM) dashboard, total ABHA IDs created in the country as on April 3, 2024 is 5,894.60 lakhs, Health Secretary Apurva Chandra said. However, total beneficiaries linked with ABHA under Non-communicable diseases

(NCD), Sickle cell, RCH, NIKSHAY, National Viral Hepatitis Control Program (NVHCP) and Pradhan Mantri National Dialysis Programme (PMNDP) are only 827.99 lakhs, 0.89 lakhs, 15.78 lakhs, 2.46 lakhs, 0.056 lakhs and 0.17 lakhs, respectively, he said.

"This shows that though the states have taken huge interest in creation of the IDs but non linking of health records with these IDs is not allowing the stakeholders, including the patients, from reaping the benefits of digital health records," the health secretary said.

"You are, therefore, requested to kindly take necessary action for linkage of existing beneficiaries with ABHA in the various portals and do regular review of the progress at your level," he stated in a letter to all the state and UT governments.

Navy assists Panama-flagged oil tanker

NEW DELHI: The Indian Navy swiftly assisted a Panama-flagged crude oil tanker with 30 crew members including 22 Indians after the vessel came under missile attack from Houthi militants. Indian Navy's destroyer INS Kochi responded following the attack on the vessel, MV Andromeda Star, on April 26, officials said, adding all the crew members are safe. The US Central Command said Iranian-backed Houthi militants launched three anti-ship ballistic missiles from Yemen into the Red Sea in the vicinity of merchant vessel Maisha and MV Andromeda Star. MV Andromeda Star is a Panaman-flagged and Seychelles-operated vessel. The vessel reported minor damage, the US Central Command said. "A mission deployed Indian Naval destroyer INS Kochi responded to a maritime security incident involving the attack on Panama-flagged crude oil tanker.

Initial investigation revealed that the actor was soon to get married and had been facing a financial crisis, sources said. Police said Singh had withdrawn about

Missing 'Taarak Mehta' actor was to get married

Central Chronicle News

Police are also checking security cameras near his home to know more about his route.

NEW DELHI: "Taarak Mehta Ka Ooltah Chashmah" fame actor Gurucharan Singh, who played the role of Roshan Singh Sodhi in the hugely popular Indian sitcom, has been missing for six days.

Police have now registered a kidnapping case based on a complaint filed by Gurucharan Singh's father and several teams have been formed to trace the 50-year-old actor.

Initial investigation revealed that the actor was soon to get married and had been facing a financial crisis, sources said. Police said Singh had withdrawn about



TMKOC's missing actor Gurucharan Singh.

FASTFACTS

● He played the role of Roshan Singh Sodhi in TMKOC

● Singh had withdrawn about Rs 7,000 from an ATM in Delhi and his last location was Palam

Rs 7,000 from an ATM in Delhi and that his last location was traced to

Palam - a few kms away from his home on April 24, after which his phone was switched off.

The actor's father, in his complaint, said that his son left from Delhi for Mumbai on April 22 (Monday), but never reached Mumbai.

"His flight was scheduled for 8.30 pm on Monday, but he was seen at a traffic intersection

in Palam at around 9.14 pm," officials said.

The actor was seen crossing a road with a backpack in a footage captured by a security camera installed in Palam area on Monday night.

Police are also checking security cameras near his home to know more about the route he took to reach Delhi airport, they said.

NATURAL CALAMITY |

Army joins Indian Air Force to douse Uttarakhand's forest fire

Press Trust Of India

NAINITAL: The firefighting operation in Uttarakhand's forests with the help of an Indian Air Force helicopter continued for the second day on Sunday with the blaze brought to control in several areas, officials said.

Efforts have also intensified to extinguish the raging forest fires in the state, especially in the worst-affected areas of Nainital, Haldwani and

Ramnagar forest divisions, forest officials in Dehradun said on Sunday. The forest fires are gradually being controlled with the flames already doused in many areas. The fires in Marora and Khanana civil areas in Maniknath range of the Narendranagar forest division have been completely extinguished, they said.

The forest blaze in Nainital and adjoining areas is gradually being



brought under control after the deployment of an IAF helicopter for the firefighting operations on Saturday morning, Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami said after reviewing the situation in the Kumaon region on Saturday night. According to the Indian Air Force, a Mi-17 V5 helicopter has been deployed in Nainital and surrounding areas to douse the flames.

Apart from the IAF helicopter and Army

personnel, Prantiya Rakshak Dal volunteers and homeguard personnel have also been roped in to help in the firefighting operations, Kumaon Commissioner Deepak Rawat said. Additional government vehicles, two each for the three forest divisions, have been provided to rush firefighting teams to the affected areas, he added.

Help from locals with the involvement of forest panchayat officials is also

World



Nepal is a suitable destination for investment and there are immense opportunities in the country

Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda'
Prime Minister, Nepal

Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

ISRAEL-HAMAS-WAR

Israel and Hamas should do more to reach cease-fire deal: Qatari officials

TEL AVIV: A senior Qatari official has urged both Israel and Hamas to show "more commitment and more seriousness" in cease-fire negotiations in interviews with Israeli media, as pressure builds on both sides to move toward a deal that would set Israeli hostages free and bring potential respite in the nearly 7-month-long war in Gaza. The interviews with liberal daily Haaretz and Israeli public broadcaster Kan were published and aired Saturday evening. They came as Israel still promises to invade Gaza's southernmost city of Rafah despite global concern for hundreds of thousands of Palestinians sheltering there, and as the sides are exchanging proposals surrounding a cease-fire deal. Qatar, which hosts Hamas headquarters in Doha, has been a key intermediary throughout the Israel-Hamas war. **PTI**

IRAQ-LGBTQ-LAW

Passage of harsh anti-LGBTQ+ law in Iraq draws diplomatic backlash



BAGHDAD: Human rights groups and diplomats criticised a law that was quietly passed by the Iraqi parliament over the weekend that would impose heavy prison sentences on gay and transgender people.

US State Department spokesperson Matthew Miller said in a statement that the law passed Saturday "threatens those most at risk in Iraqi society" and "can be used to hamper free-speech and expression." **PTI**

From around the world

Nicole Kidman makes a grand entrance at the 49th AFI Life Achievement Award Gala



LOS ANGELES: Nicole Kidman graced the 49th AFI Life Achievement Award Gala at Hollywood's Dolby Theatre, where she was honoured as the 2024 recipient of the prestigious award.

The 46-year-old Oscar winner attended the annual event by the American Film Institute on Saturday, April 27, accompanied by her husband Keith Urban and their daughters Sunday, 15, and Faith, 13. Looking abso-

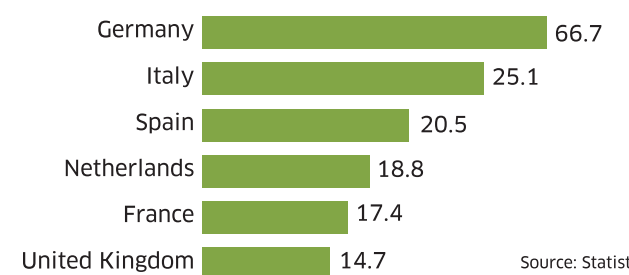
lutely regal, the actress graced the red carpet in a custom gold sequin gown from Balenciaga's Fall '24 collection. The stunning outfit had a long train made from the same material.

To accessorise, she opted for black pumps, diamond-studded earrings and a matching bracelet. She styled her blonde hair in a side part with loose tresses framing her face from one side.

The Day's NUMBERS

European countries with the highest total photovoltaic capacity in 2022 (in gigawatts)

GERMANY IS EUROPE'S SOLAR ENERGY FRONT-RUNNER



RAINS-TOLL

Death toll due to heavy rains in Pak's Balochistan increases to 22: Official

KARACHI: The death toll due to heavy rains and hailstorm in Pakistan's restive Balochistan province has increased to 22, the provincial disaster management cell said on Sunday. Heavy rains and thunderstorm caused flash floods and urban flooding in many districts of Balochistan, including its capital city, Quetta on Saturday. "So far the number of people killed due to rain, thunderstorm and hailstorm has touched 22. These deaths were reported in the last 48 hours," said the department in a statement.

The Meteorological Department said that the Quetta valley had received heavy rain, thunderstorms, and hailstones throughout on Saturday resulting in flooding of the main roads and streets.

"Many houses have also been washed away in the flash floods and there is massive traffic blockade in cities and towns and also on the main highways," the official said. **PTI**

NIGERIA-MENINGITIS

Nigeria is pioneering a new vaccine to fight meningitis



GOMBE: Nigeria recently became the first country to roll out a new vaccine (called Men5CV) recommended by the World Health Organisation (WHO), which protects people against five strains of meningococcus bacteria.

Meningitis is the inflammation of the tissues surrounding the brain and spinal cord, usually caused by infection. It can be fatal. Meningitis can be caused by several species of bacteria, viruses, fungi and parasites. The highest global burden is seen with bacterial meningitis. **PTI**



Revelers play with colors during a Festival of Colors procession at Bull Run Special Events Center, Saturday, April 27, 2024, in Centerville, Va. | Photo: PTI

Musk in Beijing amid efforts to promote Tesla's driving tech

The SpaceX and Tesla chief travelled to China at the invitation of the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade to discuss further cooperation with the country.

Press Trust Of India

BEIJING: Billionaire Elon Musk arrived in Beijing on Sunday amid speculation that he may unveil Tesla's autonomous driving technology in the burgeoning electric vehicle (EV) market in China. The SpaceX and Tesla chief travelled to China at the invitation of the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade, meeting with CCPIT president Ren Hongbin to discuss further cooperation with the country, according to Chinese state-run broadcaster CTGN. Musk is expected to meet senior Chinese officials at the State Council and "old friends" in Beijing, Hong

Kong-based South China Morning Post reported. His Tesla has become a popular EV in China after he set up a USD seven billion factory in Shanghai which went into production in 2020. Musk, who recently skipped a scheduled visit to India to meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi to firm up plans to open a Tesla factory in the country, is visiting Beijing when his Tesla market in China is threatened by the local EVs increasing sales.

The Austin-based (Texas) Tesla has faced fierce competition from Chinese EV makers in the past few years. It has cut the prices of its Shanghai-made vehicles by up to

HIGHLIGHT

● Musk is visiting Beijing when his Tesla market in China is threatened by the local EVs increasing sales.

● Musk's latest visit to China coincides with the 2024 Beijing Auto Show, which kicked off on Thursday.

six per cent to maintain its leading position in China's premium EV segment.

Grace Tao, Tesla's vice-president of external relations in China, wrote a commentary piece in China's official newspaper People's Daily on Friday, saying autonomous

driving is a key growth driver for the country's new energy vehicle sector, arguing that the technology will hatch new business models such as robotaxis, a vision that Musk has embraced, the Post reported.

Musk's latest visit to China coincides with the 2024 Beijing Auto Show, which kicked off on Thursday. As a stronger backer of Beijing in the US despite concerns over China's rise across the political divide in Washington, Musk enjoys red carpet treatment in China.

In 2019, Tesla was allowed to drive cars into the Zhongnanhai compound, the living and

working area of Chinese leaders, when former Premier Li Keqiang hosted the CEO, and during Musk's three-day visit to Beijing last June he was received by then foreign minister Qin Gang, according to the Post report. The trip was warmly received by the Chinese public, with social-media posts focusing on the Chinese food Musk ate, and some referring to him as a "pioneer" and "brother Ma". Tesla, the leader in China's premium EV segment, delivered 603,664 Model 3s and Model Ys made at its Shanghai Gigafactory to buyers in China last year, an increase of 37.3 per cent over 2022.

RUSSIA-UKRAINE-WAR

Russian drones set hotel ablaze

Press Trust Of India

Russian drones early Sunday struck the Black Sea city of Mykolaiv, setting a hotel ablaze and damaging energy infrastructure, the local Ukrainian governor reported.



Police experts work near a crater at the site of hospital buildings damaged by a Russian missile strike. | File photo

KYIV: Vitaliy Kim, the governor of Ukraine's southern Mykolaiv province, said that Russian drones "seriously damaged" a hotel in its namesake capital, sparking a fire that was later extinguished. Kim also reported that the strike damaged heat-generating infrastructure in the city, but gave no details. He added that there were no casualties.

Russian state agency RIA carried claims that

the strike on Mykolaiv targeted a shipyard where naval drones are assembled, as well as a hotel housing "English-speaking mercenaries" who have fought for Kyiv. The RIA report cited Sergei Lebedev, described as a coordinator of local pro-Moscow guerrillas. His claim could not be indepen-

FASTFACTS

● Strike on Mykolaiv targeted a shipyard where naval drones are assembled, as well as a hotel housing "English-speaking mercenaries" who have fought for Kyiv

dently verified.

Also on Sunday morning, the Russian Defence Ministry said that 17 Ukrainian drones were downed overnight over four regions in the country's southwest. Three drones were intercepted near an oil depot in Lyudinovo, an industrial town some 230 km (143 miles) north

of the Ukrainian border, Gov Vladislav Shapsha said. There were no immediate reports of any casualties or damage. Russian shelling on Saturday and overnight wounded at least seven civilians across Ukraine, according to Ukrainian officials.

The Donetsk and Kharkiv regions have seen fierce clashes in recent weeks as Russian forces seek to grind out gains along the more than 1,000-km (620-mile) front line, while ammunition shortages have increasingly hamstrung Ukraine's defences. Russian troops "will likely make significant gains in the coming weeks" while Kyiv awaits much-needed arms from a huge US aid package to reach the front, a Washington-based think tank said.

UK SUNAK

UK PM Rishi Sunak declines to rule out July election

Press Trust Of India

LONDON: British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak on Sunday refused to categorically rule out a July general election amid a damaging defection by one of his Conservative Party MPs to the Opposition Labour Party, just days before local and mayoral elections in the country on May 2.

Dan Poulter, a doctor and Central Suffolk and North Ipswich member of Parliament said he will switch his allegiance to the Opposition benches before standing down as a parliamentarian at the next election because he can no longer defend the Tory government's track record on the National Health Service (NHS).

Against the backdrop



of this latest embarrassment, Sunak was asked during a 'Sky News' interview that his repeated assertion of a general election in the "second half of this year" could also mean July. "When it comes to a general election, I've been very clear about that multiple times, and again, I'm not going to say anything more than I've already said".



Wellness

WELLNESS

Transform Your Home into Your Personal Workout Paradise

Summer and fitness can seamlessly blend without stepping into the harsh sun.



Escape the summer heat and turn your home into a fitness oasis! From stair workouts to dance sessions, discover the joy of staying active indoors while enjoying the comfort of your own space.



Transform your home into a fitness sanctuary, to achieve your wellness goals regardless of summer's scorching heat.

ship to get fit at home. Body-weight exercises like squats, lunges, and push-ups offer a challenging workout that requires nothing but your own determination and willpower. So why wait? With a dash of creativity and dedication, transform your living space into your personal fitness sanctuary and embark on a journey towards a healthier, more vibrant you, irrespective of the soaring temperatures outside. In the comfort of your own home, you have the freedom to tailor your workouts to your preferences and schedule, ensuring that fitness fits seamlessly into your daily life.

Remember, staying active indoors during the summer months not only helps you maintain physical health but also boosts your mood and mental well-being.

The Pink Star: Record-breaking gem sold for \$71.2 million at auction

In a dazzling display at Sotheby's Hong Kong, the Pink Star diamond captivated spectators, commanding an astonishing \$71.2 million. Weighing an impressive 59.60 carats, this rare fancy vivid pink gem, with its flawless clarity, secured its place in history as the most expensive diamond ever auctioned. Comparable to a masterpiece of art, its remarkable size, impeccable clarity, and vibrant hue guarantee its unparalleled allure, cementing its status as an invaluable treasure coveted by collectors worldwide.



INTERIOR DESIGN

Transform your space: Discover peace and serenity with home fountains



Enhance your home sanctuary with the peaceful allure of a water fountain. Picture the gentle cascade of water, a melody of relaxation after a hectic day. According to Harsha Murarka from Armonia, these fountains don't just add beauty; they invite positive energy, becoming focal points in your décor. Lose yourself in the calming rhythm as stress melts away, leaving you renewed. It's more than just a feature; it's a gateway to peace and rejuvenation, right in your own home.

| SELF-SILENCING |

Unveiling breast cancer: Lancet's startling revelation

Central Chronicle News

Join forces against breast cancer: Lancet's report sparks transformative action for a cancer-free future.

Ladies, brace yourselves for a pivotal revelation: Lancet's groundbreaking report forecasts a staggering reality by 2040—breast cancer may claim one million lives annually. But behind these daunting statistics lie the poignant narratives of our cherished sisters, mothers, and friends. This revelation serves as a resounding call to arms—a pivotal moment beckoning us to unite, armed with knowledge, against this formidable foe.

Let's reimagine the narrative of breast cancer, transforming fear into a potent force of empowerment. Lancet's revelations propel us into a profound journey, championing revolutionary change and carving a pathway to a luminous, cancer-free future. Together, let's stand steadfast, ensuring our daughters inherit a world where the specter of breast cancer holds no sway. It's time to unite and amplify our voices in the valiant crusade against breast cancer. We must lead the charge with unwavering determination and boundless optimism. Lancet's report serves as a wake-up call, urging us to confront this global health crisis head-on. As we delve into the depths of Lancet's revelations, let's harness



Unite against breast cancer: Lancet's revelation ignites a global movement toward a future free from this devastating disease

the power of collective action to effect transformative change. Let's not be daunted by the daunting statistics; instead, let's channel our collective energy into advocacy, research, and support initiatives. Each of us has a role to play in this fight—whether it's raising awareness, supporting those affected, or advocating for policy changes to improve access to care.

Picksix

Guilt-Free Celebration: Indulge in 5 Lip-Smacking Low-Calorie Recipes for Every Occasion

Healthy Wrap

Ingredients: Mixed sprouts, sweet potato, onion, garlic, ginger, coriander, spices, corn flour, whole wheat rotis, oil, Rajma humus.

Instruction: Shape and fry tikkis, then spread hummus on rotis. Add tikkis, pickled veggies, and roll tightly. Serve with salad for a wholesome meal bursting with flavors and textures.



Soya Kebab

Ingredients: Soya chunks, onion, mint, green chilly, coriander seeds, sattu, potato, coriander, cumin, turmeric, spices, mustard oil, ginger, chaat masala, salt, oil.

Instructions: Soak soya chunks, blend, mix with other ingredients. Shape into balls and shallow fry until brown.



Oil Free Chole

Ingredients: Cardamom, peppercorns, cloves, cinnamon, garlic, ginger, ajwain, water, black tea, baking soda, besan, spices, green chillies, chana masala, aamchur, anardana, kasuri methi.

Method: Soak chickpeas. Cook onions, add chickpeas, spices, water, and black tea. Pressure cook, add besan, simmer for 8-10 minutes. Adjust consistency, garnish with kasuri methi, and serve hot.



Kabuli Chana Biryani

Ingredients: Cooked brown rice, coriander, saffron strands, warm milk, salt, boiled kabuli chana, oil, ginger paste, garlic paste, chili powder, turmeric, tomatoes, green chillies, low-fat curds.

Instructions: Heat oil, sauté ginger, garlic. Add spices, tomatoes, chillies, chana, salt, curds. Layer rice, saffron milk, chana gravy. Bake covered at 200°C for 20 mins.



Diet Chaat

Ingredients: Dried white peas, turmeric, asafoetida, onion, tomato, green chutney, date and tamarind chutney, red chilli-garlic chutney, raw mango, lemon, black salt, chaat masala, roasted cumin powder, chilled yogurt, fresh coriander.

Instructions: Pressure cook peas with spices. Chop onion, tomato. Serve peas in bowls, add onion, drizzle chutneys, mango, lemon. Sprinkle spices, yogurt, coriander. Serve immediately.



Vegan Smoothie

Ingredients: Oats, ice cold water, banana, cinnamon powder, vanilla extract, cocoa powder, peanut butter, sugar.

Instructions: To prepare the smoothie, start by making oats milk. Grind oats into powder, add water, blend and strain. In a blender, combine banana, cinnamon, vanilla, cocoa, peanut butter, and oats milk. Blend until smooth. Serve chilled.



Sports



It is clear the team with more sixes ends up winning. We did try to hit our sixes but today we had to change our approach after those two early wickets.

KL Rahul
LSG Skipper

Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

UBER CUP

Young India women's team almost seals quarterfinal spot at Uber Cup

CHENGDU: Isharani Baruah and Anmol Kharb shone bright as Indian women's team all but assured its place in the quarterfinals of Uber Cup after beating Singapore 4-1 in the second tie of group A, here on Sunday. The Asian Champions, who had defeated Canada 4-1 in the opening tie, produced another good show as they recovered from the opening match loss of Ashmita Chaliha and went on to win the rest of the contests to come up trumps. It turned out to be a fine weekend for the young and inexperienced Indian side who were missing the big guns, but at the big stage to make it two out of two ties. The 53rd-ranked Chaliha, who had outwitted Canada's Michelle Li on Saturday, found the going tough against world No 18 Yeo Jia Min, going down 15-21, 18-21 to peg India back.

AMERICAN CLASSIC

Gabby Douglas competes for the first time in 8 years at the American Classic

TEXAS (US): Gabby Douglas is officially back. Whether the gymnastics star's return to the sport carries all the way to the Paris Olympics remains to be seen. Douglas, who became the first Black woman to win the Olympic all-around title when she triumphed in London in 2012, competed for the first time in eight years on Saturday at the American Classic. The 28-year-old looked rusty in spots and promising in others while posting a score of 50.65 in the all-around. Douglas qualified in multiple events for the U.S. Championships in Fort Worth, Texas, next month. She will get another chance to qualify for the all-around competition at nationals when she takes the floor at the U.S. Classic in Hartford, Connecticut, on May 18. Douglas last competed at the 2016 Rio Olympics, where she helped the Americans claim a second straight gold in the team competition.

MLS SOCCER

Lionel Messi gets 2 goals in front of record crowd as Miami beats Revolution 4-1

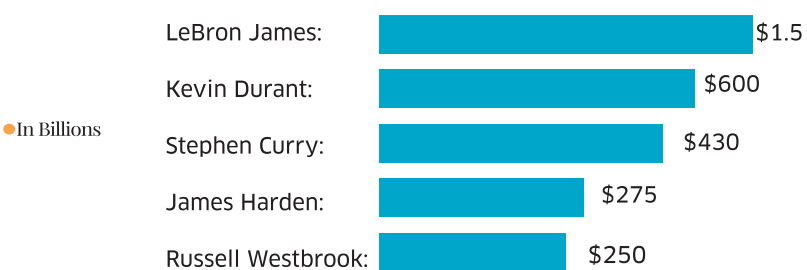


MASSACHUSETTS: Lionel Messi scored two goals to excite a New England Revolution-record crowd, leading Inter Miami CF to a 4-1 victory on Saturday night. Messi didn't disappoint the crowd of 65,612 that filled Gillette Stadium, scoring on a left-footed kick from deep inside the box for his ninth goal of the season, breaking a 1-all tie in the 68th minute. In fact, he made a little history, too. Miami posted on the social platform X that he was the first player in MLS history to record 16 goal contributions in his first seven

games of a season. "Obviously, he's done it his whole life. We expect it from him," said teammate Benjamin Cremaschi, who scored the third goal after Messi's shot was stopped. "He makes it look so easy. We're just happy that we have him by our side. When he has the opportunity, he takes it." The attendance beat the previous record of 61,316, when the Revolution lost to the LA Galaxy in the 2002 MLS final. In the opening half, he was a few feet inside the box, scoring on a left-foot kick to tie it at 1-1 in the 32nd minute.

The Day's NUMBERS

ESTIMATED CAREER EARNINGS FOR THE TOP FIVE BASKETBALL PLAYERS



WORLD T20

Agarkar to have informal selection meeting with skipper Rohit in Delhi

NEW DELHI: Chairman of national selection committee Ajit Agarkar and skipper Rohit Sharma are expected to have an informal meeting in the national capital on a possible 15-member squad for the T20 World Cup in the Americas. The formal announcement might happen in Mumbai on May 1, the cut-off date for the ICC event.

It is understood, Agarkar specially flew into Delhi for Saturday's IPL match between Mumbai Indians and Delhi Capitals as he would also get a chance to chat up with skipper Rohit and get a further clarity before he sits with his colleagues to pick the final team. There are a couple of slots which will be up for discussion as most of the team picks itself. There won't be many surprises and only thing that selection committee and team management needs to be convinced about is Hardik Pandya's bowling fitness.

BUNDESLIGA SOCCER

Kane scores twice in Bundesliga but injuries hit Bayern



BERLIN: Harry Kane scored his 34th and 35th Bundesliga goals of the season for Bayern Munich to warm up for Real Madrid with a 2-1 victory over Eintracht Frankfurt on Saturday. The win ensured Bayern qualified for next season's Champions League but it arguably came at a price for this season's competition, as Konrad Laimer and Matthijs de Ligt went off with injuries. Bayern coach Thomas Tuchel was already thinking of Madrid's visit for the first leg of their semifinal on Tuesday as he made a host of changes from the team that played Union Berlin last weekend.



Men's recurve archery team members Dhiraj Bommadevara (2nd from left), Tarundeep Rai (third from left) and Pravin Jadhav (extreme right)

Archery WC: India upset Korea to bag gold

Press Trust Of India

SHANGHAI: India made history at the Archery World Cup in Shanghai as the men's recurve team clinched gold, stunning reigning Olympic champions South Korea. Comprising Dhiraj Bommadevara, Tarundeep Rai, and Pravin Jadhav, the Indian trio's victory marked their maiden triumph over the archery powerhouse in a World Cup final, a feat not achieved in 14 years. The team's flawless perfor-

mance, without dropping a set, secured a significant boost in their quest for Olympic qualification. Tarundeep Rai, a seasoned 40-year-old Army veteran, previously tasted gold at the Shanghai World Cup Stage 4 in 2010. This victory against South Korea, with a resounding 5-1 score, brought India's gold medal tally to five in the season-opening Stage 1 World Cup. Additionally, the mixed team of Ankita Bhakat and Dhiraj secured bronze, further

HIGHLIGHT

- Former Commonwealth Games gold medalist praises India's archery triumph as monumental in the sport's history.
- India's rise to third in world rankings signals strong Olympic qualification prospects in archery.

bolstering India's medal haul. Facing formidable opponents in the final,

including members of the Tokyo Olympics gold medal-winning team, the Indian trio displayed remarkable composure. Despite the pressure, they delivered consistently, matching their rivals shot for shot and ultimately clinching victory with precision and determination. Former Commonwealth Games gold medalist Rahul Banerjee hailed the team's performance as one of the biggest wins in archery history. He emphasized the impor-

ance of maintaining momentum leading up to the Paris Olympics and expressed confidence in India's ability to secure additional Olympic berths. With India's impressive performance, including a rise to third place in the world rankings, Olympic qualification prospects look promising. As the team prepares for the Stage 3 World Cup in Antalya, Turkey, and the final Olympic qualifying event, hopes are high for securing coveted spots in the upcoming Paris Olympics.

Ishan Kishan reprimanded

NEW DELHI: Mumbai Indians wicketkeeper-batter Ishan Kishan was on Saturday reprimanded and fined 10 per cent of his match fees for breaching the IPL Code of Conduct during a match against Delhi Capitals at the Arun Jaitley Stadium, here. "Kishan committed a Level 1 offence under Article 2.2 of the IPL's Code of Conduct. He admitted to the offence and accepted the Match Referee's sanction," an IPL statement read. "For Level 1 breaches of the Code of Conduct, the Match Referee's decision is final and binding." Article 2.2 includes any action(s) outside the course of normal cricket actions, such as hitting or kicking the wickets and any action(s) which deliberately (i.e. intentionally), recklessly or negligently (in either case even if accidental) results in damage to the advertising boards, boundary fences, dressing room doors, mirrors, windows and other fixtures and fittings.

Sanju Samson: Stick to processes despite mistakes

| INDIAN PREMIER LEAGUE |

Press Trust of India000.

LUCKNOW: Rajasthan Royals skipper Sanju Samson feels mistakes are part and parcel of T20 cricket and they will have to stick to their process despite enjoying a dream run in the ongoing Indian Premier League. Rajasthan beat Lucknow Super Giants on Saturday by seven wickets to take their points tally to 16 from nine matches. Former champions RR are enduring a dream season having registered eight wins and are perched at the top of the points table. "We have been a little lucky as well. We have to stick to the right processes. Mistakes are supposed to happen in T20



Rajasthan Royals' captain Sanju Samson plays a shot

FACTFILE

- Samson underscores the role of luck in Rajasthan Royals' successful IPL campaign, highlighting their unwavering adherence to processes.

cricket, and we reiterate to stick to the process. The results are coming our way, so it is clear that we are doing something right," said Samson in the post-match presentation ceremony. Samson, who was named the Player of the

Match for his unbeaten 71 off 33 balls while chasing 197, lauded his bowlers for restricting LSG under the 200-run mark. "There was purchase with the new ball and when the ball got old, it was a nice wicket to bat on. It was a very good team effort."

| INDIAN PREMIER LEAGUE |

Batters have evolved quicker than bowlers in IPL: Klusener

Press Trust of India

LUCKNOW: Lucknow Super Giants assistant coach Lance Klusener placed the quicker evolution of batters as reason behind the frequent tall team totals in the ongoing Indian Premier League. The teams have been going past 200 and even 250 quite effortlessly in

this IPL, and the former South African all-rounder opined that the modest performance by bowlers at death overs too has helped batters to add quick runs. "Just looking at the bowling performances throughout the competition, for me, they have been quite disappointing. There hasn't been a lot of good bowl-

I haven't seen a lot of good death bowling in the competition and that's why teams have been able to take advantage.

Lance Klusener
SA cricketer



ing," Klusener told the media after LSG's seven-wicket loss to Rajasthan Royals here on Saturday. "There's been a lot of ordinary bowling and batsmen are just so good these days, they're taking advantage. Maybe the batsmen have evolved a lot quicker than the bowlers in this competition.

Sports News



Royal Challengers Bengaluru's Mohammed Siraj celebrates with teammates after taking the wicket of Gujarat Titans' M Shahrulkh Khan.. Photo PTI



Royal Challengers Bengaluru's Will Jacks celebrates his century.. Photo PTI

Kohli, Jacks power RCB to comfortable win

Press Trust of India

Will Jacks plundered as many as 10 sixes in his breathtaking effort.

AHMEDABAD: Will Jacks slammed a sensational hundred while Virat Kohli upped his game in the middle overs as Royal Challengers Bengaluru outplayed Gujarat Titans by nine wickets in the IPL here on Sunday. Kohli (70 not out of 44), whose approach in the middle overs was questioned in the previous game, employed the sweep

shot against the spinners to make a statement before Jacks (100 not out off 41) cut loose to gun down the 201-run target with as many 24 balls to spare. Jacks went berserk in what turned out to be the final over of the game, hammering as many as four sixes and four off Rashid Khan to close out the game much sooner than expected. The Englishman plundered as many as 10 sixes in his breathtaking effort. Put in to bat, Shahrulkh Khan (58 off 30) had made full use of his promotion in the batting

SCORECARD

Gujarat Titans		Royal Challengers Bengaluru	
Wriddhiman Saha c Sharma		Virat Kohli not out	70(44)
b Swapnil Singh	5(4)	Faf du Plessis (c) c sub	
Shubman Gill (c) c Green		(V Shankar) b Sai Kishore	24(12)
b Maxwell	16(19)	Will Jacks not out	100(41)
Sai Sudharsan not out	84(49)	Total	206/1
M Shahrulkh Khan		Bowling: Azmatullah Omarzai	
b Mohammed Siraj	58(30)	2-0-18-0, Sandeep Warrier	
David Miller not out	26 (19)8	1-0-15-0, Sai Kishore 3-0-30-1,	
Total	200/3	Rashid Khan 4-0-51-0, Noor	
Bowling: Swapnil Singh 3-0-23-1,		Ahmad 4-0-43-0, Mohit Sharma	
Mohammed Siraj 4-0-34-1, Yash		2-0-41-0	
Dayal 4-0-34-0, Glenn Maxwell			
3-0-28-1, Karn Sharma 3-0-38-0,			
Cameron Green 3-0-42-0.			

order while Sai Sudharsan (84 not out off 49) stayed till the end to guide Gujarat Titans to

200 for three. Titans introduced spin very early and Kohli was up to the task, collect-

ing back to back sixes off left-arm spinner Ravi Sai Kishore to make his intent crystal clear. He was particularly harsh towards another Afghan spinner Noor Ahmed, sweeping him at will before bring up his fifty off 32 balls. Thereafter, Kohli did not need to do much as Jacks put the Titans bowlers to sword. Earlier, batting at number four, Shahrulkh teamed up with Sudharsan to give Gujarat Titans a much needed push after a tepid start. The duo shared an 86-run stand off 45 balls.

India should pick two wrist spinners for T20 WC: Irfan

MUMBAI: Former all-rounder Irfan Pathan said India must pick five specialist bowlers along with two wrist-spinners in their squad for the upcoming T20 World Cup to be played in the Caribbean and the USA. With the May 1 deadline for the squad announcement approaching fast, discussions have intensified around the combination of India's squad for the showpiece event



starting on June 2. "You need five good bowlers - that's a must. What are your wicket-taking options? When you're talking about Ravindra Jadeja at No. 8 and playing as a spin (all-rounder), I would rather have two wrist-spinners playing," Pathan told Star Sports. "I would rather have two proper wrist-spinners playing, (Ravi) Bishnoi and Kuldeep (Yadav), in my playing XI.

| TCS WORLD 10K |

Mwaniki, Kasait win TCS World 10K

Press Trust of India

Mwaniki, who maintained his lead from the start, finished strongly with a time of 28:15, while compatriot Hillary Chepkwony (28:33) finished second.



BENGALURU: Kenya's Peter Mwaniki and Lilian Kasait decimated the field to bag the men's and women's titles respectively in the 16th TCS World 10K here on Sunday.

Mwaniki, who maintained his lead from the start, finished strongly with a time of 28:15, while compatriot Hillary Chepkwony (28:33) finished second.

The 17-year-old Hagos Eyob who clocked an impressive 28:39 came third. In the international elite women's section, Kasait powered ahead and Irene Chap-tai's event record of

HIGHLIGHT

• Emmaculate Achol (31:17) and Lemlem Hailu (31:23) finished second and third respectively.

30:35 looked in danger. However, Kasait finished on top of the podium clocking 30:56.

Emmaculate Achol (31:17) and Lemlem Hailu (31:23) finished second and third respectively.

Both Mwaniki and Kasait got richer by USD 26000.

In the Indian elite athletes race, Kiran Matre clinched the first

position and broke the event record with a timing of 29:32.

The previous record stood in the name of Suresh Kumar, 29:49 created in 2015.

Ranjeet Kumar Patel (29:35) and Dharmendra (29:45) came second and third respectively.

In the corresponding women's category, event record holder Sanjivani bagged the top place with a time of 34:03.

She was closely followed by Lilli Das (34:13) at second while Preenu Yadav finished third at 34:24.

Pakistan appoint Kirsten as ODI, T20I head coach

Press Trust of India

LAHORE: The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) on Sunday appointed World Cup-winning Gary Kirsten as their head coach for ODIs and T20Is, while former Australian pacer Jason Gillespie will take over that role in Test cricket. Along with them, former Pakistan all-rounder Azhar Mahmood was appointed as the assistant coach of the team across the formats. "The appointment of (Gary) Kirsten and (Jason) Gillespie who are high-profile coaches shows how much value is given to the Pakistan cricket team and how much potential foreign coaches see in our players," PCB chief Mohsin Naqvi said during a media conference. "We want to give the team the best facilities and that is why we have gone for Kirsten and Gillespie," he added. Kirsten is expected to take over from Pakistan's tour of England from May 22 which will feature four T20Is and from there the team will travel for the T20 World Cup in June.

India beat Bangladesh by 44 runs in first women's T20 international

Press Trust of India

SYLHET: Pace duo of Renuka Singh and Pooja Vastrakar shared five wickets as India produced a clinical bowling display to outclass Bangladesh by 44 runs in the opening women's T20I here on Sunday. Opting to bat, skipper Harmanpreet Kaur and Yastika Bhatia provided solidity in the middle order but India missed the late flourish to manage 145 for

seven. The hosts must have fancied their chances of chasing down the total but Indian bowlers led by Renuka delivered the goods to limit Bangladesh to 101 for 8. Skipper Nigar Sultana waged a lonely battle with a 51 off 48 but didn't get any support from the other end. For India, Renuka was the leader of the bowling unit as she trapped Dilara Akter (4) in her

third ball before cleaning up Sobhana Mostary (6) in 5th over. Experienced spinner Deepti Sharma then removed Murshida Khatun (13) LBW, while Vastrakar rapped Fahima Khatun (1) on the pads in 7th over to leave the hosts at 30 for 4. Radha Yadav too tossed one up to deceive Shorna Akter (11), while Renuka returned to get rid of Rabeya Khan (2). Shreyanka Patil too joined the party, sending back

Nahida Akter (9), before Sultana fell to Vastrakar in the final over. Earlier, charismatic opener Smriti Mandhana departed for just nine runs but Shafali Verma put up a gritty display to score a 22-ball 31. Bhatia (36 off 29 balls) and Harmappreet (30 off 22) then came up with a 45-run partnership, as India batters overcame the challenges on a slow wicket.

KKR wary of resurgent Delhi Capital

Press Trust of India

KOLKATA: A resurgent Delhi Capitals will look to exploit Kolkata Knight Riders' bowling vulnerabilities and ascend to top-four in the table during their Indian Premier League match here on Monday.



With four wins in their last five matches, the Rishabh Pant-led side is gradually assembling their pieces and starting to look like a force to be

reckoned with. On the other hand, the Gautam Gambhir-mentored side has endured three defeats in their last

five matches with their profligacy in bowling hurting them badly.

Signed up as Lungi Ngidi's replacement,

Aussie Jake Fraser-McGurk has proved to be their X-factor with his ferocious batting display at the top.

A natural power-hitter with superb hand-eye coordination, the 22-year-old has taken the IPL by storm scoring 247 runs in five matches at a strike-rate of 237.50. His brutal treatment of the otherwise sensational Jasprit Bumrah stands as a testimony of his skill-level.

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I love the fact that today there are women on screen who are in all forms have no interest in playing a character that's any younger than I am right now.

Lara Dutta
Actress



& Finally

CLOSE UP

Samantha Ruth Prabhu: From entertainment to mental health advocacy

Actor Samantha Ruth Prabhu finds it challenging to discuss mental health with fans primarily interested in cinema and fashion.

Central Chronicle News

Samantha Ruth Prabhu's dedication is leading the conversation on mental health awareness.

Since revealing her battle with autoimmune disease Myositis in 2022, Samantha Ruth Prabhu has been candid about her journey to holistic healing. Despite her fan base's primary interest in entertainment and fashion, Samantha has fearlessly stepped into the realm of mental health advocacy with her podcast, "Take 20." Reflecting on the challenge of shifting her audience's focus, Samantha acknowledges that her fans may not easily accept her new role. However, she remains determined, believing that advocating for mental health is her true calling. As she celebrates her 37th birthday on April 28, Samantha is committed to making a positive impact, even if it's with just a handful of people. Balancing her career and Myositis treatment, Samantha emphasizes the vital link between physical and mental well-being.



Embracing Mental Health Advocacy Amidst Fame, Inspiring Change One Listener at a Time. #Take20 #Holistic Healing #Mental Health Awareness



Kraven the Hunter release delayed

Sony has pushed "Kraven the Hunter" to December 13, 2024, starring Aaron Taylor-Johnson, due to poor lifestyles leading to more youngsters falling prey to kidney stones.



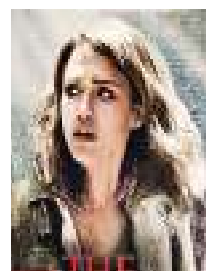
Yodha now streaming on prime video

Watch Sidharth Malhotra's action film "Yodha" on Prime Video after its theatrical release in March. Also starring DishaPatani and Raashii Khanna, it follows the thrilling rescue operation of the Yodha Task Force.



Laapataa Ladies on netflix

New OTT releases this weekend is "Laapataa Ladies", there's something for everyone to binge-watch. "Laapataa Ladies" on Netflix follows two brides swapped during a train journey in 2001.



The veil: elizabeth moss spy thriller

Elizabeth Moss stars in "The Veil" on Disney+ Hotstar, a gripping spy thriller where two women embark on a perilous journey from Istanbul to Paris, navigating a deadly game of truth and lies.



Tillu square: romantic comedy on netflix

"Tillu Square" on Netflix stars SiddhuJonnalagadda and Anupama-Parmeswaran in the romantic crime-comedy sequel to DJ Tillu (2022). Siddhu reprises his role as DJ Tillu, facing trouble with his love interest Lilly, played by Anupama. Releases April 26.

CineBriefs

BEST OF THE REST

BOLLYWOOD

Akshay Oberoi: striving for craft excellence

Actor Akshay Oberoi prioritizes working with great directors and improving his craft daily. Despite appearing in supporting roles in films like "Gurugram" and "Kaalakaandi," he focuses on growth rather than seeking attention at parties or airports. Oberoi's dedication paid off with his role in Hrithik Roshan's "Fighter," which he considers a breakthrough after years of hard work. Now, he looks forward to the second season of "The Broken News," valuing interesting characters and opportunities over fame.

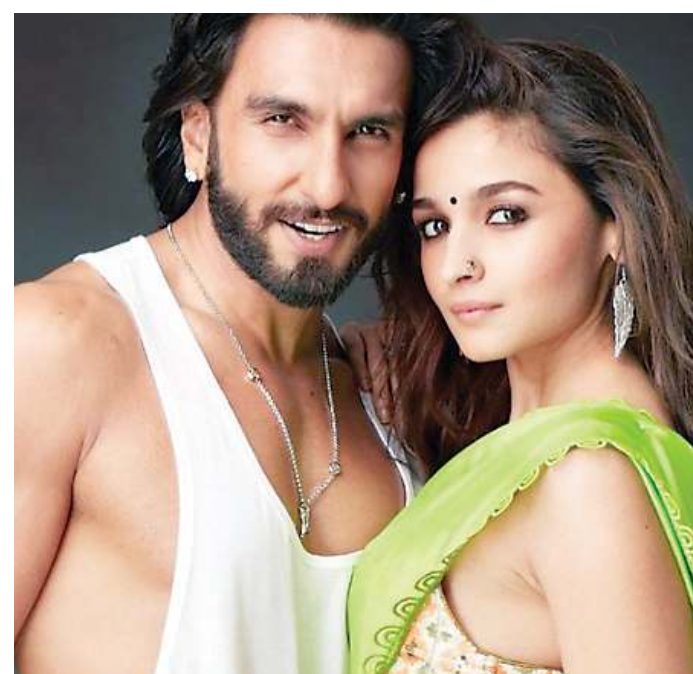
WEB SERIES

Manoj Bajpayee: navigating the ott universe

Manoj Bajpayee, star of Silence 2, emphasizes the importance of versatility in OTT projects. With roles in The Family Man and films like Dial 100 and Silence, he appreciates the platform's freedom for experimentation across genres, particularly in murder mysteries and thrillers, which he believes have universal appeal and find success both in theaters and on streaming platforms. Bajpayee adds, "Nobody is a superstar on OTT; I'm happy to be relevant and working."

THE BOLLYWOOD HOT PAIR

Ranveer Singh and Alia Bhatt's ad: a hilarious take on newlyweds



In a quirky new ad, Ranveer Singh and Alia Bhatt, stars of "Rocky Aur Rani KiiPrem Kahaani," play newlyweds preparing for their first night together. Fans loved the humorous exchange as Ranveer nervously mentions it's his first time, and they plan their honeymoon. Ran-

veer shared the ad with MakeMyTrip, sparking comments about their chemistry and recalling a previous ad with adult film star Johnny Sins. Ranveer and Alia's collaboration has fans eager for more, while they both have exciting projects lined up.

FASHION

Karishma Kapoor stuns in stylish black saree on dance deewane set

Karisma Kapoor's recent appearance on Dance Deewane in a printed black saree has sparked interest. Fans are curious about the cost of her stylish ensemble. The actress shared stunning photos of her look on Instagram, blending ethnic charm with modern flair. Let's take a closer look at her glamorous attire and find out where you can get a similar look.



| HOLLYWOOD |

Britney Spears resolves conservatorship battle with father: A victory for freedom

Central Chronicle News

Britney Spears and her father, Jamie Spears, have finally settled their dispute over Jamie's management of Britney's finances and his legal fees. The resolution, reached in Los Angeles Superior Court on April 25, brings an end to a long-standing battle. While the terms of the settlement remain confidential, both parties' attorneys confirmed that an undisclosed sum was agreed upon. Britney's attorney, Mathew S Rosengart, hailed the settlement as a victory for Britney's freedom, stating, "Her wish for freedom is now truly complete." Jamie's



attorney, Alex Weingarten, expressed Jamie's relief that the matter is resolved, emphasizing his love and support for his daughter. The settlement spares both Britney and Jamie from a potentially grueling trial over alleged financial misconduct during Britney's conservatorship, which Jamie oversaw until September 2019. The conclusion of this case follows Britney's public address to a court in June 2021, where she expressed her desire for independence and the traumatic impact of her conservatorship. Since then, Britney

HIGHLIGHT

● Britney Spears and her father, Jamie Spears, have settled their ongoing legal fees dispute, which started with the first filing in December 2021 in an LA court.

has focused on reclaiming control over her life, and the settlement marks a significant step towards that goal. With this legal battle behind her, Britney can now fully focus on her personal and professional endeavors, including her music and support work for mental health awareness.

Trending on Insta

@shruti

Shruti's cryptic post sparks breakup rumors

Shruti Hassan recently shared a cryptic post on social media, hinting at a breakup with boyfriend Santanu Hazarika.



@tamannaahspeaks

Tamannaah bhatia shares bts moments from aranmanai 4

Tamannaah Bhatia shares BTS moments from Aranmanai 4, expressing gratitude to the team for the opportunity to be part of the popular franchise.

कालड़ा बर्न एवं
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