



**BATTLE-2024**  
Cong questions Modi's Karnataka commitments Pg 05

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# Central Chronicle

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## Naxalite killed in encounter

Press Trust of India

**SUKMA:** A Naxalite was killed in an encounter with security personnel in Chhattisgarh's Sukma district on Monday morning, police said. The gunfight took place in a forest under Kistaram police station area when separate teams of the District

Reserve Guard (DRG) and Commando Battalion for Resolute Action (CoBRA - an elite unit of CRPF) were out on an anti-Naxal operation, Sukma Superintendent of Police Kiran G Chavan told PTI. The exchange of fire took place between Naxalites and the DRG team in the forest, located around 450 km from the

state capital Raipur, he said. After the gunfight stopped, the body of a Naxalite and a weapon were recovered from the spot, the SP said, adding that search operation was still underway in the area. With this incident, 81 Naxalites have been killed so far this year in separate encounters in Bastar region.

# BJP-RSS want to change Constitution, quotas

The Constitution is not merely a book but one that protects the rights of the poor

Press Trust of India

**BILASPUR:** The BJP and RSS want to subvert and change the Constitution, which gives rights to the poor and protects their future, but the people are aware of this attack, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said here on Monday.

Addressing a rally in Sakri village in support of Congress' Bilaspur Lok Sabha candidate Devendra Yadav, Gandhi said leave alone Prime Minister Narendra Modi no power in the world can reject or tear apart the country's Constitution.

"The PM, BJP leaders and RSS want to subvert and change the Constitution. While they are trying to destroy the Constitution, the Congress is trying to protect it. This Lok Sabha poll is not an ordinary poll. It is about saving democracy, Constitution, reservations and



Cong leader Rahul Gandhi with Bilaspur Lok Sabha candidate Devendra Yadav at a rally in Shakti. | Photo: local

### HIGHLIGHT

• The ideology of the BJP is about supporting select people like 'Adani and Ambani'

rights of the poor," he said. The Constitution is not merely a book but one that protects the rights of the poor, their future as well as their voices and way of living, the Congress leader asserted. "BJP



leaders have been saying they will end the Constitution and also reservations after they come to power. If reservations, which are promised by the Constitution, are snatched, then jal-jungle-zameen (water-

**No power in the world can reject country's Constitution**

**Rahul Gandhi**  
Congress leader  
forests and land) of tribal brothers will disappear," he claimed. The ideology of the BJP is not that of Mahatma Gandhi, Pandit Nehru

and Babasaheb Ambedkar but it is about supporting select people like "Adani and Ambani", he alleged.

"But now, in this Lok Sabha poll, people have realised democracy, Constitution, reservations and PSUs are under attack. They have understood that BJP, the PM and RSS want to destroy the Constitution, without which nothing will be left for the poor," he said showing a copy of the all important document.

Gandhi said the Congress will remove the 50 per cent ceiling on reservations if it comes to power.

Taking a swipe at the BJP after two phases of the Lok Sabha polls, Gandhi said the PM was speaking about "400 paar" but "is he saying it now?"

Polls will be held in Bilaspur on May 7, while votes will be counted on June 4.

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## Supreme Court halts CBI probe against West Bengal officials

Press Trust of India

**Apex Court was hearing a plea by the WB government against a HC order**



**NEW DELHI:** The Supreme Court on Monday stayed a Calcutta High Court order directing the CBI to probe into the role of West Bengal government officials in a teacher recruitment scam.

The top court was hearing a plea by the West Bengal government against a high court order invalidating the appointment of 25,753 teachers and non-teaching staff made by the School Service Commission (SSC) in state-run and state-aided schools.

A bench of Chief Justice DY Chandrachud, Justice JB Pardiwala and Justice Manoj Misra said it will hear the matter on May 6. "We will stay the direction which says the CBI (Central Bureau of Investigation) will undertake further investigation against officials in the state government," the bench said.

Calcutta High Court had said the CBI would undertake further investigations with regard to the persons involved in the state government approving the creation of supernumerary

### FACTFILE

• SC stayed the CBI from further investigation

• HC earlier had ordered CBI probe into teacher recruitment

post to accommodate illegal appointments.

If necessary, the CBI will undertake custodial interrogation of such persons involved, it had said.

Challenging the order, the state government, in its appeal filed before the top court, said the high court cancelled the appointments "arbitrarily".

"The high court failed to appreciate the ramifications of cancelling the entire selection process, leading to straightaway termination of teaching and non-teaching staff from service with immediate effect, without giving sufficient time to the petitioner state to deal with such an exigency, rendering the education system at a standstill," the plea said.

### NEWSLINE

#### EXCURSION

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### SPORT

**Alcaraz wins comfortable round at Madrid Open**

Carlos Alcaraz continues to make a successful return from injury at the Madrid Open. The two-time defending champion cruised past Thiago Seyboth Wild in the third round on Sunday to earn another comfortable win.

### NATION

**Fire at bank's zonal office in Odisha**

Three persons were injured after a fire broke out at the zonal office building of a public sector bank in Odisha's Mayurbhanj district on Monday, an official said.

### | SURAT REPLAY |

## Cong nominee joins BJP

Press Trust of India

Monday is the last day for withdrawal of nomination in the Indore Lok Sabha seat, where polling will be held on May 13.



Akshay Kanti Bam withdrew his nomination on Monday, a fortnight before a polling in the constituency. After withdrawing his nomination, Bam reached

### FACTFILE

• Police have been deployed outside the house of Bam in Patrakar Colony. Local Congress leaders started gathering

the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) office here. In a photo released by the BJP on social media, Bam was seen along with MP Dep-

uty Chief Minister Jagdish Devda, state cabinet minister Kailash Vijayvargiya and other party leaders.

Bam is set to join the BJP, party sources said. Monday is the last day for withdrawal of nomination in the Indore Lok Sabha seat, where polling will be held on May 13. Indore Collector Ashish Singh confirmed that Bam has withdrawn his nomination.

## No tallying of VVPAT slips with EVMs

**NEW DELHI:** The Supreme Court on Monday dismissed a plea raising the issue of tallying of VVPAT slips with the votes cast using the Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs). A bench of justices B R Gavai and Sandeep Mehta told the petitioner's counsel that a coordinate bench of the apex court had last week delivered its verdict on the issue.

### NUMBER

**761**

• With this, 761 Naxalites, including 177 carrying cash rewards joined the mainstream

Parvati Barsa (33) headed its finance team, the official said. "The cadres were tasked with digging

up roads, felling trees to block roads and putting up posters and banners during shutdowns called by the Naxalites. They will be provided facilities as per the government's surrender and rehabilitation policy," he said.

With this, 761 Naxalites, including 177 carrying cash rewards on their heads, have joined the mainstream.

## 23 Naxalites surrender before security forces

Press Trust of India

**DANTEWADA:** At least 23 Naxalites, including seven women, surrendered before the security forces in Chhattisgarh's Dantewada on Monday, a senior police official said.

The Naxalites, who were part of the Bhairamgarh Area Committee of the Maoists in south Bastar, laid down arms before the police and

officials of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), Dantewada Superintendent of Police Gaurav Rai said.

They were impressed by the police's rehabilitation drive 'Lon Varratu' and disappointed with the hollow Maoist ideology, he said.

Of the surrendered cadres, Sonu Madvi (40) was the vice-pres-



ident of Dandakaranya Adivasi Kisan Mazdoor Sangthan (DAKMS) under the Hurrepal Panchayat, Paro Madvi (38) was the vice-president of the Krantikari Mahila Adivasi Sangthan (KAMS) and



# Raipur



We all need to be aware as Congress party is even distorting statements of BJP's top leaders

Vishnu Deo Sai  
CM Chhattisgarh

## Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

### MAHADEV APP

#### Mahadev app is still running under BJP government: Congress

**RAIPUR:** Sushil Anand Shukla, the State Congress Communication Department President, underscores the Congress party's concerns regarding the continued operation of the Mahadev App despite the arrest of a film actor in connection with the case. Shukla alleges that the app is still active under the protection of what they refer to as the "double engine government" of the BJP, both at the state and central levels.

He questions why certain individuals associated with the Mahadev App, such as Ravi Uppal, Saurabh Chandrakar, and Shubham Soni, have not been arrested and brought back to India for investigation. Shukla also raises suspicions about the release of Shubham Soni's video byte by the BJP and the lack of investigation into Soni's relationship with the party.

### SANATAN VALUES

#### True education should empower people to contribute positively



**RAIPUR:** Brijmohan Agarwal, the BJP candidate from Raipur Lok Sabha, spoke highly of Pandit Shriram Sharma Acharya and the Gayatri Parivar's contributions to awakening and re-establishing Sanatan values. He emphasized the positive impact of joining the Gayatri Parivar, citing personal experience and the ongoing support he has received from the organization. Agarwal also highlighted the recent construction of the grand temple of Lord Ram in Ayodhya as a significant event in the context of 'Sanatan Jagran' or the revival of traditional values.



CM Vishnu Deo Sai addressing a public meeting at Balrampur in Surguja district on Monday.

# Cong is spreading rumours by distorting statement: Sai

CM Sai came down heavily against the Congress for presenting Home Minister's Video by distorting it and held Congress as the party without any issues

### Central Chronicle News

**BALRAMPUR:** The Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai's election campaigning is going on at its full swing and daily he is taking 3 public meetings and seeking votes in favour of BJP LS candidates. On Monday he addressed three public meetings in Balrampur of Surguja district; Kartala of Korba district and Rohara of Mungeli district. Addressing the gathering, CM Sai came down heavily against the Congress for presenting Home Minister's Video by distorting it and held Congress as the party without any issues and is left with only work

to spread false rumour and a big party for creating conspiracies.

Addressing gathering at the tail of Surguja in Balrampur, CM Sai said that the frustration of Congress about the defeat is already visible and therefore they are resorting to wayward statements of our senior party leaders by distorting the facts and changing words. By editing their video, they are trying to spread false rumour among public. Citing about the statement by Dr Charandas Mahant on need of a person to break PM Modi's head and that of Modi should die by Kawasi, CM Sai strongly condemned

### HIGHLIGHT

- CM appealed voters to vote in favour of Chintamani Maharaj from Surguja LS seat; Saroj Pandey from Korba LS seat and Tokhan Sahu from Bilaspur LS seat

- PM Modi's leadership India will become the world's third largest economy by 2029 and making India a well-developed nation by 2047

the same and urged the people to teach the Congress a hard lesson for party using rumours and false statements and

should not allow the Congress to open its account for LS in the state.

Speaking at Kartala in Korba district, CM Sai put for the lack of promises made by Congress government and charged that the Congress during its rule has deprived 18 lakh poor of shelter on their head under PM Awas Yojana. The Centre's share sent by PM Modi was sent back by Bhupesh Baghel and dream of houses for poor remain half fulfilled.

He said that Congress has even promised to pay two years bonus to farmers, but it was not done, whereas when his Government came to power, we granted sanction of

funds for construction of 18 lakh houses under PMAY and fulfilled Modi-ki-Guarantee.

Reaching Rohara of Mungeli district in the evening, CM Sai said that this election is to make PM Modi as PM for the third time, as it is Modi who works day & night for 140 cr people of the nation and is always concerned about the poor, villagers, farmers, youth and women of the country and their well-being. He said under PM Modi's leadership India will become the world's third largest economy by 2029 and making India a well-developed nation by 2047.

## Late Shri Gyan Chand Lunia memorial TT tourney ends

**RAIPUR:** On Saturday and Sunday, a table tennis competition held jointly by the Table Tennis Association and Kedia Steel Corporation came to an end.

The competition was named Late Shri Gyan Chand Lunia memorial table tennis competition. Moreover, the Secretary of the Table Tennis Association, Mr. Vinay Baiswade announced the results of the competition. In the senior men's singles category, Pranay Chauhan while in the senior women's singles category, Surbhi Modi were the winners.

Additionally, in the Under-15 category boys, Naitik Agrawal while in the Under-15 girls Ahana Singh were declared the winners in the singles category.

### | 'SVEEP SANDHYA' |

# Every citizen has to fulfill his duty by voting: Collector

### Central Chronicle News

Recognizing the importance of voter comfort, arrangements were made to provide refreshments like lemonade, particularly crucial during the scorching summer months.

**RAIPUR:** In a concerted effort to bolster voter engagement and participation in the Lok Sabha elections, a vibrant 'Sveep Sandhya' event was recently held in Naya Raipur. Spearheaded by Dr. Gaurav Singh, the Collector and District Returning Officer, the event served as a rallying call for every citizen to embrace their civic



Vibrant 'Sveep Sandhya' event was recently held in Naya Raipur.

### FACTFILE

- The event culminated in a ceremony honoring participants who displayed exceptional enthusiasm

duty and exercise their right to vote. Dr. Gaurav Singh's impassioned address underscored the significance of democratic participation, urging citizens of all ages and backgrounds to actively participate in shaping the

nation's future through the ballot box. Emphasizing inclusivity, special efforts were made to ensure that the voices of the young, old, and women were heard loud and clear in the electoral process.

### | EXAMINATION STRESS |

# 'Children advised not to stress over exam results'

### Central Chronicle News

**RAIPUR:** With the annual declaration of class 10th and 12th examination results by the Board of Secondary Education, Raipur, the prevalent issue of students experiencing stress and even depression due to unexpected results has prompted serious attention from the state

government. In collaboration with the Board of Secondary Education and SCERT, online skill development and motivation training were conducted on Monday.

Additional Chief Secretary Mrs. Renu Pillay, addressing the gathering, emphasized the forthcoming announcement of board exam results and urged students not to suc-

Students should not to succumb to disappointment or stress after results declaration

Renu Pillay  
Additional Chief Secretary

cumb to disappointment or stress, both pre and post results declaration. She also advised parents against placing excessive expectations on their children.

School Education Secretary Siddharth Komal Singh Pardeshi stressed the importance of not allowing stress to overwhelm children, particularly if results fall

short of expectations. He highlighted that low scores do not necessarily reflect diminished knowledge, citing numerous renowned personalities who struggled academically in their youth but later achieved great success.

Pardeshi issued directives to all departmental and field officers in this regard.

## Terminal inauguration DRM inaugurates first Gati Shakti Cargo of Raipur Railway Division

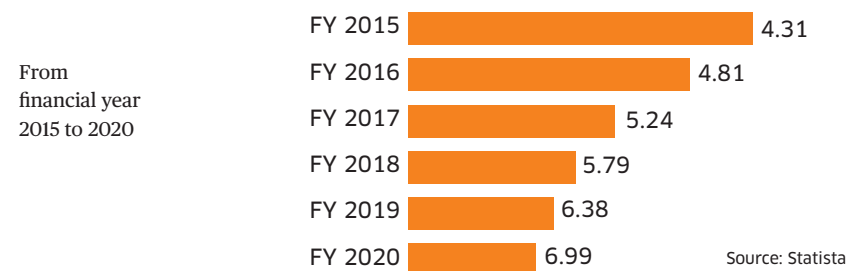


**RAIPUR:** The inauguration of the first Gati Shakti Cargo Terminal in the Raipur Railway Division represents a significant milestone in the efforts to enhance infrastructure and transportation efficiency across the nation. These terminals, launched by the Railways, serve as crucial hubs for facilitating the movement of goods, thereby supporting the country's progress. During the inauguration, Divisional Railway Manager Sanjeev Kumar led the ceremony, underscoring the Railway's commitment to prioritizing the interests of railway consumers. The presence of senior branch officers from various departments within the Raipur Railway Division further

highlights the collaborative approach taken in implementing this initiative. The relocation of the first cargo terminal from JK Lakshmi Cement Ahirwar to Rashmi Cement Kharagpur signifies a strategic move aimed at optimizing freight operations within the division. By loading klinker into the terminal and dispatching the rake, the division expects to significantly increase its freight loading capacity. This, in turn, is anticipated to boost the revenue of the Raipur Railway Division. Moreover, the establishment of this new cargo terminal serves as an additional center for loading and unloading goods, providing a convenient facility for various freight customers.

### The Day's NUMBERS

#### NUMBER OF REGISTERED MOTOR VEHICLES ACROSS CHHATTISGARH IN INDIA



## CHILDHOOD VACCINATION Elderly to make up 20 per cent of the population by 2050

**RAIPUR:** According to the United Nations Population Fund's 'India Ageing Report 2023', by 2036, the number of people above 50 is expected to surge to 404 million from 260 million in 2020. By 2050, one in every five individuals will be above the age of 50. Dr. Arun Kumar Kedia, MD, Senior Consultant Physician at Lifeworth Hospital, Raipur said, "While childhood vaccinations have significantly reduced disease prevalence, the importance of adult immunization cannot be understated. It is a misconception that vaccinations are solely for children. Adults aged 50 years and above can greatly benefit from vaccinations to guard against vaccine-preventable diseases like shingles, pneumococcal disease, and influenza and their severe complications."

These infections not only compromise the quality of life but also impose a significant burden on India's healthcare system.

## HOME VOTING Elders participate in home voting for the first time in Civil Lines



**RAIPUR:** Residents of Civil Lines, Raipur, Mr. Krishan Kumar Malhotra and Mrs. Sulakshna Malhotra participated with full gusto in the home voting exercise of the ongoing Lok Sabha elections. Being conducted for two days, this exercise aims to get maximum voting even from the elderly population who are above the age of 85. Mr. Malhotra is 97 years while Mrs. Malhotra is 95 years old. A team of the Election Commission officers along with a policeman came home on Monday and allowed them to cast their vote using a paper ballot.



# BJP is winning all 11 seats of the state: Chief Minister Sai

Central Chronicle News

**RAIPUR:** Describing Congress as sinking ship Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai said that there was disunity in Congress as it was evident from the recent incidents in which thousands of people left Congress and joined BJP.



Congress is not even able to find candidates and it does not have any issue to raise, Sai said. He said in an interview that Bharatiya Janata Party was going to win all eleven seats in Chhattisgarh.

In the 75 years of independence, Congress which was in power for 55-60 years at the centre worked to deceive the country and therefore it has lost the trust of the people of the country, Sai said. In order to confuse the people Congress leaders are making baseless statements, Sai said, adding that Congress party is even distorting the statements of BJP's top leaders.

On Prime Minister Narendra Modi's talk of eliminating Naxalism in two years, Sai said that Bharatiya Janata Party government since its formation, had been fighting strongly against Naxalism. 'It is a double engine

government and we are getting full support from the Center also', said the Chief Minister.

Elimination of 29 Naxalites including two carrying a reward of Rs 20 lakh each, on a single day is a huge success, he said.

## Congress stoops to new low seeing its imminent defeat

An allegedly tampered video showing Union Home Minister Amit Shah talking of ending reservation is going viral on social media. Reacting sharply to tampering of video Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai described it as propaganda by Congress and said that such actions will not be tolerated at all. The Chief Minister

He, however, said that his government kept open the option of surrender for Naxalites. Chhattisgarh government has a rehabilitation policy for Naxalites, he said, adding that by believing in it, hundreds

of Naxalites are surrendering and the government will also do justice to them. On the question related to tribals, Sai said that Bharatiya Janata Party had always been a party concerned about tribals.

He further wrote 'I want to give a clear warning to Congress to desist from making such crude jokes against tribals, backward classes and Dalits. Such actions will not be tolerated at all'. According to Sai Congress has been opposing reservation since the beginning.

He further wrote 'I want to give a clear warning to Congress to desist from making such crude jokes against tribals, backward classes and Dalits. Such actions will not be tolerated at all'. According to Sai Congress has been opposing reservation since the beginning.

# Rahul is insulting ancestors: Vibha

Central Chronicle News

**Vibha Singh said that Rahul Gandhi is insulting Rajas and Maharajas of the country, he is not aware of how many sacrifices and contributions these kings and maharajas have made for the country.**



Hitting back at Rahul Gandhi's statement she said that Rahul Gandhi insulted the Rajas and Maharajas of the country. It is absolutely wrong to snatch people's property and harass them, she said.

Vibha Singh said that Rahul Gandhi was insulting the Rajas and Maharajas of the country. Rahul Gandhi is not aware of how much sacrifices and contributions Rajas and Maharajas have made for the country, she said, adding that Rahul Gandhi

had forgotten the history of India and the country and he did not remember anything beyond his politics.

Vibha Singh said 'I am the daughter-in-law of Khairagarh. My grandfather father-in-law, late Raja Virendra Bahadur Singh and his wife Rani Padmavati donated many times to save the palace and the country's property. The palace he donated is today known as Indira Gandhi Sangeet Vishwavidyalaya, Khairagarh. Students from India and abroad come to study here and due to this the name of Khairagarh becomes famous'. The way Congress is insulting, it seems that apart from insulting women, Congress is also insulting the ancestors of the country, she said.

# Tampering with Shah's video a legal offence: Sao

Central Chronicle News

**RAIPUR:** Deputy Chief Minister Arun Sao said on Monday that Congress was spreading confusion among the countrymen on reservation. Congress has a history, it has been doing politics by spreading fear and confusion in the country, he said, adding that Congress has committed a serious crime by tampering with the video statement of the country's Home Minister Amit Shah and circulating it on social media. He said that BJP will file FIR against Congressmen besides lodging a complaint with the

Election Commission. Sao said that Congress gave reservation to Muslims in Karnataka for appeasement whereas, reservation for SC-ST and OBC had been scrapped in Delhi's Jamia Millia and Aligarh Muslim University. This is the real face of Congress, he said. There is Modi ji's government and that Congress will not be able to touch reserve crime by tampering with the video statement of the country's Home Minister Amit Shah and circulating it on social media. He said that BJP will file FIR against Congressmen besides lodging a complaint with the

# Lightning wrecks havoc, kills child

Central Chronicle News

**GARIABAND:** Lightning has once again wreaked havoc in Ladra village of Gariaband district. A 6-year-old girl has died due to lightning which took place in Devbhog police station area. Her father, who has been seriously injured in the incident, has been admitted to the hospital. This was the second incident in the village within three days, spreading panic among the villagers. The incident took place in.

of them to Devbhog Hospital, where doctors declared 6-year-old Aarti Som dead, while the treatment of her seriously injured father Chhabiram is underway.

Dr Prakash Sahu told that the part below the waist of Chhabiram had stopped functioning but he has been cured after first aid. After post-mortem, the body of Aarti has been handed over to the relatives.

Three days ago on Friday afternoon, 30-year-old Jogendra Nagesh was working in a brick kiln with his father. In the meantime lightning took place with sudden change in weather. Jogendra died on the spot due to lightning in the same Ladra area.

# Liquor scam: Remand of retired IAS Tuteja extended

Central Chronicle News

**RAIPUR:** The remand of former IAS Anil Tuteja in the liquor scam case has been extended for 6 more days. ED has got 6 days remand. On May 4, ED will present Tuteja in the court again. ED

presented Tuteja in the special court today and sought six days' remand of him. Tuteja's lawyer said that remand was being sought unnecessarily. The defense lawyer said that nothing related to the liquor scam was interrogated.

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Manal Honda - 9665010000.





# Bhilai



Use franchise to increase voting percentage in the third phase of LS Polls

**Ram Gopal Garg**  
Inspector General of Police  
(Durg Range)

## Micro Observers asked to be familiar about voting process

To ensure free and fair polling, General Observers, Collector encouraged the micro observers

Joginder Singh

**NEW DELHI:**  
HIGHLIGHT:

**BHILAI:** A training session for micro observers was organised at the meeting room of the Public Works Department. Master trainer Vikas Panchakshari gave detailed information and instructed them to discharge their duties sincerely for the smooth conduct of the election.

Election General Observer SB Shattenvar said that as a micro observer has to monitor the entire voting process, hence it is necessary to have a complete knowledge. The objective of the Election Commission of India is to conduct the election process in a fair, transparent and peaceful manner. He asked the micro observers to discharge all the assigned responsibilities efficiently and with mutual coordination. He also cleared the doubts of micro observers.

Observer Shrikesh Lathkar asked them to seriously understand the voting process and work efficiently. Collector



Master trainer giving detailed information.

Richa Prakash Chaudhary said that all the Micro Observers should get complete information about the responsibilities and discharge the assigned responsibilities with full devotion.

Encouraging the micro observers, the Collector said that their job is to micro monitor the voting process. The entire process of voting including the mock poll which takes place in the polling booth in the morning on the polling day has to be closely observed.

## Micro Observers asks to give feedback on 18 different points

Master Trainer Vikas Panchakshari gave detailed information about the work done by Micro Observers on the voting day. He also informed the Micro Observer about the feedback report to be given at 18 different points. Micro observers were given information about various aspects of the voting process, working of EVMs, time of com-

### HIGHLIGHT

• Training session organised for micro observers

• Collectors instructs to closely monitor the voting process

mencement and closing of polling, arrangements for entry and exit, voter registration, identification of voters,

indelible ink, etc. Master trainer explained the preparation of EVM, ballot unit, work of presiding officer and other polling officers, voter slip, mock poll, VVPAT, etc. They were asked to provide immediate information about any kind of error in the process. They have to reach the allotted polling center before the start of the mock poll.

## Man gets job in BSP with forged marksheet

Departmental inquiry found that Kishan Lal had submitted forged documents regarding his educational qualification to seek compassionate appointment

**BHILAI:** Police have arrested an employee of Bhilai Steel Plant on charges of forgery. The accused had produced a forged marksheet of Class 10th while seeking a job on compassionate grounds.

ASP Sukhnanand Rathore informed that Bhatti Police Station had received a complaint from Manthir Ram Tandon of Gunderdehi.

He complained that his younger brother Kishan Lal had acquired a BSP job by producing forged marksheet of Class 10th.

During investigation, police found that the father of the complainant as well as the accused, Lainu Ram Tandon worked as a senior operator in the Coke Oven Department of Bhilai Steel Plant.

Due to bad health and being medically unfit, Kishan Lal was appointed in his place on compassionate grounds on the post of Attendant in Civil

Maintenance Department. Police sought the copies of the documents submitted by Kishan Lal at Bhilai Steel Plant. The BSP conducted a departmental inquiry and found that Kishan Lal had submitted forged documents regarding his educational qualification to seek compassionate appointment. Kishan Lal

### FASTFACTS

• Serves Bhilai Steel Plant for 30 years

• Elder brother files complaint a year before retirement

had given wrong information to Bhilai Steel Plant regarding his educational qualification.

During the departmental investigation, Kishan Lal has admitted that his mark sheet of High School Certificate Examination (10+2) is false.

Since the act of the accused was found to be a violation of section 420, 468, 471, 201 of Indian Penal Code, the crime was registered and taken up for investigation. The accused Kishan Lal (59) son of Late Lainu Ram a resident of Village Purai was arrested and sent to judicial custody.

### AWARENESS DAY

**Sickle Cell awareness day observed**



**BHILAI:** Sickle Cell Awareness Day is observed to raise awareness about sickle cell disease (SCD) and its impact on individuals, families and communities worldwide. With the vision to create awareness about Sickle Cell Disease among the masses, The Leo Club Samarpan of Shri Shankaracharya Mahavidyalaya Bhilai, under the aegis of Lions Club Bhilai Pinnacle observed Sickle Cell Disease Day by conducting rally, distribution of pamphlet and door to door awareness events. Principal Archana Jha and Academic Dean Dr JDP Rao said that this disease is spreading because of ignorance of people. Therefore, creating awareness is the need of the hour.

### PLACEMENT DRIVE

**Open placement drive at Mansa ITI today**

**BHILAI:** Suzuki Motors is organising open campus placement at Mansa Private ITI, Kurud on April 30. About 300 students from various trades of ITI are likely to participate in the campus drive. Mansa Private ITI, in its 30 years of existence, has successfully placed its students in different companies. In the mega open campus placement, Suzuki Motor Company will recruit youth and give an opportunity to work in the company. Mansa Group Director Sanjeev Saxena invited the ITI pass out students to participate in this placement drive and move towards a bright future.

### POSTAL BALLOT

**Officials posted in other districts can also cast postal ballot**

**BHILAI:** The officers and employees, who are residents of Durg district, posted in other districts, will be able to cast postal ballot if they have sent Form-12 to the DEO. DEO Richa Prakash Chaudhary said many officials posted in Kanker, Mahasamund, Gariaband, Dhamtari, Balod, Bemetara, Kondagaon, Khairagarh-Chhuikhadan-Gandai, Manpur-Mohla-Chowki, Raigarh, Shakti, Surguja, Janjgir-Champa, Sukma and Rajnandgaon districts have sent application for voting through postal ballot in Form 12. They can reach at the assembly-wise facilitation centre in the Science Block of BIT College in District Durg from April 28 to May 01 and May 04 to 06 to cast their postal ballot.

The police personnel will cast their postal ballot at Police Reserve Centre on the same dates. Collector Choudhary informed the officials posted and deployed in election work in above mentioned districts, have sent Form-12.

## Officials from BSP, district admin cycle to Deobaloda

CENTRAL CHRONICLE NEWS

The rally encouraged everyone around to duly exercise their vote in the coming elections and contribute to nation building

**BHILAI:** A Bicycle Rally as part of the ongoing Voter Awareness Campaign to encourage people, to strengthen democracy by massive participation in the Lok Sabha Elections 2024 was organised the other day under the auspices of Sports, Cultural & Civic Amenities Department (SC&CA) of SAIL- Bhilai Steel Plant in association with the Durg District Administration.

Samir Swarup, ED (Rowghat) flagged off the Bicycle Rally from Mahatma Gandhi Kala Mandir, on April 28 while Pawan Kumar, ED (P&A) led the rally from MG Kala Mandir to ancient

Shiv Mandir of Model Steel Village Deobaloda, and back to Kala Mandir, and encouraged everyone around to duly exercise their vote in the coming elections and mark their valuable contribution to nation-building. High level officials of the Plant, dignitaries and guests from the District Administration Durg, and personnel from the Plant, sportspersons, students, and citizens of Bhilai Township took part in the Bicycle Rally. Several voting awareness activities are also conducted by SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant from time to time, to encourage people to step ahead to vote and strengthen democracy.

Sandeep Mathur, CGM (Personnel), SK Soni, GM (Personnel-Non Works and Mines) Parvinder Singh, General Secretary (OA), and other Senior Officials of the Plant were present during the flagging-off ceremony of the Bicycle Rally.

## Y. Banjare appointed officer in-charge

**BHILAI:** Under the Lok Sabha Elections 2024, an officer in-charge was appointed to ensure that the entire procedure prescribed for voting through postal ballot was followed in the convenience centers and for collecting the necessary material / documents from the treasury, taking it to the facilitation center and depositing it back. Making a partial amendment to the order issued earlier, Naib Tehsildar Yogita Banjare has been appointed as the officer-in-charge for all the assembly constituencies of Durg district. It needs to be mentioned here that the voters of Durg district (working in district Durg and other districts) who will be deployed for election work on the polling day will have to vote through postal ballot from April 28 to May 01 and May 04 to 06 (from 9 am onwards till 5 pm) at the facilitation center established at BIT College Durg.

## Cops take out bike rally for voter awareness

| SVEEP-HELMET BIKE RALLY |

CENTRAL CHRONICLE NEWS

Rally organised jointly by Durg District Administration and District Police to make the voters aware to cast their vote in maximum numbers.

**BHILAI:** A Helmet Bike Rally was organized by Durg District Administration and District Police to make the voters aware to cast their vote in maximum numbers. Voting for the third phase of Lok Sabha elections is to be held on May 07.

Ram Gopal Garg, Inspector General of Police (Durg Range), Richa Prakash Chaudhary (Collector Durg) and Sanjay Sharma (AIG, Police Headquarters Raipur) flagged off the rally from Pariwar Chowk. The rally moved across Sector 9, 32 Bun-



Helmet bike rally being flagged off.

### FASTFACTS

• IGP (Durg Range) administers voter oath

• Collector urges electors to cast their votes

• SP rides bike to lead the rally

galow, Y Shape Bridge, Malvinagar Chowk, Rajendra Park Chowk, Utai

Tiraha, Sai Dwar, Jail Triangle, MD Bungalow, Panthi Chowk, DPS Chowk, Miraj Triangle, Civic Center and concluded at Parivar Chowk. Superintendent of Police Jitendra Shukla along with officers and employees of the district administration and police department participated in the rally. Ram Gopal Garg, Inspector General of Police (Durg Range) said

that there has been an increase in the voting percentage in the elections at Rajnandgaon and Kanker in the second phase.

Richa Prakash Chaudhary (Collector Durg) said that in the third phase of Lok Sabha elections to be held on 07 May 2024, the voters of Durg Lok Sabha constituency should use their votes as much as possible.

| CAPACITY BUILDING |

## Teachers learn vital tips on integrating novel ideas in teaching

Ritesh Basu

**BHILAI:** Three days Capacity Building Programme under the guidance of DAVCAE, wound up in its full glory at DAV Public School Hudco. Around 180 teacher delegates, 24 Master Trainers and 6 Principals cum subject coordinators from 17 various DAV institution of Chhattisgarh Zone A from many different subjects participated in the programme. Valedictory ceremony

was performed by Dr The informative sessions were conducted in all the subjects, which proved to be resourceful for teachers. The Master Trainers apprised the delegates about the latest changes in curriculum and gave vital tips on integrating novel ideas in day to day teaching.

The event saw an active participation of all the teachers through a plethora of activities like



role plays, models, live examples, storytelling sessions, group discussions, PPT, poster making etc. It proved to be extremely fruitful for the participating teachers to gain insight and enhance their teaching abilities, thereby making the subject interesting for the learners. Speaking about the program GV Rajshekhar Rao (Principal, TATA DAVPS, Sonadih) said that it was an endeavor on the part of DAVCAE to keep the teach-

ers acquainted with the latest strategies and CBSE guidelines to manage the classroom environment effectively. It was a rich and productive sessions, full of hands-on activities for the teachers to indulge, learn and implement.

The whole event was a great success. The CBP concluded with giving of mementoes to the resource persons as a symbol of gratitude for their valuable contribution followed by Shanti path.

**“DAVCAE endeavours to keep teachers acquainted with latest strategies and CBSE guidelines to manage the classroom environment**

**GV Rajshekhar Rao**  
(Principal, TATA DAVPS, Sonadih)



# Battle-2024



Uniform Civil Code is nothing but political rhetoric, and Hindus in no way will benefit from it.

Mamata Banerjee  
West Bengal CM

## Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

### LO SABHA POLLS

**Congress names 4 more candidates for Punjab Lok Sabha seats**

**NEW DELHI:** The Congress on Monday announced four more Lok Sabha candidates from Punjab, fielding PCC chief Amarinder Singh Brar (Raja Waring) from Ludhiana and party general secretary Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa from Gurdaspur. The party has fielded former MP Vijay Inder Singla from Anandpur Sahib and Kulbir Singh Zira from Khadoor Sahib, replacing sitting MP Jasbir Singh Gill. Congress MP from Anandpur Sahib Manish Tewari has been shifted to Chandigarh Lok Sabha constituency while Ludhiana MP Ravneet Singh Bittu has joined the BJP. With Monday's list, the party has announced candidates for 12 of the 13 Lok Sabha seats in Punjab. The latest names were finalised at the party's Central Election Committee meeting held on Saturday. Punjab goes to polls on June 1, the last phase of elections.

### NOMINATION FILES

**Hemant Soren's wife Kalpana files nomination as JMM candidate**



**RANCHI:** Jailed Jharkhand ex-CM Hemant Soren's wife Kalpana on Monday filed her nomination as the JMM candidate from Gandey assembly seat in the state. Bypoll to the seat is scheduled on May 20 along with the parliamentary elections in the state. The seat in Giridih district fell vacant following the resignation of JMM MLA Sarfaraz Ahmad. Kalpana, 48, was accompanied by Jharkhand Chief Minister Champai Soren and brother-in-law Basant Soren, among others, when she filed her papers.

### LS Election Campaign

**When is Modi govt going to pay Karnataka's MGNREGS workers their wages, asks Cong**



**NEW DELHI:** Attacking the Modi government over key issues in Karnataka, the Congress on Monday questioned the "delay" in the vital Bagalkote-Kudachi Railway line project and also asked when it is going to pay the state's MGNREGS workers their wages. Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh posed questions to Prime Minister Narendra Modi ahead of his rally in Bagalkote in Karnataka. "Why has the Modi Government failed to deliver the Bagalkote-Kudachi Railway line? Why is the Modi Government holding up the Upper Bhadra and

Mahadayi projects? When will the PM pay Karnataka's MGNREGS workers?" Ramesh said in a post on X.

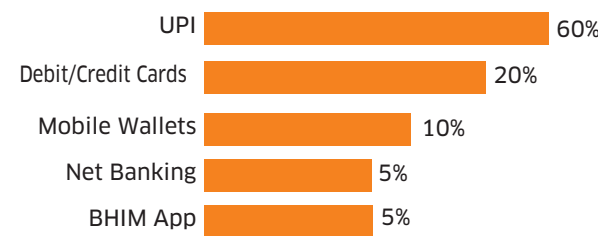
Elaborating on what he said were "jumla details", Ramesh said the Bagalkote-Kudachi line of the South-Western Railway has now been delayed by more than eight years. As of today, only 33 per cent, or 46 km of the 142 km line has been completed, he said.

"Originally sanctioned in 2010-11 at an outlay of Rs 986 crore, the project has now seen its cost balloon to Rs 1,649 crore.

### The Day's NUMBERS

This breakdown provides insight into the distribution of digital payment preferences among users in India.

### FIVE POPULAR DIGITAL PAYMENT OPTIONS IN INDIA ALONG WITH THEIR APPROXIMATE PERCENTAGE USAGE.



Source: Statista

### ELECTION

**Hindus in no way will benefit from UCC: Mamata**

**JANGIPUR:** West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Monday criticised the BJP for using the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) as a political ploy in the elections, asserting that Hindus will not benefit from it. Addressing back-to-back rallies in minority-dominated Murshidabad and Jangipur constituencies in Murshidabad district, Banerjee accused the BJP of resorting to divisive tactics fearing defeat in the initial phases of polling.

"Whenever there are elections, they use one issue or the other to flare up communal tensions. This time they are talking about the UCC and propagating that it is against a particular community. But this UCC is nothing but political rhetoric, and Hindus in no way will benefit from it," she said.

Banerjee highlighted a growing anti-BJP sentiment nationwide, especially evident after the first two phases of voting.

### LS ELECTION

**TMC's Sushmita Dev slams BJP over Hassan MP Revanna's sex**



**NEW DELHI:** Trinamool Congress (TMC) leader Sushmita Dev on Monday slammed the BJP over the alleged sex scandal involving Hassan MP Prajwal Revanna of the JD(S), and criticised the BJP for backing the accused.

In a video statement issued after a letter written by BJP leader Devaraj Gowda to the Karnataka BJP president informing him about a pen drive with the alleged videos surfaced, Dev accused the BJP of hypocrisy.

She said the scandal that unfolded "goes to the top".



Defence Minister and BJP candidate Rajnath Singh offers prayers at Hanuman temple, before filing his nomination for Lok Sabha elections.

# Will PM still remain silent: Priyanka Gandhi slams BJP over sex scandal?

A case of sexual harassment and stalking was registered against ex PM Deve Gowda's son H D Revanna and grandson and Hassan MP Prajwal Revanna respectively.

Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI:** The Congress on Monday attacked the BJP over the alleged sex scandal involving the grandson of JD(S) supremo H D Deve Gowda, with party leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra asking whether Prime Minister Narendra Modi will remain silent on the matter.

The opposition party also asked why the BJP went ahead with its alliance with the JD(S) when a BJP leader had written to the party's Karnataka unit president, exposing the

presence of a pen drive full of "sleaze videos of Prajwal Revanna".

A case of sexual harassment and stalking was registered on Sunday against former prime minister Deve Gowda's son H D Revanna and grandson and Hassan MP Prajwal Revanna respectively. The case was registered on a complaint by their cook, who alleged that four months after she started working for them, Revanna used to sexually harass her and Prajwal used to make video calls to her daughter and have "vulgar conver-

### HIGHLIGHT

● Congress questions BJP's alliance with JD(S) amidst sex scandal involving Deve Gowda's grandson, urges PM Modi to break silence.

● BJP leader's letter exposes pen drive with "sleaze videos" of Prajwal Revanna, raising questions on party's actions and PM's endorsement.

sations" with her. In a post in Hindi on X, Priyanka

Gandhi said, "The leader with whom the PM gets photographed by placing his hand on his shoulder. The leader for whom the PM himself campaigned 10 days ago. Praised him on stage. Today, that leader of Karnataka is absconding from the country." "Just hearing about his heinous crimes committed is heart-wrenching. This ruined the lives of hundreds of women. Modi ji, will you still remain silent?" the Congress general secretary said. Congress' media and publicity department head Pawan Khera shared

on X a letter written by BJP leader Devaraj Gowda to the Karnataka BJP president on December 8 last year. He said the letter exposed the presence of a pen drive full of "sleaze videos of Prajwal Revanna". "Why did the BJP still go ahead with the alliance? Why no action was taken on the serial rapes video recorded and kept in the pen-drive? Why did the PM campaign for and shared the stage with Prajwal Revanna despite knowing that Prajwal is the kingpin of world's biggest & murkiest sex abuse?" Khera said.

### | ELECTION RALLY |

## Shah warns INDIA bloc victory may cause leadership scramble

Press Trust Of India

During a rally in Jhajar, Union Home Minister Amit Shah predicts leadership chaos if opposition triumphs.

**BERHAMPUR:** BJP president J P Nadda on Sunday cautioned people in Odisha about an attempt to "bring outsiders" to the helm in the government, as he sought an end to the 24-year BJD rule in the state. Nadda, while addressing an election rally at Ambapua here, asserted that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has changed the culture, nature and definition of politics in India, and exhorted people to unseat the BJD government to usher in development in Odisha. The BJP has ensured prosperity on all fronts and in every aspect during its tenure at the Centre in the last 10 years, he said.

**JHANJARPUR:** Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday warned that a victory of the opposition INDIA bloc, "even by mistake", will lead to a scramble among top leaders of the alliance for the prime minister's post.

Addressing a rally in Jhanjarpur Lok Sabha constituency of Bihar, Shah claimed that leaders like M K Stalin, Sharad Pawar, Lalu Prasad and Mamata Banerjee may agree to a year each of premiership,



BJP leader Amit Shah addresses a public meeting for Lok Sabha polls.

### FACTFILE

● Shah asserts that a third term for Prime Minister Narendra Modi is crucial for eliminating corruption nationwide.

by turns, and "Rahul baba (Rahul Gandhi) will have to settle for whatever is left of the tenure". In contrast, he said, "a third term for Prime Minister Narendra Modi will lead to elimination of corruption from the entire country, including

Bihar, and eradication of casteism in the state".

"Modi's return to power is certain. But, suppose, even by mistake, if the INDIA alliance comes to power, what will happen? Who will be the prime minister? Will it be Stalin, Sharad Pawar, Mamata Banerjee or Rahul Gandhi? They will all settle for sharing the top post for a year each.

Is it how the country can be run?" Shah said. India wants a "mazboot" (strong) PM, not a "majboor" (weak) prime minister, the senior BJP leader asserted. Slamming Gandhi for his "new-found concern for OBCs", the home minister said "the Congress party has always been against the Other Backward Classes.

| MARD |

## Voice for men's rights enters electoral fray

Abhinav Pandey

**LUCKNOW:** Unlike other political parties, winning or losing elections does not matter to the Mera Adhikaar Rashtriya Dal (MARD), which has jumped into the electoral battle to be the voice of the 'mard' and to defend men's honour. MARD has lost deposits on all seats it has contested so

far since it was formed in 2018 but its leaders say they are undeterred by elections losses. The party has released its 'MANIFESTO' for the ongoing Lok Sabha polls with the slogan "Beton ke samman me, 'mard' utre maidan me" (In honour of sons, men have stepped on to the battleground). "We have jumped into the fray in honour of men, to raise



**We have jumped into the fray in honour of men, to raise the voice for those who are harassed**

Ashutosh Kumar Pandey  
General Secretary



the voice for those who are harassed and exploited in the name of women's security. Winning and losing does not matter to us," MARD party national general secretary Ashutosh Kumar Pandey told PTI. When asked about the fate of his party candidates contesting polls this time, he candidly accepts, "This time too, they can lose their deposits."



Minister in-charge Bemetara has expressed condolences to family member of victims of road accident.

Arun Sao  
Dy. CM Chhattisgarh



# Chhattisgarh

## Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

### ELECTION

#### People of Mahasamund record their decision in EVM: Roopkumari

**RAJIM:** Bharatiya Janata Party's Mahasamund Lok Sabha constituency candidate and former parliamentary secretary Roopkumari Choudhary expressed confidence that the BJP will get unprecedented public support in the second phase of voting on Friday and said that the people of Mahasamund Lok Sabha have voted for developed India. A large number of people have voted spontaneously in favor of BJP for Chhattisgarh and by voting in large numbers, voters have given a clear message that Chhattisgarh aspires to keep pace with the resolutions of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The people of Chhattisgarh now want complete freedom from the extreme anti-people policies and hypocritical politics of Congress and have expressed unwavering faith in BJP.

### SUCCESS

#### Four students from JNV Lavan clear JEE Mains examination

**LAVAN:** A total of four students from Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya Baloda Bazar Lavan have passed the ranks in the JEE Mains examination for eligibility for admission in engineering colleges at the national level. According to the information received from B Girja, Principal of Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya Lavan, four students - Tejes Sahu, Harsh Sahu, Devendra Banjare and Kusum Bariha have been ranked to study in Engineer College. These four students will also take the JEE Advanced exam. The teachers including the Principal of the school family have congratulated the students and the students, calling them the pride of Navodaya Vidyalaya. It is known that Devendra Banjare is the son of journalist Punuram Banjare of Lavan Nagar.



A young man died due to bomb blast planted inside a borewell in a farm house.

# Youth dies due to bomb blast in Jamsarar farm house

The incident has caused panic in the area and as per reports; the bomb was made and planted in a way, the first of its kind in the region.

### Central Chronicle News

**DONGARGAN:** A young man has died due to a bomb blast in a farm house in village Jamsarar adjacent to the city. The incident has caused panic in the area and as per reports; the bomb was made and planted in a way, the first of its kind in the region. The gunpowder or bomb system was installed by wiring the buttons of the bore machine, which is a first for this area and as soon as the button of the bore machine was pressed, there was an explosion and a person was blown to pieces.

According to the information received the incident happened in an agricultural farm of one named Santosh Vaishnav on Maneri road in village Jamsarar where banana and cucumber are currently being produced. There is a bore pump installed in this farm house, through which water is supplied to the crops. It is said that Santosh Vaishnav's younger brother Sunil Vaishnav used to come to this farm house early in the morning every day and would start the bore pump as per requirement to supply water to the crops. Since there was no need of water on Sunday, he did not turn on the button of the bore pump and went out for a

### HIGHLIGHT

● The gunpowder or bomb system was installed by wiring the buttons of the bore machine

walk as usual. Hence without knowing the availability of water, Naresh Kumar Oti, S/o Dhirpal Singh, age 30, R/o Maneri working in the farm house, had reached the farm house in the morning and as per his daily routine started the bore machine, which caused a huge explosion in which Naresh Kumar was blown to pieces. The explosion of gunpowder was so severe that many body parts of the

deceased were scattered up to a distance of 20-30 feet. After the incident, a person from Jamsarar village present there immediately informed the farm owner, after which the police and administration were informed and this being the first incident of its kind has spread sensation in the entire area. After the information, the police team immediately arrived and considering the seriousness of the incident, higher officials and the forensic investigation team were called. In the initial investigation, it is being said that it was a gunpowder explosion and the police is investigating from all aspects. In this

regard, Santosh Vaishnav, owner of the farm house, said that about one and a half months ago, his harvester was also set on fire and now due to this incident of explosion, he fears for his and his family's life.

News has been received that in the farm house of Santosh Vaishnav in village Jamsararkala of Dongargaon, around 6.30-7 in the morning, Naresh Oti, a youth working there, switched on the motor switch to water the fields, as soon as it was switched on, there was an explosion, due to which the young man working there became a victim of the accident, and died on the spot.

### From around the region

#### Successful In-House training, focused on teacher development and student engagement



**BACHELI:** DAV Public School Bachel recently concluded a comprehensive In-House Training program from April 15 to 28, showcasing a rich array of presentations aimed at enhancing teacher skills and student experiences. Led by Principal Dr. Chetna Sharma, the event saw enthusiastic participation from all faculty members, who delivered impactful PowerPoint presentations on a diverse range of topics. From self-development strategies

for educators to innovative student engagement techniques, the sessions were designed to foster a holistic learning environment.

Dr. Chetna Sharma, commending the efforts, highlighted the school's commitment to continuous professional growth and academic excellence. The event's success reflects DAV Public School Bachel's dedication to nurturing a dynamic and enriching educational ecosystem.

### Two accused nabbed with illicit liquor

**JAGDALPUR:** Nagarnar police of the district received information from the informer that two persons were transporting illegal English liquor in motorcycle number CG 17 KW 3291. On information, by blocking near village Dhanpunji Forest Naka NH 63 main road, accused O1 Manoro Nag father late Arjun Nag caste Gadba age 27 years and O2 Monu Nag father late Arjun Nag caste Gadba age 19 years were arrested. Both the accused are residents of Itwari Bazaar, Indira Ward, Jagdalpur. 24 pieces of Budweiser can beer, 36 pieces of Hunter Platina strong beer, total 60 pieces of English liquor beer of 30 litres, one piece of motorcycle Honda Shine were seized from their possession.

### | BUILDING DEMOCRACY |

# Home voting conducted in Katghora and Pali Tanakhar

### Central Chronicle News

101 year old elderly voters Dalesh Bai, Parvatiya Bai, residents of Vananchal village Sakho of Podi Uprora, a remote area of the district headquarters

**KORBA:** With the Election Commission of India starting the facility of home voting, physically handicapped and elderly voters are participating in building democracy by exercising their franchise. With this innovative initiative of the Election Commission, here in the region elderly voters above 85 years of age and disabled voters of Katghora and Pali Tanakhar assembly of the district contributed in building a strong democ-



Physically handicapped and elderly voters are participating in building democracy by exercising their franchise.

### FACTFILE

● Parvatiya Bai who also voted appreciated the meaningful step taken by the Commission

racy by easily voting from home. 101 year old elderly voters Dalesh Bai, Parvatiya Bai, and 102 year old Mono Bai Pankra, residents

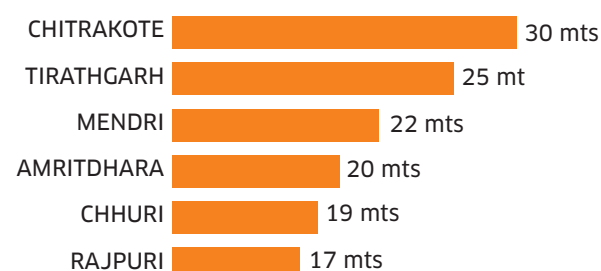
of Vananchal village Sakho of Podi Uprora, a remote area of the district headquarters, exercised their franchise while Parvatiya Bai who also voted appreciated the meaningful step taken by the Commission in making her fundamental rights available to her at this stage of her age. She said that this facility of the Election Commission

will prove to be extremely beneficial for many elderly and handicapped voters like him who are unable to walk and exercise their franchise. For this, all the elderly voters expressed their gratitude to the Election Commission of India and also urged the common people to play their part in strengthening the nation by voting.

### The Day's NUMBERS

There are total of 12 waterfalls in Chhattisgarh as per tourism dept

### TOP FIVE WATERFALLS IN CHHATTISGARH



### CRIME

#### Young man jumps from Kohka-Benderkatta Bridge, suffer injuries

**DONGARGAON:** A young man jumped from the Shvsnath river bridge in Kohka-Benderkatta village adjacent to the city in an intoxicated state, due to this he suffered serious injuries and was referred to Rajnandgaon Medical College. According to the information received, in bike number CG 08 AP 7773, three youths, Jayant Jureshia, father Narvind, 23 years old, along with two other youths, Tikeshe Kashyap and Tarun Kunjam, all three residents of Mahud Machandur, Ambagarh Chowki, were passing through Shvsnath bridge. One of the youths who were also intoxicated suddenly got up and jumped down from the bridge. Due to lack of water in Shvsnath River, this young man suffered serious injuries after falling down, after which he was taken to Dongargaon Community Health Center with the help of the villagers present there and after first aid, the young man was referred to Rajnandgaon Medical College.

### CONFERENCE

#### Kota MLA Atal Srivastava participates in workers' conference in Pakaria



**GAURELA-PENDRA-MARWAHI:** Kota MLA Atal Srivastava participated in the workers' conference organized in village Pakaria of Gaurela block and performed arti at Marhi Mata temple and prayed for the prosperity of the area. Addressing the workers' conference, Srivastava said that the development works done by the previous Congress government in Chhattisgarh are proving to be milestones and made the people pledge to vote in favor of Congress and ensure its victory in the Lok Sabha Elections.

He further said that there will be no reduction in development works in Kota Assembly as well as in Gaurela Pendra.

### COMMUNITY MEETING

# IPL betting being done in unique ways in city

### Central Chronicle News

**DHAMDHA:** With the IPL season in full swing across the country, the evil of betting is also going on during the tournament.

A recent incident has been reported in Dhamda where the betting network is so strong that entire villages and even towns are in the

firm grip of this illegal business. Moreover, youth have become highly attracted to this business and now wish to invest their families' hard-earned money for the betting business.

According to sources, even the police is aware of this betting business and is also encouraging everyone to play without any legal proceed-

**We are constantly working on the case, so far they haven't found any leads or success in nabbing the criminals**

Jitendra Shukla  
SP



ings. The illegal business is being smartly run through modern communication devices such as computers, laptops, and mobiles.

Furthermore, local people are running this huge betting market and who have a high chance of being caught by the police but so far have managed to evade the latter.



# Voter awareness prog being conducted in Gram Panchayats

In this series, rangoli and posters were made for voter awareness by the workers.

Central Chronicle News

**KORBA:** Under the direction of Collector and District Election Officer Ajit Vasant and under the guidance of SVEEP Nodal Officer Sambit Mishra, for the Lok Sabha elections 2024, voters are being made aware continuously by organizing various programs like rally, street play, wall writing and essay competition, here in the region.

In this series, rangoli and posters were made for voter awareness by the workers and rural women in the Anganwadi centre of village Kumhari Darri under Pondi Uprora development block.

Women took out a rally in the village and gave the message of 100 percent voting and similarly, in Gram Panchayat Pali, rural women formed a human chain and took oath to vote for the Lok Sabha elections.

A rally was taken out by women for voter awareness in Gram Panchayat Rampur and Ghariphkana, too where women gave the message of 100 per cent voting by writing slogans like 'Everybody has decided, they have to go to vote, with truth and honesty, government should be



Voters are being made aware continuously by organizing various programs like rally, street play.

formed by voting' etc.

Rangoli was made under SVEEP by women of self-help group in Gram Panchayat Salora Kha of District Panchayat Katghora and along with this; women took out a rally taking an oath to vote 100 percent in the Lok Sabha elections.

Similarly, in Gram Panchayat Chhindpur, rural men and women took out a rally in the village as part of voter awareness campaign and gave the message to the villagers to vote.

## Rural men, women take out rally in the village for voting

Same way in Gram Panchayat Kesla, women gave the message of building a strong democracy through voting by writing on walls with slogans like 'Come together, let us vote 100%, recognize our strength, and let us all vote'.

Bhupendra Sonwani, Chief Executive Officer, District Panchayat Pali told about the need

### HIGHLIGHT

- Women gave the message of building a strong democracy through voting by writing on walls with slogans
- Voters were told about the importance of voting in building democracy and were administered oath

of voting in Gram Panchayat Chaitma and the importance of voting in building democracy of voters and administered the oath of 100 percent voting to women. Rangoli was made by the women of self-help group in Gram Panchayat Tilkeja of Korba District Panchayat and a collective oath was taken to vote 100 percent.

## Woman beats up bank manager for misbehaving

Central Chronicle News

Like every time, this time also the manager said that the server was down, due to which there was an argument between the woman and the manager.

**KHAIRAGARH:** A case of a Bank Manager being publicly beaten by a woman, who herself retaliated the act after the Manger himself misbehaved with her has come to fore and a video regarding the same is presently going viral in social media platforms. As per information, manager of Punjab and Sindh Bank located in village Bakarkatta situated in the remote forest area of the district misbehaved with an female customer allegedly by physically assaulting her, who in return assaulted the bank manager severely.

According to the information, the female beneficiary was worried for the last few days due to the bank server being down and the woman had been making rounds of the bank for a week to withdraw her money. Like every time, this time also the manager said that the server was down, due to which there was an argument between the woman and the manager. It is being told that the bank manager first misbehaved with the

woman and after which the incident occurred. In the video of the incident, it is seen that during the argument, the female customer lost her temper and slapped the manager after throwing him out of the bank premises. Local people had reached Punjab and Sindh Bank located in Bakarkatta village of Khairagarh district on Thursday, April 25 to withdraw money and owing to server being down, the bank manager informed

### FASTFACTS

- It is being told that the bank manager first misbehaved with the woman and after which the incident occurred
- The female beneficiary was worried for the last few days due to the bank server being down and the woman had been making rounds of the bank for a week to withdraw her money

the customers about not being able to withdraw the money and asked them to come later, only after this there was a ruckus with the woman who had come there to withdraw the money. Meanwhile there are reports that no party has yet filed a complaint in the police station regarding the incident of assault in the bank.

### NEWSLINE

#### REGISTRATION

**One can apply online for birth and death registration**



**JAGDALPUR:** Now birth and death certificates will be available at home. The Office of the Registrar General of India has started a new online portal Civil Registration System for registration of birth and death certificates. There are many such features in this portal, which provide convenience to the general public. For example, any person can apply for registration of birth or death sitting at home. For this, application can be made by signing up and logging in to the portal, filling the required information and uploading the necessary documents. If the applicant registers his mobile number and e-mail ID in the new portal, then the details of the registration process are sent by the Registrar through message to the mobile number and thru mail to the e-mail ID.

#### APPEAL

**Collector talks to Varsha Prajapati over video call**



**KOREA:** For involving the people of Korea to vote in the ongoing Lok Sabha elections at full strength, Collector and District Election Officer, Mr. Vinay Kumar Langeh talked to people via video call in order to call them back to Korea and participate fully in the elections. He especially talked with Varsha Prajapati who is a resident of Gram Panchayat, Junapara and works in a hotel in Begusarai and appealed to her to come and vote on the assigned day and definitely be a part of the process.

#### FAREWELL

**Retired Principal Ratan Lal Verma given farewell**



**KHARORA:** A farewell ceremony was organized in the school premises, Sirri, in the honor of retired headmaster Ratan Lal Verma, posted at Government Pre-Secondary School, Sirri, Cluster Center, Ghiwara. Cluster in-charge Principal Ghivara Deepak Gupta and Ratan Lal Verma, who came with his family, started the program by offering prayers to Mother Saraswati. Development Block Education Officer, Zahere, cluster centre Ghivra, Kaneki and Verma's former school teachers, school management committee members, cook sisters, members of various groups, Anganwadi families, retired teachers and villagers were present to give farewell.

## Two Asst teachers suspended for being absent

Central Chronicle News

Collector has suspended two Asst. teachers on charges of remaining absent in the second phase of training of polling officers held

**KORBA:** Collector and District Election Officer Ajit Vasant suspended two assistant teachers LB, Rajesh Kumar Tiwari, Government Primary School Basinkhar and Kripal Singh Markam Government Primary School Putuwa, with immediate effect after they were found unauthorizedly absent in the second phase of training of polling officers held on April 16 for the Lok Sabha General Election 2024. The Collector has instituted departmental inquiry against them respectively.

According to the order issued by the Collector and District Election Officer Korba, the second phase training of polling officers for the Lok Sabha General Election 2024 was organized on April 16 from 1.30 pm to 5.30 pm at Vidyutgrih Higher Secondary School Korba, in which Rajesh Kumar Tiwari, Assistant Teacher LB, Government Primary School Basinkhar Development Block Korba was appointed as Polling Officer 2 and ordered to attend the training.

But Rajesh Kumar Tiwari was found unauthorizedly absent from the said training. In this regard, a show cause notice was issued to him. The reply to which was not submitted by Mr. Tiwari. Instituting a departmental inquiry against Mr. Tiwari, he has been suspended with immediate effect and his headquarters office has been fixed as Block Education Officer Korba.

## Collector felicitates SVEEP participants

**KORBA:** Recently, a rigorous programme is being organized to raise awareness regarding voting in the Lok Sabha elections. For this, a programme named SVEEP was organized in Korba by the Collector and District Election Officer, Mr. Ajit Vasant. Under this, a poster competition was organized through which different participants raised awareness on more voting during the ongoing Lok Sabha elections. Apart from this, other activities such as voter awareness rally, human chain competition, quiz competition, rangoli making competition and other such fun-filled activities were organized. In the poster competition, the winners were Aditi Jangade, Dhaneshwari Rajwade, Sushma Banjare, Anshu, and Meena Sidar. Similarly, Khushi Rajak and Priya Rajak were declared the winners of the voter awareness rally competition.

## 51 BTAP rly wagons filled with fly ash flagged off

FLY ASH FOR BIRLA CEMENT

Central Chronicle News

It is known that NTPC Sipat has always been striving for environmentally friendly works and is committed to 100% use of ash.

**SIPAT:** On April 28, NTPC Sipat added another chapter to its achievements. Project Head Vijay Krishna Pandey, Chief General Manager (NTPC Sipat) and Anil Shankar Sharan, General Manager (Operation and Maintenance) flagged off 51 BTAP railway wagons filled with fly ash for Birla Cement's Maihar unit. This 3000 metric tonnes of fly ash from NTPC Sipat will reach Maihar cement unit via a completely safe rail route and will participate in nation building.

It is known that NTPC Sipat has always been



51 BTAP railway wagons filled with fly ash flagged off.

striving for environmentally friendly works and is committed to 100% use of ash generated from power generation. At present, the main use of NTPC Sipat's ash is being done in the construction of national highways.

NTPC Sipat has supplied about 90 lakh metric tonnes of ash in various NHA projects such as Bilaspur Pathrapali Marg, Bilaspur-Urga Marg, Raipur-Visakhapatnam Marg, Durg-Arang Bypass etc. in the past years and

### FASTFACTS

- NTPC Sipat has supplied about 90 lakh metric tonnes of ash in various NHA projects.
- In this direction, this is an innovative initiative to supply ash through railway wagons.

has participated in the construction of safe and fast highways for millions of people. In this direction, this is an innovative initiative to supply ash through railway wagons. The dispatch of the first railway wagon is still at the testing stage. During the testing, various technical parameters will be collected and a long-term plan will be made to make continuous supply of ash through rail. Transportation of ash through rail is cheap, safe and environment friendly.

### ACHIEVEMENT

## GGU's star is shining brightly in the academic firmament: V-C

**BILASPUR:** The esteemed Vice-Chancellor, Professor Alok Kumar Chakrawal, who assumed office with great resolve on July 24, has now realized his vision. With 1008 days of tireless perseverance, unwavering dedication, and continuous positivity, Guru Ghasidas Central University, Chhattisgarh, now stands as the only central institution in Chhattisgarh accredited with an A++ ranking. The Central University, shin-

ing like the sun not only in Chhattisgarh but also in the entire academic world, will dispel ignorance and unemployment with its rays.

Guru Ghasidas University was visited by a six-member NAAC team on 15-17 April 2024. The results released on April 25, 2024, have made everyone in the academic community commend the capable leadership, skillful guidance, and visionary



intellectual skills of the esteemed Vice-Chancellor, Professor Alok Kumar Chakrawal.

The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Chakrawal said about the unprecedented

success of Guru Ghasidas University in achieving this A++ ranking, that the parameters determined by NAAC evaluated curriculum aspects, teaching-learning and evalua-

tion, research, innovation and extension, infrastructure, learning resources, student support and progression, governance, leadership and management, institutional values, and best practices.

It's a matter of joy that the NAAC peer team found the university to be excellent and of high quality in all aspects. The NAAC peer team found that Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya is excelling in education, research,

**NAAC peer team found that Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya is excelling in education, research.**  
Prof AK Chakrawal

V-C GGU, Bilaspur  
arts and culture, human values, social responsibilities, innovation, sports,

national development awareness, platforms for self-motivated students, creativity, and entrepreneurship.

The NAAC peer team visited for three days with six members. After that, the NAAC peer team awarded the university an A++ grade. With the attainment of the A++ grade, along with increased responsibilities, there has also been an increase in commitment and dedication.





## QUOTE FROM THE QUOTABLE

It is most regrettable that nuclear energy is being harnessed for making nuclear weapons.

[ Lal Bahadur Shastri ]

# Comment

## Enigma of Low Voter Turnout: Reflections on the 2024 LS Elections

OUR VIEW |

### Democracy Defiled: Rethinking the NOTA Option

The electoral debacle in Surat, where BJP candidate Mukesh Dalal won unopposed, has reignited discussions around the efficacy of the NOTA (none of the above) option for voters. This incident exposes the glaring inadequacies of NOTA in its current form and underscores the urgent need for electoral reforms to safeguard the fundamental right of citizens to choose their representatives. Since its introduction in 2013 following a directive from the Supreme Court, NOTA was envisioned as a tool to empower voters and hold political parties accountable. However, its toothless nature has rendered it ineffective in influencing election outcomes. The Surat episode raises profound questions about the integrity of the electoral process and the sanctity of democratic principles. Should a candidate be declared victorious without facing any opposition? Should NOTA trigger a repoll if it garners more votes than any contestant? The Supreme Court's notice to the Election Commission of India (ECI) on a plea seeking repolls in constituencies where NOTA prevails calls for a critical re-evaluation of NOTA's role.

While it symbolizes dissent, NOTA's true potential lies in catalyzing systemic change and dissuading parties from fielding unfit candidates. Countries like Indonesia mandate repolls if NOTA emerges as the 'winner', ensuring comprehensive redressal of citizens' dissatisfaction. The ECI must explore avenues to bolster NOTA's effectiveness, including the possibility of annulment of elections in constituencies where it secures the highest number of votes. This proactive approach will compel political parties to nominate candidates of impeccable integrity. Promoting NOTA as a 'fictional' nominee can transform it into a potent instrument of democratic expression. The Surat debacle underscores the imperative of revitalizing NOTA to serve as a genuine mechanism for voters to exercise their democratic rights effectively. It's time to recalibrate NOTA from a symbolic gesture to a catalyst for meaningful electoral reform.

GUEST VIEW |

### Academic Integrity Amidst Religious Controversy

I came across a concerning media report detailing an incident at Uttar Pradesh's Veer Bahadur Singh Purvanchal University, where four first-year pharmacy students received 50% marks on their exam papers despite providing incorrect answers. Instead of addressing questions, they inscribed "Jai Shri Ram" and the names of cricketers like Hardik Pandya, Virat Kohli, and Rohit Sharma. This revelation, unearthed through an RTI request, prompted an investigation ordered by UP Governor Anandiben Patel, who also serves as the university's chancellor. Subsequently, a committee recommended the dismissal of two professors involved. This incident reflects a worrying trend where academic integrity is compromised for reasons unrelated to merit. Moreover, it raises broader questions about the exploitation of religious sentiments in educational institutions. Such actions not only undermine the sanctity of education but also perpetuate a culture of opportunism. It's disheartening to witness such a mockery of academic standards and ethical values in the name of religion.



Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee

As the democratic spectacle of Lok Sabha elections unfolds across India, the haunting specter of low voter turnout looms large, casting a shadow over the very essence of democratic participation. Despite concerted efforts by the Election Commission to ignite civic enthusiasm through diverse outreach initiatives and enhanced facilities, the turnout remains dishearteningly low, particularly in the initial phases. This troubling trend raises a plethora of questions, probing the underlying causes of voter apathy and the erosion of democratic engagement.

One cannot help but ponder: What fuels this disinterest in voting? Is it the lackluster nature of election campaigns or the failure to address pressing issues that resonate with the electorate? Could covert influences be at play, subtly dissuading citizens from exercising their franchise? Or perhaps, is it the weariness induced by the incessant cycle of elections? The repercussions of low

turnout are profound, transcending political allegiances and echoing the fragility of democratic fervor. In a nation that prides itself on being the world's largest democracy, the tepid response to the electoral process strikes at the core of democratic ideals. While some hold onto hope for a surge in participation in the forthcoming phases, the urgency to reignite the flame of democratic fervor cannot be overstated.

Delving into the heart of this conundrum requires a multifaceted approach, rooted in a deep understanding of the socio-economic and educational dynamics that shape voter behavior. Disparities in turnout across constituencies beckon attention to the systemic inequalities that hinder equitable civic participation. Similarly, dissecting voting patterns across different age demographics unveils critical insights into tailoring effective voter outreach strategies.

Yet, amidst the complexities, one truth remains

immutable: the power of the individual voter to steer the course of democracy. Each eligible citizen holds the key to fortifying the democratic edifice, transcending personal grievances to embrace the collective responsibility of shaping the nation's destiny.

Beyond the immediate electoral fray lies a call to action for the Election Commission to embark on a rigorous research endeavor. By meticulously analyzing past election data, the Commission can unravel the intricate tapestry of voter behavior and preferences. Understanding the determinants of high turnout in certain constituencies and the deterrents in others is pivotal for crafting targeted interventions that resonate with diverse voter demographics.

Moreover, probing the nexus between education levels and voting propensity, alongside identifying age cohorts with the lowest turnout, offers valuable insights for crafting tailored voter engagement initia-

tives. Whether through harnessing technology for voter education or fostering community-driven participation programs, the Commission possesses a myriad of avenues to invigorate democratic participation.

Ultimately, the findings of such research hold the promise of reinvigorating democratic participation in India, propelling the nation towards a new era of civic vibrancy. With each election serving as a catalyst for renewal, citizens must seize the opportunity to reaffirm their commitment to the democratic ethos, one ballot at a time.

As the 2024 Lok Sabha elections unfold, let us not merely reflect on the challenges of the present but also envision a future where every citizen is empowered to shape the collective destiny of the nation. Within the intricate tapestry of democracy, each vote weaves together the aspirations of millions, beckoning us to reclaim the essence of democracy and forge a path towards a more inclusive and vibrant future.



Dr. Manmohan Prakash

## Cross-Border Heart Transplants: Bridging Hope

A heartwarming tale of a Pakistani girl's successful heart transplant in India sheds light on cross-border medical challenges and aspirations. by *Press Trust of India*



Pakistan's Ayesha Rashan, 19, who underwent a heart transplant from a 69-yr old donor at a Chennai hospital. Photo: PTI

The heartwarming story of a 19-year-old Pakistani girl getting a new lease on life after a successful heart transplant in India highlights how borders can be eased for humanitarian purposes and the challenges faced by heart patients in the neighbouring country.

Ayesha Rashan from Karachi underwent a heart transplant surgery at MGM Healthcare, Chennai.

After a suitable brain-dead donor was available, she underwent cardiac transplantation on January 31, 2024. Following procedures, she was discharged this month.

Dr K R Balakrishnan, Chairman, Cardiac Sciences Director, Institute of Heart and Lung Transplant and Mechanical Circulatory Support, said Ayesha first came to them in 2019 when she was 14 years of age with severe heart failure and a very poorly functioning heart.

"She became very sick and had a cardiac arrest and had to be resuscitated with CPR and put on a machine called ECMO to sustain circulation then we put in an artificial heart pump that time and eventually she recovered and went back to her country," he said.

"Over the next couple of years, she became sick again because one of her valves started leaking...and she developed severe failure on the right side of the heart and developed an infection and it became very difficult to treat her in that country," he added. Balakrishnan said getting a visa for her was very difficult. "Her mother is a single mother, they had no money or resources. We had to take care of the entire expenses including repeated hospitalisation," Dr Balakrishnan told PTI Vid-

eos. Ayesha underwent surgery with the support of Aishwarya Trust, a Chennai-based NGO, and other transplant patients' contributions. The transplant was done after getting a donor organ from a brain-dead elderly man from Delhi.

"The biggest challenge was there was no money," he said. The condition required Rs 30 to Rs 40 lakhs to treat.

"The hospital is a private hospital. And so we had to raise money through the trust, through our own resources

and generous patients. So that was a huge challenge. And these are high-risk procedures where the outcomes are not predictable. But we had to do it because otherwise, this young girl would not have survived," he said. Ayesha, who aspires to be a fashion designer, thanked the Indian government for giving her a visa to visit the country for the treatment. Ayesha's mother said the problem is that Pakistan does not have such a facility. Several transplant and cardiac surgeons cite a lack of

expertise, high costs, limited post-operative care, and a shortage of deceased donors as the primary reasons for the absence of a heart transplant programme in Pakistan.

"The two main reasons we don't perform heart transplants are the lack of deceased donors (transplant hearts can only be taken from deceased individuals) and a lack of expertise," said renowned liver transplant surgeon Dr Faisal Saud Dar.

Dr Dar, dean and CEO of the Pakistan Kidney and Liver Institute and Research Center in Lahore, emphasised the importance of raising awareness about organ donation after death to save lives.

Renowned cardiac surgeon Dr Pervaiz Chaudhry believes heart transplants will become a reality in Pakistan soon. He has asked the authorities to define "brain death" in Pakistan, facilitating requests for organ donation from deceased individuals, the report said.

"While I understand heart transplants are complex and expensive, travelling to India for such procedures is a huge burden. I wish we had our own centres offering transplants at free or affordable rates to save more lives," he said.

#### YOUR LETTERS

**Balancing grievances and public welfare**  
The ongoing farmers' agitation has brought significant disruptions, impacting public livelihoods. While some view the protests as whimsical, understanding the underlying grievances is crucial. Legal channels could have been pursued instead of inconveniencing the public. The Railways' appeal for judicial intervention highlights the urgency to alleviate widespread distress. Striking a balance between protesters' rights and public welfare is essential. Amidst the turmoil, equitable solutions are imperative for sustainable resolution.

MK Nair, Raipur

**Tesla's Indian EV Venture**  
Tesla's investment and production of electric vehicles (EVs) in India promise to invigorate the country's EV ecosystem. The Indian government's early announcement of an e-vehicle policy likely aimed to facilitate this move. With India being the world's fastest-growing car market and a populous nation, Tesla sees potential. The company's success hinges on offering affordable cars, especially considering recent sales declines in the US and China, prompting a price cut strategy there.

Shiv Kumar Mishra, Raipur

Send your articles (600-650 words) and letters (70-80 words) for this page on: [editorcentralchronicle@gmail.com](mailto:editorcentralchronicle@gmail.com)  
The letters can be edited or rewritten for clarity.



# Business



Apollo Tyres ties up with NATRAX to set up test track

Satish Sharma  
President, Apollo Tyres

## BizBriefs

BEST OF THE REST

### Q4 RESULTS

**UltraTech Cement Q4 net profit up 35 pc to Rs 2,258.6 cr; sales up 9.5**

**NEW DELHI:** UltraTech Cement Ltd on Monday reported a 35.24 per cent increase in consolidated net profit at Rs 2,258.58 crore for the fourth quarter ended March 31, 2024. The leading cement maker had posted a consolidated net profit of Rs 1,670.10 crore in the January-March quarter of the last fiscal, according to a regulatory filing from UltraTech. Its revenue from operations rose 9.41 per cent to Rs 20,418.94 crore during the period under review. It was at Rs 18,662.38 crore in the corresponding period a year ago. UltraTech's total expenses in the March quarter stood at Rs 17,381.09 crore, up 6.67 per cent. The total income of the Aditya Birla Group firm, which includes other income, was at Rs 20,554.55 crore, up 9.42 per cent in the March quarter. Ultratech's consolidated sales volume was at 35.08 million metric tonnes (MT), up 11 per cent. **PTI**

### INDICATORS

#### Share MARKETS

Market	Close	%chg
Sensex	74,671	+1.28
Nifty	22,643	+1.00
Nifty, MidCap	50,834	+0.42
Nifty SmallCap	17,017	+0.22
Nifty Bank	49,424	+2.54

Closing rates as on Mar 9, 2023 at 5:30p.m. (IST)

#### Forex RATES

##### Foreign currency Vs Rupee

US Dollar	83.46 (+)
Euro	89.30 (-)
Chinese Yuan	11.52 (+)
UAE Dirham	22.72 (+)
Pakistan Rupee	0.29 (-)
Sri Lanka Rupee	0.28 (+)

On Mar 9, 2023

#### World INDICES

Stock	Value	% chg
Dow Jones (US)	38,239	+0.40
FTSE 100 Index	8,164	+0.31
Nikkei 225 (JPN)	37,934	+0.18
CSI 300 (CHN)	3,623	+1.11

Index at 05:30 p.m. (IST, APRIL 29, 2024)

### How the market behave today

**Markets rebound sharply on buying in bank stocks firm global trends**



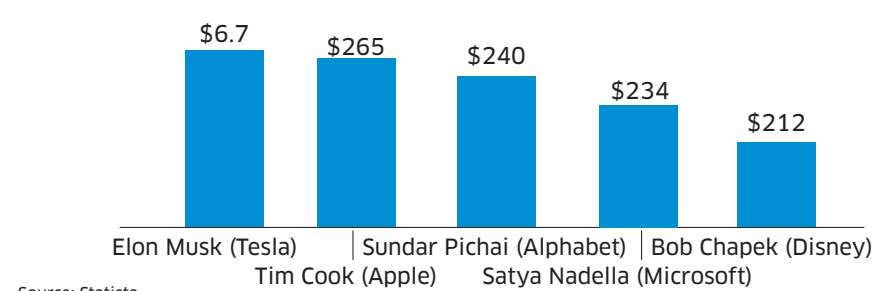
**MUMBAI:** Benchmark BSE Sensex rebounded sharply by 941 points while NSE Nifty closed above the 22,600 level on Monday on the back of buying in banking and infra shares and a global stocks rally. The 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 941.12 points or 1.28 per cent to settle at 74,671.28. During the day, it zoomed 990.99 points or 1.34 per cent to 74,721.15. The NSE Nifty went up by 223.45 points or 1 per cent to 22,643.40. From the Sensex basket, ICICI Bank climbed nearly 5 per cent after the company on Saturday said its March quarter consolidated net profit grew 18.5 per cent

to Rs 11,672 crore, helped by lower provisions. HCL Technologies tanked nearly 6 per cent after the company reported a flat year-on-year growth in net profit in the March quarter at Rs 3,986 crore.. In Asian markets, Seoul, Shanghai and Hong Kong settled in the positive territory.

**MAJOR GAINERS:** ICICI Bank, IndusInd Bank, UltraTech Cement, State Bank of India, Axis Bank, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Tata Consultancy Services, Bajaj Finance and HDFC Bank  
**MAJOR LOSERS:** HCL Technologies, ITC, Wipro and Bajaj Finserv

### The Day's NUMBERS

### TOP FIVE HIGHEST-PAID CEOS (IN MILLIONS USD)



### NEW LAUNCH

**Realme unveils P Series 5G smartphone starting from Rs 15,999**

**NEW DELHI:** Realme, India's Most Reliable Smartphone Service Provider, is thrilled to announce the launch of its latest realme P Series 5G smartphones - realme P1 Pro 5G and realme P1 5G. The two cutting-edge devices are set to disrupt the mid-range smartphone segment with their superior performance, exceptional user experience, and exclusive availability on Flipkart for Indian customers. Alongside the new P Series realme will also launch its realme Pad 2, Wi-Fi variant and realme T110 buds. Positioned as the "Best Player of Performance and Display", the new realme P Series 5G represents power. Commenting on the launch, a realme spokesperson said, "We are thrilled to introduce the realme P Series 5G, a smartphone that is set to redefine performance standards in the smartphone industry. With the realme P Series 5G, we have introduced cutting-edge technology and advanced features that will redefine the mid-range segment. **PTI**

### NEW OFFERS

**Smart Bazaar & JioMart debuts the May edition of the 'Full Paisa Vasool Sale'**

**MUMBAI:** Smart Bazaar & JioMart debuts the May edition of the Full Paisa Vasool Sale. For the first time ever, Smart Bazaar brings one of their most popular sales, 'Full Paisa Vasool Sale' in the month of May. Live between May 1st to 5th, the retail giant is offering fantastic offers on groceries, fashion, and home products, across all Smart Bazaar stores and the JioMart App. SMART Bazaar is now a complete family destination. Full Paisa Vasool Sale is the celebration of best prices and savings that all of us look forward to. Such is the magic of offers that even people who are least expected to know about the sale, remember the sale dates vividly. This thought is beautifully captured in the SMART Bazaar campaign tagline 'Offers itne bhaari, ki sabko rahe jankaari.', So, want Full Paisa Vasool Sale offers?



A Kia EV5 is displayed at the Beijing Auto Show on April 29, 2024.

# 'Around 20 critical mineral blocks to be put on sale by June'

Consequently, over 100 critical mineral blocks are on the table for taking up for auction. So there is enough supply available, the secretary said.

### Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI:** The government will put on sale around 20 critical mineral blocks in the fourth round of auction by the end of June, mines secretary V L Kantha Rao said on Monday. Rao further said that the auction process for seven critical mineral blocks put on sale in the first round is almost complete and the result will be declared

in a month's time. Critical minerals such as copper, lithium, nickel, cobalt and rare earth elements are essential components in many of today's rapidly growing clean energy technologies -- from wind turbines and electricity networks to electric vehicles. Demand for these minerals is growing quickly with clean energy transitions gathering pace. Speaking during an event here, Rao said,

### NUMBER

38

- Auction process for seven critical mineral blocks put on sale in the first round is almost complete
- 2. When it comes to mining, We have put 38 blocks (critical mineral) on auction.

"When it comes to mining, we have done a lot of auctions. We have put 38 blocks (critical mineral) on auction. We are going to come up with the next auction in end June so this auction process will continue," the secretary explained. Rao said that due to the government's efforts, the exploration of a lot of critical blocks was undertaken in the last two years. Consequently, over 100 critical mineral

blocks are on the table for taking up for auction. "So there is enough supply available. We would want the industry to come up and study these blocks and bid for them," the secretary said. The government's focus on the critical mineral exploration is at the highest, he said. The mines ministry, he said, will also start the auction of offshore mines in another three months time.

### | SUGAR CONTENT |

# Infant food formulation done on global basis: Nestle

### Press Trust Of India

**Nestle sold baby products with higher sugar content in less developed South Asian countries including India, African and Latin American nations.**

**GURUGRAM:** Nestle India Chairman & Managing Director Suresh Narayanan on Monday asserted that the company's infant food formulation for children below 18 months is done on a global basis and the allegation that "it is racially stereotyped is unfortunate" and untrue. Addressing reporters here, he said the amount of sugar content in infant foods is determined by the capability to meet the nutrition profile of a particular age group and that is universal. Nestle India's added



Suresh Narayanan, Nestle India Chairman & Managing Director.

### FACTFILE

- FSSAI through a "set of questions" has sought information on the sugar content in Cerelac from Nestle India
- FMCG major Nestle was accused of selling products with more sugar content in less developed countries.

sugar content in Cerelac is much lower than the upper limit prescribed by FSSAI, he added. "There is nothing in this product that makes it a product that is potentially of any risk or any kind of harm to the child," he said. As far as Nestle is concerned, he said a majority of sugars present in the product are natural sugars. As per the Food Safety & Standards

Authority of India (FSSAI), the permissible level of added sugar is 13.6 grams per 100 grams of feed. "Nestle is 7.1 grams, which is well below the standards and the maximum limits set up," Narayanan asserted. Earlier this month, Swiss FMCG major Nestle was accused of selling products with more sugar content in less developed countries.

### | NEW DIRECTIVE |

# Sebi comes out with new directive for BSE

### Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI:** Leading stock exchange BSE is expected to shell out more regulatory fee after the markets watchdog Sebi asked the bourse to pay the fee based on the "notional value" of its options contracts rather than on the premium value. Reacting to the development, shares of BSE have

slumped as much as 18.64 per cent on an intra-day low of Rs 2,612.0 on the NSE on Monday. Market experts expect an increase in the BSE's regulatory fee payments to Sebi due to the significant variance between the notional and premium values.

This discrepancy arises from the calculation method, which involves multiplying the contract



size by the underlying price. Notional turnover represents the overall strike price of all contracts traded in derivatives, whereas premium turnover is the sum of premiums paid on all contracts traded. As the notional value exceeds the premium turnover, opting for notional turnover as the basis entails a higher fee outlay.





LS polls are churning of Constitution  
**Akhilesh Yadav**  
 Samajwadi Party President

## Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

**LEGAL**  
**PMLA Court extends Shajahan Sheikh's judicial custody till May 13**

**KOLKATA:** A special PMLA court on Monday extended the judicial custody of the now-suspended Trinamool Congress leader, Shajahan Sheikh, till May 13 in connection with a money laundering case over alleged siphoning of cash in the garb of pisciculture business.

Sheikh was arrested by the ED on March 30 in connection with a mob assault on the agency's officials when they had gone to search his premises in Sandeshkhali in West Bengal's North 24 Parganas district on January 5 in relation to another money laundering case.

The ED has accused Sheikh of laundering money through the siphoning of ill-gotten funds derived from land grabbing of hapless villagers, masquerading as a pisciculture business. **PTI**

**EVENT**  
**Partition of India broke Northeast's natural connectivity: Jaishankar**



**NEW DELHI:** External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Monday said the partition of India in many ways broke the natural connectivity of the northeastern states and impacted the growth in the area due to political barriers as well as administrative issues. Jaishankar was addressing an event in Delhi University's Kirori Mal College on the topic 'Northeast India's Integration with South East Asia and Japan: Balancing Economic Ties and Ecological Conservation'. **PTI**

*From around the web on India*

**176th birth anniversary of Madhusudan Das celebrated in Paradip**



**PARADIP:** Odisha remembers with deep gratitude and pays its rich tributes to one of the greatest sons of "Utkal Mata" and founding fathers of Modern Odisha "Utkal Gaurav" Madhusudan Das on his 176th birth anniversary. Every year on April 28th, his birthday is celebrated as "Swabhimana Divas" and "Lawyers' Day" all across the state.

On this occasion, the Paradip Bar Association and Municipality jointly celebrated the day with paid floral tributes to the statue of Madhubabu

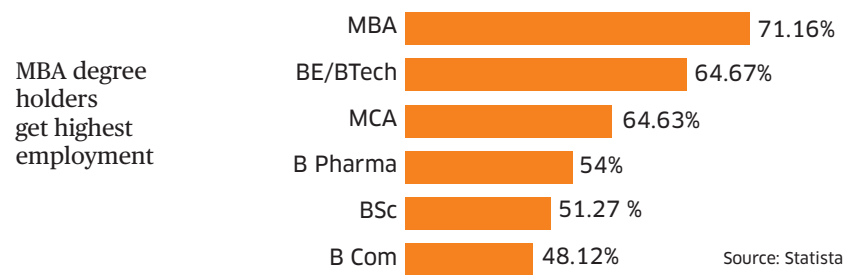
situated at Dochhaki in Paradip.

Among others, Basanta Biswal, Chairman, Paradip Municipality cum Vice President of Paradip Bar Association, Tapan Kumar Dash, General Secretary, Kailash Chandra Sahoo of Paradip Bar Association, Chabilata Rout, vice chairman and Ajit Sarangi of Paradip Municipality and others were present and highlighted the contribution Madhu Babu.

At the end, Bar Association secretary (Org.) Rabindra Kumar Jena gave vote of thanks. **PTI**

### The Day's NUMBERS

### EMPLOYABILITY AMONG GRADUATES (2023-24)



**SUICIDE**  
**NEET aspirant from Haryana hangs self in his hostel room in Kota**

**KOTA:** A 20-year-old NEET aspirant was found hanging from the ceiling fan of his hostel room in this city's Kunhari area, with his parents suspecting he was murdered, police said on Monday. This is the seventh case of suspected suicide by a NEET or JEE aspirant in this coaching hub so far this year, according to the police.

The deceased, Sumit Panchal, hailed from Haryana's Rohtak and had been preparing for NEET at a coaching institute here for over a year, the police said. His parents have demanded the registration of a murder case against unidentified persons and an impartial investigation into the matter. On demand of the deceased's parents, a medical board is being constituted to perform the autopsy, said Assistant Sub-Inspector Kaptan who is investigating the case. The boy had allegedly hanged himself around 9 hours earlier before his body was spotted by the hostel staff, the ASI said. **PTI**

**NEW RELEASE**  
**'The Black Orphan': Author S Hussain Zaidi's new novel on May 8**



**NEW DELHI:** Well-known writer and former journalist S Hussain Zaidi's upcoming novel, "The Black Orphan", described as a riveting tale of love, terror and revenge, is scheduled to release on May 8.

The book, inspired by true events, is a "blend of romance, intrigue and action". It is published by HarperCollins India. "The Black Orphan" is my latest work of fiction based on real-life events. I'm keenly awaiting its release as I believe that my readers will love the blend of romance, intrigue and action in this one. **PTI**

# 36 out of 266 candidates in Gujarat face criminal cases

Among the major parties, out of the 25 BJP candidates, four, or 15 per cent, have criminal cases against them, with two facing serious charges, as per the data of ADR

Press Trust Of India

**AHMEDABAD:** Thirty six out of the 266 candidates for the Lok Sabha polls in Gujarat have criminal cases against them, with some also facing attempt to murder and dacoity charges, as per an analysis of their affidavits by the Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR).

Elections to 25 out of the 26 Lok Sabha seats in Gujarat will be held on May 7. The BJP candidate from Surat seat has already been declared elected unopposed.

"Out of the 266 candidates, 36, or 14 per cent, have criminal charges against them, as

per details provided by them in the affidavits. Out of them, 21, or 8 per cent, have serious criminal cases against them," ADR's Gujarat coordinator Pankti Jog told reporters here on Monday.

Serious criminal cases are those which attract a maximum punishment of 5 years or more, -bailable, related to murder, rape, kidnapping, bribery, assault, causing loss to the exchequer, crimes against women, hate speech, and offences under the Prevention of Corruption Act, she said.

Among the major parties, out of the 25 BJP candidates, four, or 15 per cent, have criminal cases

### HIGHLIGHT

● 21, or 8 % have serious criminal cases against them

● Out of the 25 BJP candidates, four have criminal cases

against them, with two facing serious charges, as per the data of ADR, which is an electoral reform advocacy group.

Out of the 23 Congress candidates, six, or 26 per cent, are named in criminal cases, with three facing serious charges, showed the ADR analysis of the Election Commission data. Tribal leaders Anant Patel and Dilip

Vasava, contesting from Valsad and Bharuch seats respectively, are facing cases on charges of attempt to murder.

Patel is the Congress candidate, while Vasava is the Bharat Adivasi Party nominee.

Aam Aadmi Party candidate Chaitar Vasava and independent nominee Ismail Patel, both contesting from Bharuch seat, have the highest number of 13 criminal cases each against them.

The cases against Chaitar Vasava include of dacoity, sexual harassment, abetment of suicide and hate speech, as per the ADR data.

Ismail Patel is facing

various charges including dacoity, forgery and voluntarily causing hurt.

Out of the total 118 independent candidates, 18 have criminal cases against them, with 11 facing serious charges, the ADR said showed.

Anant Patel is also accused in cases of attempt to murder, dacoity and voluntarily causing hurt. In one case, he was also convicted and fined Rs 99. Dilip Vasava, who is facing the charge of attempt to murder, was sentenced to three years imprisonment in 2016. He has filed an appeal against the court order which is currently pending, the data showed.

## Fire at bank's zonal office in Odisha

**BARIPADA:** Three persons were injured after a fire broke out at the zonal office building of a public sector bank in Odisha's Mayurbhanj district on Monday, an official said.

They were rescued from the smoke-filled three-storey office building in Baripada, but they were in unconscious condition at that time, he said. The injured were admitted to PRM Medical College and Hospital here and their condition is stated to be stable, the official said, adding that others who were in the office came out safely. Two fire tenders were pressed into service to douse the blaze, first spotted around 1 pm, assistant fire and emergency services officer Bhabendra Nath Dey said. It was suspected that the fire broke out at the Bank of India's zonal office canteen, located on the third floor.

# Srisaillam assembly poll revolves around water crisis

Laxmi Devi Aere

Many of the residents of Sunnipenta village in Srisaillam mandal, located just 5-7 km away from the Srisaillam dam, are getting piped water supply once a week and at times once in ten days.

**SRISAILLAM:** Samuel Taylor Coleridge's 'water water everywhere but not a drop to drink' line aptly describes the paradox of rural families of the Srisaillam assembly constituency in Andhra Pradesh, who battle to get water although living near a dam.

Many of the residents of Sunnipenta village in Srisaillam mandal, located just 5-7 km away from the Srisaillam dam,



A view of Srisaillam assembly constituency. | Photo: local source

### FACTFILE

● Contesting candidates blame absence of required logistics as key reason behind the issue

are getting piped water supply once a week and

at times once in ten days.

Many, including some of the contesting candidates blame the absence of the required logistics as the key reason behind the issue.

The relatively lower level of water in the dam owing to lack of rainfall has further aggravated the water woes

here, an issue which has taken centre stage in the political campaign ahead of the May 13 Assembly polls.

Out of five mandals in Srisaillam Assembly Constituency having around 1.9 lakh voters, the problem of water shortage is acute in Srisaillam and Atmakur mandals.

### LATEST TECHNIQUE |

## Shade net farming fights water woes

Press Trust Of India

**SAMBHAJINAGAR:** The shade net technique adopted by farmers in Tupewadi village in Maharashtra's Jalna district has turned it from an area dependent on rain-based crops to a seed producer for agro companies.

Shade net farming involves



protecting crops from harsh sunlight as well as weather

varieties like frost, hail, winds etc. These nets are generally made of high density polyethylene (HDPE).

The village, in Badnapur tehsil once grew crops like maize and cotton, which are water dependent and bring about distress when the skies fail to open up, villagers told PTI on Monday.

### Classifieds

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# Sandeshkhali: SC questions WB's role as petitioner

SC's observation came while hearing the state govt's plea against HC decision

Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI:** The Supreme Court on Monday asked the West Bengal government as to why the state should come in as a petitioner for "protecting the interest" of some private individuals in the Sandeshkhali matter.

The apex court's observation came when it was hearing the state government's plea challenging the Calcutta High Court's April 10 order which directed a CBI investigation into allegations of crimes against women and land grabbing in Sandeshkhali.

"Why should the state come in as a petitioner for protecting the interest of some private individuals?" a bench of Justices B R Gavai and Sandeep Mehta asked. The counsel appearing for the state said it was aggrieved by some comments made in the high court order.

"There are comments about the state government and that is unfair because the state government has taken full action," the counsel said.

The bench said the state can go to the high court and seek expunction of remarks if it is aggrieved by that. "I (state) am aggrieved therefore, I am before



ED officials attacked when they entered Sandeshkhali. Photo: local arrangement

your lordships," the counsel said. The bench posted the matter for hearing in July and made it clear that pendency of this petition will not be used as a ground for any purposes. Senior advocate Abhishek Singhvi, who appeared for the state, said at the outset that the matter may be taken up after a couple of weeks because they have some very important information which they want to file. "This is an appeal where findings have been given.

## Rivals making fake videos with my voice, says Prime Minister

**SATARA:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said political rivals who are unable to take on the BJP-led government are now misusing technology to spread fake videos on social media.

At an election rally in Karad of western Maharashtra's Satara district, Modi raised concerns about the misuse of social media and tech-

### HIGHLIGHT

● Modi spoke of the emergence of fake videos in created using AI

● Oppn are using AI to distort quotes of leaders like me

nology. Modi spoke of the emergence of fake videos in created using artificial intelligence, and asked people to remain vigilant and report any instances of fake videos to the authorities.

"Opponents are using AI to distort quotes of leaders like me, Amit Shah and J P Nadda to create social discord," Modi said.

## Manifold increase in Uttarakhand forest fires since 2023

Press Trust Of India

Adverse climatic conditions such as humidity levels, prolonged dry spells, high temperatures, wind direction and timing of rainfall contribute to forest fires.

**DEHRADUN:** Fire incidents, including forest blazes, in Uttarakhand recorded a manifold surge during March-April compared to the same period in 2023, with some districts such as Nainital registering an over seven-fold increase.

An analysis of fire point images captured by NASA's Visible Infrared Imaging Radiometer Suite conducted by the Climate Trends think-tank shows that fire incidents in all districts of Uttarakhand, except Haridwar, increased many times in March-April this year, Palak Balyan, the study's lead researcher, told PTI on Monday.

Citing an example, she said the number of fire incidents in Nainital in March-April 2023 was 207. This jumped to 1,524 -- a seven-fold increase -- during the same period this year.

Similarly, the number of fire incidents in Champawat rose to 1,025 in March-April compared to 120 during the year-ago

period, she said.

The ambit of fire incidents includes forest fires, stubble and garbage burning. In the context of Uttarakhand, it is more about forest fires as the satellite images show most of the blazes occurred in dense forest areas of the hills, she said. Nainital, Champawat, Almora, Garhwal and Pithoragarh have been the worst affected areas. In Almora, fire incidents during the period

### FASTFACTS

● The ambit of fire incidents includes forest fires, stubble and garbage burning

● Technological advancements have helped in spotting these forest fires

rose from 299 in 2023 to 909 in 2024, 213 to 615 in Pithoragarh and 378 to 742 in Pauri Garhwal, Balyan said. Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Environment) Kapil Kumar Joshi said, "Adverse climatic conditions such as humidity levels, prolonged dry spells, high temperatures, wind direction and timing of rainfall contribute to forest fires. The changing climate conditions over the years has aggravated the adverse conditions."

### NEWSLINE

#### NEW DELHI

**Arvind Kejriwal to remain CM of Delhi: Sanjay**



The Aam Aadmi Party on Monday asserted that Arvind Kejriwal will remain the chief minister of Delhi as it downplayed the High Court's observations that no person who holds this post can be incommunicado or absent for an uncertain period. Addressing a press conference, Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh said that the decision that Kejriwal should continue to be the chief minister even after being jailed was that of the people of Delhi. "Kejriwal was the chief minister, is the chief minister and will continue to be the chief minister" of Delhi," he said. **PTI**

#### RANCHI

**Classes till grade 8 suspended**

The Jharkhand government has suspended classes up to grade 8 from Tuesday in the wake of the sweltering heat across the state. Classes 9 to 12 will function from 7am to 11.30 am, excluding prayer meetings, sports and other activities, an official said. The decision, aimed at protecting students from the adverse effects of the heatwave, applies to all types of schools, including government, private, aided, and unaided, the official added. An order by the secretary of the school education and literacy department, Uma Shankar Singh, said, "Classes from kindergarten to grade 8 are suspended in all categories of schools. **PTI**

## HC denies bail to 3 Indian Mujahideen operatives

Press Trust Of India

In three separate judgments, the high court dismissed the appeals filed by Mubeen Kadar Shaikh, Saquib Nisar and Mansoor Asghar Peerbhoy, challenging a trial court's orders denying them bail.

**NEW DELHI:** Delhi High Court on Monday refused to grant bail to three suspected Indian Mujahideen operatives facing trial for their alleged involvement in the September 2008 Delhi serial blasts that claimed 26 lives.

The high court, however, directed the trial court concerned to conclude its trial in the case by taking up hearing at least twice a week, noting that the accused have been behind bars since 2008.

In three separate judg-

ments, the high court dismissed the appeals filed by Mubeen Kadar Shaikh, Saquib Nisar and Mansoor Asghar Peerbhoy, challenging a trial court's orders denying them bail.

While denying bail to Nisar, a bench of Justice Suresh Kumar Kait and Justice Shalinder Kaur said, "The allegations against the appellant and the role attributed to him does not persuade this court to release the appellant on bail."

A lot of recovery related to the blasts was allegedly made from him, it said. Regarding Shaikh, the bench said he is a qualified computer engineer and has been alleged to be an active member of the Indian Mujahideen's media cell and, as a part of large conspiracy, had prepared the text and content of the terror mail sent in the organisation's name and does not deserve to be released on bail.

## UGC-NET postponed to June 18

**NEW DELHI:** The National Eligibility Test (NET) has been rescheduled to avoid a clash with the UPSC preliminary exam and will now be conducted on June 18, UGC Chairman Jagadesh Kumar announced on Monday. Earlier, the exam was scheduled to be held on June 16. "The National Testing Agency and UGC have decided to shift the UGC-NET from 16 June (Sunday) to 18 June 2024 (Tuesday) because of feedback received from candidates about the exam clashing with UPSC prelims. NTA will conduct UGC-NET in OMR mode across India on a single day," Kumar said. UGC-NET is an exam to determine the eligibility of Indian nationals for the "award of Junior Research Fellowship and appointment as assistant professor", "appointment as assistant professor and admission to PhD" and "admission to PhD only" in Indian universities and colleges.

## MoE to NCERT: Review, update school textbooks

REVIEW |

Press Trust Of India

So far, there has been no mandate on the frequency of updating the NCERT textbooks

**NEW DELHI:** The Ministry of Education (MoE) has asked the NCERT to conduct a review of its textbooks and update them on an yearly basis, according to sources.

So far, there has been no mandate on the frequency of updating the NCERT textbooks.

"In the fast changing world of today, it is important that the textbooks are absolutely updated. The NCERT has been asked to conduct a review on yearly basis and update them ahead of the beginning of new academic session," a source said. Currently the National Council for



NCERT reviewing syllabi, textbooks.

### FASTFACTS

● NCERT is in the process of developing textbooks according to the NCF

● This year, NCERT introduced new textbooks for classes 3 and 6

Educational Research and Training (NCERT) is in the process of developing textbooks according to the New Curriculum Framework (NCF) announced last year. "The textbooks as per the new curriculum will be ready for all classes by 2026," the source added. This year, the NCERT has introduced new text-

books for classes 3 and 6. Meanwhile days after the NCERT allegedly attributed a popular Manipur game as that of Mizoram in one of its textbooks.

### DERAILMENT |

## Mumbai local train derails at CSMT; services hit

Press Trust Of India

**MUMBAI:** A coach of a local train on the Harbour Line derailed at Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus (CSMT) here on Monday morning, affecting services for more than three hours. No passenger was injured in the derailment that occurred when a train from Panvel entered CSMT around 11.35 am, a spokesperson of the Central Railway

said. The second coach of the CSMT-bound train derailed as it pulled into platform number 2 of the station, said Swapnil Nila, chief public relations officer of the Central Railway.

A probe has been ordered into the derailment, he said.

The derailment disrupted local train services on the Harbour Line, and the CSMT-bound trains were initially terminated at



Masjid station, another official said.

The services were restored on the Harbour Line from CSMT after more than three hours in the afternoon, he said.

The first trolley of the affected coach was re-railed around 1.15 pm, and the damaged tracks were cleared around 1.55 pm, the official said.

Commuters claimed that local trains on the Harbour Line had halted for more than 30 to 45

minutes, and there was no announcement inside the trains regarding the delay. "Our train was halted between GTB and Wadala stations for 45 minutes. The heat was unbearable inside the coach, and many passengers jumped out on the track," a Kharghar resident said. According to the Central Railway, Harbour Line passengers were allowed to travel via the Main Line till Kurla station.

<p><b>AFFIDEVIT</b></p> <p>I, DOOJ BAI OGREY made this affidavit for the purpose of change of Name in the service record of my No. 15792889W Rank LNK (GNR) Name Anand Kumar Ogrey residing at Village Nawapara (Kh), Post Office Khisora, Distt-Janjgir-Champa (C.G) Pin No.495559.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>That my Mother's name changed from DOOJ BAI OGREY to DUJ BAI.</li> <li>That I am producing this affidavit for the purpose of evidence of my Mother's name.</li> <li>That the both names DOOJ BAI OGREY and DUJ BAI person to one and the same person.</li> <li>That be shall at all times hereafter in all records, deeds and writing and in all proceeding dealing with transactions, private as well as under all occasions what so ever be known as only DUJ BAI.</li> <li>That what is state above is true and correct to the best of knowledge information and believe nothing material been concealed there from.</li> </ol> <p>DUJ BAI VILLAGE NAWAPARA (KH) POST OFFICE KHISORA Distt. JANJGIR-CHAMPA (C.G.) Pin No 495559</p>	<p><b>NAME CHANGE</b></p> <p>It is informed to the general public that I POORVI DASARI D/O SHRIDHAR BABU DASARI, resident of C-19, GREEN-GARDEN COLONY, BILASPUR (C.G.) 495001, have changed my old name POORAVI DASARI, so in future I should Be recognized by my new name that is POORVI DASARI in all government and other documents.</p> <p><b>POORVI DASARI</b> D/o SHRIDHAR BABU DASARI, Bilaspur (C.G.) 495001</p>
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**न्यायालय- प्रथम अपर जिला न्यायाधीश बिलासपुर (छ.ग.)**  
(पीठासीन अधिकारी- श्री सुनील कुमार जायसवाल)

**पंजाब नेशनल बैंक** विरुद्ध **मेसर्स स्पाईस बंगला रेस्टोरेंट**

प्रकरण क्र. 05 व / 2024  
प्रकरण दिनांक-22/06/2024  
प्रोसेस क्रमांक-----

प्रति,  
मेसर्स स्पाईस बंगला रेस्टोरेंट, प्रो. श्रीमती शिवानी मुखर्जी (सुनिता मुखर्जी)  
प्लॉट- प्लॉट नं.- २ / 28, प्रथम तल केनरा बैंक पास राजकिशोर नगर,  
बिलासपुर (छ.ग.) पिन नं. 495006  
नियामती- प्लॉट नं.- 83 शिक्षक कालोनी उमलसपुर, रेल्वे स्टेशन के पास  
बिलासपुर (छ.ग.) पिन नं.-495002

द्वय न्यायालय में यहाँ ने प्रतिवादी के विरुद्ध वाद वास्तविक रूप की सुनौती बयान कीमती 12,80,686.29/- रुपये हेतु वाद प्रस्तुत किया है जिसमें प्रतिवादी की जर्जिस्ट्री हेतु दिनांक 22/06/2024 निम्न है।  
आप उक्त प्रकरण की पेशी दिनांक 22/06/2024 को स्वयं या अपने अधिवक्ता के माध्यम से उपस्थित होकर आपत्ति / समझ जवाब मय दस्तावेज प्रस्तुत कर सकते है नियत पेशी दिनांक तक कोई आपत्ति / जवाब प्राप्त न होने पर प्रकरण में एकापक्षीय कार्यवाही की जायेगी।  
यदि किसी कारणवश पेशी दिनांक 22/06/2024 को इस न्यायालय में अवकाश घोषित हो जाता है या सर्कजनिक अवकाश घोषित हो जाता है अथवा पीठासीन अधिकारी अवकाश में रहते है तो उसके अगले कार्य दिवस को अधिम कार्यवाही की जायेगी।  
आज दिनांक 26/04/2024 को मेरे इन्तार्फ एवं न्यायालय की मुहर लगाकर जारी किया गया।  
दिनांक 26.04.2024  
बिलासपुर (छ.ग.)

(श्री सुनील कुमार जायसवाल)  
प्रथम अपर जिला न्यायाधीश, बिलासपुर (छ.ग.)



# Battle-2024



Uniform Civil Code is nothing but political rhetoric, and Hindus in no way will benefit from it.

Mamata Banerjee  
West Bengal CM

## Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

### LO SABHA POLLS

**Congress names 4 more candidates for Punjab Lok Sabha seats**

**NEW DELHI:** The Congress on Monday announced four more Lok Sabha candidates from Punjab, fielding PCC chief Amarinder Singh Brar (Raja Waring) from Ludhiana and party general secretary Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa from Gurdaspur. The party has fielded former MP Vijay Inder Singla from Anandpur Sahib and Kulbir Singh Zira from Khadoor Sahib, replacing sitting MP Jasbir Singh Gill. Congress MP from Anandpur Sahib Manish Tewari has been shifted to Chandigarh Lok Sabha constituency while Ludhiana MP Ravneet Singh Bittu has joined the BJP. With Monday's list, the party has announced candidates for 12 of the 13 Lok Sabha seats in Punjab. The latest names were finalised at the party's Central Election Committee meeting held on Saturday. Punjab goes to polls on June 1, the last phase of elections.

### NOMINATION FILES

**Hemant Soren's wife Kalpana files nomination as JMM candidate**



**RANCHI:** Jailed Jharkhand ex-CM Hemant Soren's wife Kalpana on Monday filed her nomination as the JMM candidate from Gandey assembly seat in the state. Bypoll to the seat is scheduled on May 20 along with the parliamentary elections in the state. The seat in Giridih district fell vacant following the resignation of JMM MLA Sarfaraz Ahmad. Kalpana, 48, was accompanied by Jharkhand Chief Minister Champai Soren and brother-in-law Basant Soren, among others, when she filed her papers.

### LS Election Campaign

**When is Modi govt going to pay Karnataka's MGNREGS workers their wages, asks Cong**



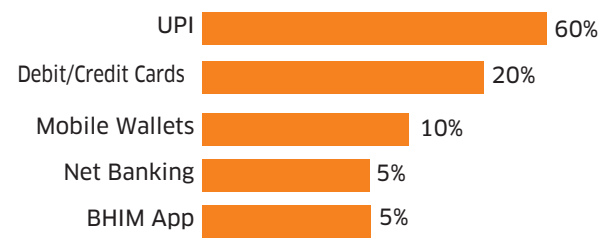
**NEW DELHI:** Attacking the Modi government over key issues in Karnataka, the Congress on Monday questioned the "delay" in the vital Bagalkote-Kudachi Railway line project and also asked when it is going to pay the state's MGNREGS workers their wages. Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh posed questions to Prime Minister Narendra Modi ahead of his rally in Bagalkote in Karnataka. "Why has the Modi Government failed to deliver the Bagalkote-Kudachi Railway line? Why is the Modi Government holding up the Upper Bhadra and

Mahadayi projects? When will the PM pay Karnataka's MGNREGA workers?" Ramesh said in a post on X. Elaborating on what he said were "jumla details", Ramesh said the Bagalkote-Kudachi line of the South-Western Railway has now been delayed by more than eight years. As of today, only 33 per cent, or 46 km of the 142 km line has been completed, he said. "Originally sanctioned in 2010-11 at an outlay of Rs 986 crore, the project has now seen its cost balloon to Rs 1,649 crore.

### The Day's NUMBERS

This breakdown provides insight into the distribution of digital payment preferences among users in India.

### FIVE POPULAR DIGITAL PAYMENT OPTIONS IN INDIA ALONG WITH THEIR APPROXIMATE PERCENTAGE USAGE.



Source: Statista

### ELECTION

**Hindus in no way will benefit from UCC: Mamata**

**JANGIPUR:** West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Monday criticised the BJP for using the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) as a political ploy in the elections, asserting that Hindus will not benefit from it. Addressing back-to-back rallies in minority-dominated Murshidabad and Jangipur constituencies in Murshidabad district, Banerjee accused the BJP of resorting to divisive tactics fearing defeat in the initial phases of polling. "Whenever there are elections, they use one issue or the other to flare up communal tensions. This time they are talking about the UCC and propagating that it is against a particular community. But this UCC is nothing but political rhetoric, and Hindus in no way will benefit from it," she said.

Banerjee highlighted a growing anti-BJP sentiment nationwide, especially evident after the first two phases of voting.

### LS ELECTION

**TMC's Sushmita Dev slams BJP over Hassan MP Revanna's sex**



**NEW DELHI:** Trinamool Congress (TMC) leader Sushmita Dev on Monday slammed the BJP over the alleged sex scandal involving Hassan MP Prajwal Revanna of the JD(S), and criticised the BJP for backing the accused.

In a video statement issued after a letter written by BJP leader Devaraj Gowda to the Karnataka BJP president informing him about a pen drive with the alleged videos surfaced, Dev accused the BJP of hypocrisy.

She said the scandal that unfolded "goes to the top".

# Will PM still remain silent: Priyanka Gandhi slams BJP over sex scandal?

A case of sexual harassment and stalking was registered against ex PM Deve Gowda's son H D Revanna and grandson and Hassan MP Prajwal Revanna respectively.

Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI:** The Congress on Monday attacked the BJP over the alleged sex scandal involving the grandson of JD(S) supremo H D Deve Gowda, with party leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra asking whether Prime Minister Narendra Modi will remain silent on the matter.

The opposition party also asked why the BJP went ahead with its alliance with the JD(S) when a BJP leader had written to the party's Karnataka unit president, exposing the

presence of a pen drive full of "sleaze videos of Prajwal Revanna".

A case of sexual harassment and stalking was registered on Sunday against former prime minister Deve Gowda's son H D Revanna and grandson and Hassan MP Prajwal Revanna respectively. The case was registered on a complaint by their cook, who alleged that four months after she started working for them, Revanna used to sexually harass her and Prajwal used to make video calls to her daughter and have "vulgar conver-

### HIGHLIGHT

● Congress questions BJP's alliance with JD(S) amidst sex scandal involving Deve Gowda's grandson, urges PM Modi to break silence.

● BJP leader's letter exposes pen drive with "sleaze videos" of Prajwal Revanna, raising questions on party's actions and PM's endorsement.

sations" with her. In a post in Hindi on X, Priyanka

Gandhi said, "The leader with whom the PM gets photographed by placing his hand on his shoulder. The leader for whom the PM himself campaigned 10 days ago. Praised him on stage. Today, that leader of Karnataka is absconding from the country." "Just hearing about his heinous crimes committed is heart-wrenching. This ruined the lives of hundreds of women. Modi ji, will you still remain silent?" the Congress general secretary said. Congress' media and publicity department head Pawan Khara shared

on X a letter written by BJP leader Devaraj Gowda to the Karnataka BJP president on December 8 last year. He said the letter exposed the presence of a pen drive full of "sleaze videos of Prajwal Revanna". "Why did the bjp still go ahead with the alliance? Why no action was taken on the serial rapes video recorded and kept in the pen-drive? Why did the PM campaign for and shared the stage with Prajwal Revanna despite knowing that Prajwal is the kingpin of world's biggest & murkiest sex abuse?" Khara said.

### | ELECTION RALLY |

## Shah warns INDIA bloc victory may cause leadership scramble

Press Trust Of India

During a rally in Jhanjarpur, Union Home Minister Amit Shah predicts leadership chaos if opposition triumphs.



BJP leader Amit Shah addresses a public meeting for Lok Sabha polls.

**JHANJARPUR:** Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday warned that a victory of the opposition INDIA bloc, "even by mistake", will lead to a scramble among top leaders of the alliance for the prime minister's post.

Addressing a rally in Jhanjarpur Lok Sabha constituency of Bihar, Shah claimed that leaders like M K Stalin, Sharad Pawar, Lalu Prasad and Mamata Banerjee may agree to a year each of premiership,

### FACTFILE

● Shah asserts that a third term for Prime Minister Narendra Modi is crucial for eliminating corruption nationwide.

by turns, and "Rahul baba (Rahul Gandhi) will have to settle for whatever is left of the tenure". In contrast, he said, "a third term for Prime Minister Narendra Modi will lead to elimination of corruption from the entire country, including

Bihar, and eradication of casteism in the state".

"Modi's return to power is certain. But, suppose, even by mistake, if the INDIA alliance comes to power, what will happen? Who will be the prime minister? Will it be Stalin, Sharad Pawar, Mamata Banerjee or Rahul Gandhi? They will all settle for sharing the top post for a year each.

Is it how the country can be run?" Shah said. India wants a "mazboot" (strong) PM, not a "majboor" (weak) prime minister, the senior BJP leader asserted. Slamming Gandhi for his "new-found concern for OBCs", the home minister said "the Congress party has always been against the Other Backward Classes.

### | MARD |

## Voice for men's rights enters electoral fray

Abhinav Pandey

**LUCKNOW:** Unlike other political parties, winning or losing elections does not matter to the Mera Adhikaar Rashtriya Dal (MARD), which has jumped into the electoral battle to be the voice of the 'mard' and to defend men's honour. MARD has lost deposits on all seats it has contested so

far since it was formed in 2018 but its leaders say they are undeterred by elections losses. The party has released its 'MANIFESTO' for the ongoing Lok Sabha polls with the slogan "Beton ke samman me, 'mard' utre maidan me" (In honour of sons, men have stepped on to the battleground). "We have jumped into the fray in honour of men, to raise



**We have jumped into the fray in honour of men, to raise the voice for those who are harassed**

Ashutosh Kumar Pandey  
General Secretary



the voice for those who are harassed and exploited in the name of women's security. Winning and losing does not matter to us," MARD party national general secretary Ashutosh Kumar Pandey told PTI. When asked about the fate of his party candidates contesting polls this time, he candidly accepts, "This time too, they can lose their deposits."



Exploring the underwater world like my Bollywood idols is a dream come true.

Sushmita Sen  
Bollywood Actress



# Excursion

CELEB TALK

## Bollywood's watersport escapes: Dive into adventure!

If you're seeking that wanderlust feeling and a rush of adrenaline, here are some watersport destinations inspired by bollywood's A-listers.



Get ready to dive into thrilling watersport adventures inspired by your favorite Bollywood celebrities! From Sonakshi Sinha to Shradha Kapoor and Sushmita Sen, these stars share a passion for diving and snorkeling, making the Maldives an ideal destination for underwater exploration. With luxurious resorts and crystal-clear waters teeming with vibrant coral reefs, the Maldives offers world-class diving and snorkeling experiences. Snorkelers can spot everything from clownfish to manta rays and reef sharks, with many hotels featuring accessible house reefs. Spain's Costa Brava

**Exploring the underwater world like my Bollywood idols is a dream come true. From the Maldives to Costa Brava, every dive is a cinematic adventure.**

Sushmita Sen  
BOLLYWOOD ACTRESS

became a must-visit after the iconic scuba diving scene in "Zindagi Na MilegiDobara" featuring Hrithik Roshan, AbhayDeol, Farhan Akhtar,

and Katrina Kaif. With over 200 kilometers of coastline, Costa Brava offers diverse dive sites, from underwater caves to shipwrecks, and exotic marine life.

Lisa Haydon brought wake-surfing into the limelight with her videos in Hong Kong. Tai Tam is the hotspot for wake-surfing, offering calm waters and consistent waves, perfect for beginners and pros alike. Parineeti Chopra's open-water diving adventures in Indonesia's Kakaban Island showcase the beauty of marine life and coral reefs. Organized by Mumbai's Orca Dive Club, these trips offer unforgettable experiences for diving enthusiasts.



Bollywood stars inspire aquatic adventures! Dive into crystal-clear waters like your favorite celebrities for thrilling experiences.

### WindowView

WHAT TO WATCH



#### MARRAKESH

**Sunshine, souks, and centenary celebrations**  
In Marrakesh, Morocco, temperatures hover between 26°C to 29°C with abundant sunshine, followed by pleasantly cool evenings. Explore the medina after dark for a unique experience. During Ramadan, the markets remain open until around midnight, perfect for souvenir shopping and sampling Moroccan

street food. This year marks the centenary of the city's famed Majorelle Garden, offering various events at the botanical gardens and colorful cubist villa. Enjoy the vibrant atmosphere, rich culture, and historical landmarks that Marrakesh has to offer during your visit.



#### TURKISH RIVIERA

**Spring escapes on the turquoise coast**  
Spring is the ideal time to explore Turkey's stunning Turquoise Coast, stretching from Antalya to Bodrum. With temperatures rising and sunny days ahead, the beaches, ruins, and landscapes are yours to enjoy without the summer crowds. Choose from luxurious resorts

like Six Senses Kaplankaya in Bodrum or the opulent Titanic Mardan Palace in Antalya. For an adults-only, all-inclusive getaway, head to Rixos Premium Gocek in Dalaman, nestled within a nature reserve. Whether you're seeking relaxation or adventure, the Turkish Riviera offers something for everyone during this magical season.



#### SAKURA SEASON

**Exploring Japan's cherry blossoms at lake Kawaguchi**

In April, Japan's Sakura blooms adorn the landscape, though it's not the ideal time for climbing Mount Fuji. For a stunning view, head to Lake Kawaguchi, where the blossoms reach their peak mid-month. Be

prepared for crowds—it's the peak tourism season post-pandemic. However, amidst the throngs, you can still savor the visual feast of pink blossoms while indulging in the warm waters of an onsen, creating a truly memorable experience. Don't forget to explore the surrounding area, where you'll find charming villages and breathtaking scenery to complement your Sakura viewing adventure.



#### SONGKRAN SPLASH

**Celebrating in Bangkok, Thailand**

Head to Bangkok, Thailand, for warm weather, blooming tropical foliage, and the annual Songkran Water Festival. Enjoy traditional and modern celebrations, with plenty of splashing fun to ring in the Thai New Year. Join locals in temple offerings, engage in water fights on the streets, or attend hotel pool parties. Don't miss the floral float

parade and sand pagoda building competitions. It's also the shoulder season for tourism, so you'll get more value for your baht at hotels citywide. Explore vibrant markets, indulge in delicious street food, and discover the rich cultural heritage of the city.



#### CALIFORNIA COOL

**Coachella and palm springs escape**

California, US hosts one of the world's most popular music festivals—Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival in Indio. This year, headliners include Lana Del Rey, Doja Cat, Tyler the Creator, and No Doubt. After the festival, unwind in Palm Springs. Stay at Life House Palm Springs, a new hotel with an Insta-friendly

swimming pool, a beautiful cactus garden with fire pits, and uniquely decorated bedrooms. Opening at the end of last year, it's the perfect spot to relax and soak up the California sunshine.

### | RAMEN ADVENTURES |

## Ramen adventures: Exploring Japan's culinary delight and cultural icon



Ramen isn't merely a culinary delight in Japan; it has evolved into a cultural phenomenon.

#### HIGHLIGHT

● From Tokyo's bustling streets to innovative twists, each bowl tells a story. Amid challenges, ramen adapts with home delivery and kits, reflecting a rich tapestry of taste sensations and cultural nuances."



tions like home delivery services and packaged ramen kits have emerged to meet the demand, showcasing ramen's adaptability in changing times. Crafting authentic ramen from scratch is an art, requiring hours of simmering stock with ingredients like pork, beef, or chicken. Toppings

and flavorings range from garlic and ginger to bean sprouts and seaweed, offering a rich tapestry of taste sensations.

From traditional favorites to avant-garde creations like coffee ramen, each bowl of ramen tells a unique story, reflecting cultural nuances and personal touches. So, when you're in Japan, don't miss the chance to savor this iconic dish it's more than just food; it's an experience that tantalizes the senses, nourishes the soul, and leaves lasting memories of your journey through Japan's rich culinary landscape. Whether you're slurping noodles in a bustling ramen joint, enjoying a bowl at home, or exploring ramen shops across Japan, the essence of ramen culture will linger in your taste buds and heart for years to come.

Central Chronicle News  
Explore the global fascination with Japan's beloved dish, delving into its intricate flavors and cultural significance behind every bowl.

Experience the culinary magic of ramen in Japan, where it's not just a meal but an adventure. Tokyo's bustling streets boast long queues for this beloved dish, showcasing its worldwide appeal. From classic flavors to innovative twists, ramen offers endless possibilities for exploration. Join a ramen tour in Tokyo's Shibuya district to discover regional specialties and dive deep into Japanese culture. Despite its global success, ramen shops in Japan have faced challenges due to the pandemic and rising costs. However, innovative solu-



# Sports



I am truly honored to be re-inducted into the TOPS core group. It's a testament to my hard work and dedication.

**Deepika Kumari**  
Archer

## Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

### GOLF

#### Hannah Green emerges winner at LPGA Tour's Eagle LA championship

**LOS ANGELES:** Hannah Green won the LPGA Tour's JM Eagle LA Championship for the second straight year, holing out twice from off the greens in a pivotal back-nine stretch at challenging Wilshire Country Club.

A year after making a 25-foot birdie on the final hole of regulation and winning on the second hole of a playoff, Green – with help from Maja Stark – took the late drama out of this one for her fifth LPGA Tour victory and second of the year. "It wasn't as eventful as the last couple days. I was nervous," Green said.

"And I've never been able to win having a lead into the last hole like that, so it is nice to be able to get it done earlier in the round." Green closed with a 5-under 66 to beat Stark by three strokes. The 27-year-old Australian, also the winner early last month in Singapore, finished at 12-under 272.

### SOCCER

#### Deshpande was key for us in the Powerplay overs: Rituraj Gaikwad

**CHENNAI:** Tushar Deshpande's breathtaking bowling display in powerplay made the difference for Chennai Super Kings in their 78-run win over Sunrisers Hyderabad and skipper Rituraj Gaikwad acknowledged that the pacer brought the momentum back in the side, which was missing this season. Deshpande put his heart and soul into his bowling, returning figures of 4/27 off three overs. Three of those wickets came in powerplay, which broke the back of the mighty SRH batting lineup, led by Travis Head. "One area where we lost momentum in a few games was not getting wickets in the powerplay. It is the only way we can put the opposition on the back foot. Deshpande bowled really well. His hard work is paying off," said CSK skipper Gaikwad, who scored 98 off 54 deliveries to give his team a 200-plus total to defend.

### INDIAN PREMIER LEAGUE

#### T20 was always a batter's game but has grown to new heights this IPL: Cummins



**CHENNAI:** T20 format has always favoured the batters and that has gone to a 'whole new level' in this Indian Premier League, feels Sunrisers Hyderabad skipper Pat Cummins. The Australian gave his thoughts following SRH's 78-run loss to defending champions Chennai Super Kings here on Sunday. IPL 2024 has witnessed six 250 plus totals already with 200 no more a safe total. Prior this edition, 250 was only breached twice in the history of IPL. "T20 is always on the batting side, and it has gone to a

whole new level this season. The way we set up, we had the best chance if we got some really aggressive batters, and that's the way to win the tournament," Cummins said at the post-match press conference. "Frankly, we don't have much (bowling) options. It's not Test cricket, with the ball swinging around. There's not much sideways movement, and there's not much on the wicket either.

Analysing the reason for the loss to CSK, he admitted that the side has some work to do while chasing.

### The Day's NUMBERS

Female athletes with the highest total earnings up to December 31, 2023

### THE WORLD'S HIGHEST-PAID FEMALE ATHLETES (IN MILLIONS)

Iga Swiatek	\$23.9
Eileen Gu	\$22.1
CocoGauff	\$21.7
Emma Raucanu	\$15
Naomi Osaka	\$15

### ISL SOCCER

#### Mohun Bagan sends Odisha FC packing to enter ISL finals

**KOLKATA:** Mohun Bagan kept themselves in the hunt for an unprecedented double in the ISL by storming into the final with a 3-2 aggregate win over Odisha FC here.

Having lost the first leg of the semifinal 1-2 at Bhubaneswar, Mohun Bagan began on a dominant note and struck through Jason Cummings in the 22nd minute to bring it level for the Mariners on aggregate.

After a flurry of attacks went begging thanks to a resolute display by Amrinder Singh under the bar, Mohun Bagan finally struck the winning goal by comeback man Sahal Abdul Samad who came off the bench to strike from Manvir Singh's assist in the 90+3rd minute.

The victory came two weeks after Mohun Bagan won their maiden League Winners Shield at the same venue by defeating Mumbai City FC 2-1 to top the top-tier competition.

### TENNIS

#### Alcaraz wins comfortable round at Madrid Open



**MADRID:** Carlos Alcaraz continues to make a successful return from injury at the Madrid Open. The two-time defending champion cruised past Thiago Seyboth Wild in the third round on Sunday to earn another comfortable win. Alcaraz won 6-3, 6-3 for his second straight victory in his first tournament after skipping Monte Carlo and Barcelona because of an arm injury. The second-seeded Alcaraz had made his debut at the tournament with a 6-2, 6-1 win over Alexander Shevchenko. Alcaraz had been scheduled to play at the Monte Carlo Masters and he also missed Barcelona to try to fully recover ahead of the French Open next month.



Inter Milan's Argentine forward #10 Lautaro Martinez (C) celebrates with teammates and staff during a parade.

# Inter Milan celebrates title win with a parade

Press Trust Of India

**MILAN:** Thousands of fans lined the streets as Inter Milan was paraded in an open-air bus from the San Siro stadium to the city cathedral to celebrate the Nerazzurri's 20th Italian league title. The celebration followed a 2-0 home win over Torino on Sunday, which came six days after Inter sealed the title in memorable fashion with a derby victory over city rival AC Milan.

Inter players threw coach Simone Inzaghi into the air on the San Siro pitch to get the celebration rolling.

Hakan Calhanoglu scored two second-half goals to extend Inter's advantage to 19 points over second-place Milan, which was held to a 0-0 draw by third-place Juventus on Saturday.

Tammy Abraham scored his first goal after a long injury layoff to earn fifth-place Roma a

### HIGHLIGHT

● Inter Milan clinched their 20th Serie A title with a decisive 2-0 victory over Torino in the finals, sealing their triumph.

● The streets of Milan erupted in jubilation as players and fans came together for an open-air bus parade to celebrate Inter's historic win.

2-2 draw at defending champion Napoli, which is ninth.

Still, Roma had its advantage over sixth-place Atalanta reduced to two points after Atalanta beat Empoli 2-0.

Also, fourth-place Bologna required a late goal from Alexis Saelemaekers to secure a 1-1 draw with relegation-threatened Udinese.

Paulo Dybala put Roma ahead with a penalty near the hour mark

and Mathias Olivera equalized for Napoli with a deflected shot. Then Victor Osimhen converted a penalty for Napoli following a foul on Khvicha Kvaratskhelia before Abraham found the target with a header.

Roma defender Evan Ndicka assisted on Abraham's goal by heading on a corner kick from Dybala. Earlier this month, Ndicka suffered a collapsed left lung in a game against Udinese.

### | T20 WORLD CUP |

# Matt Henry and Rachin first-time inductees in NZ T20 WC squad

## Archer Deepika Kumari re-inducted into TOPS

**NEW DELHI:** Former world number one archer Deepika Kumari, who won a silver medal at the just-concluded World Cup in Shanghai, has been re-inducted into the Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS) core group ahead of the Paris Games, the Sports Ministry announced on Monday. Deepika, who missed the entire season last year after becoming a mother in December 2022, recently made a comeback and has been doing well both at the domestic and international stage. The 29-year-old recurve archer, who is a three-time Olympian, had also medalled at the Asia Cup earlier this year. So far, only Dhiraj Bommadevara has qualified for the Games in the men's individual event owing to his silver medal at the Asian Qualifying Tournament in Bangkok last year.

Press Trust of India000.

**AUCKLAND:** Kane Williamson will lead New Zealand in the T20 World Cup for the fourth time while opener Devon Conway, recovering from a thumb injury, has also been named in the 15-man provisional squad for the ICC event in USA and Caribbean in June.

The squad led by Williamson was named on Monday at the ANZ Centre here.

Conway was ruled out of the ongoing IPL due to a thumb injury he suffered in February.

Bowler Matt Henry and batting all-rounder Rachin Ravindra are the only two members of the 15 without T20 World Cup experience.



New Zealand's Kane Williamson with support staff during a practice session.

### FACTFILE

● Kane Williamson leading the NZ side for the upcoming T20 World Cup.

This will be Williamson's sixth appearance in a T20 World Cup squad. His experience

is bettered only by Tim Southee, who has earned selection in his seventh T20 World Cup squad and currently sits as the leading wicket-taker in the history of T20 Internationals.

Seasoned Trent Boult, who opted out of a NZC

central contract, has been selected in his fifth T20 World Cup squad.

The squad also boasts significant recent experience in the conditions with 13 of the 15-man group featuring in the team's last tour to the West Indies in 2022.

### | INDIAN PREMIER LEAGUE |

# No help for bowlers, 250 plus targets easily breached: Siraj

Press Trust of India

**AHMEDABAD:** Royal Challengers Bengaluru pacer Mohammed Siraj on Sunday rued the lack of help for bowlers in T20 cricket, saying smaller grounds and flat pitches are making 250-plus totals the new normal.

This IPL, the 250-run mark has been breached

eight times as batters have employed an ultra-aggressive approach, making full use of the 'Impact player' rule and flat surfaces on offer.

"See, nowadays cricket is really different, now 250-260 is made in every second match, earlier 250 was a rare thing," said Siraj after RCB overhauled 201-run target

There is no help for bowlers, there is smaller grounds and flat wickets, there is no swing in the ball, so lots of changes.

**Mohammed Siraj**  
RCB pacer



set by Gujarat Titans in 16 overs.

Life has been hard for the bowlers, especially this IPL as teams have looked to go for big hits to keep the run-rate high even after the powerplay.

Siraj, who has taken six wickets in nine IPL games so far, said luck plays a big role in T20 cricket but he tries to keep his steady mindset.



# Sports News



Lucknow Super Giants' players warm up before IPL match against Mumbai Indians.

## Rahul's IPL performance crucial for WC selection

**Press Trust of India**  
Rahul's strike-rate in T20 cricket has always been a bone of contention.

**LUCKNOW:** With T20 World Cup selection round the corner, KL Rahul will have one final chance to stake claim on the second wicketkeeper's spot in the Indian team when Lucknow Super Giants host Mumbai Indians in the Indian Premier League here on Tuesday.

Rahul's strike-rate in T20 cricket has always been a bone of conten-

tion. Despite the advantage of field restrictions in the Powerplay, Rahul has often started his innings on a slow note in the IPL. However, the LSG captain has managed to change gears this season.

In the 2024 edition, he has scored 378 runs at a strike rate of 144.27 but it is still less than that of Rishabh Pant (160.60) and Sanju Samson (161.08).

While comeback man Pant has all but sealed the first wicketkeeper's spot in the marquee event in the Caribbean islands and the USA in

### Squads

#### Mumbai Indians

Hardik Pandya (c), Rohit Sharma, Suryakumar Yadav, Dewald Brevis, Jasprit Bumrah, Piyush Chawla, Gerald Coetzee, Tim David, Shreyas Gopal, Ishan Kishan (wk), Anshul Kamboj, Kumar Kartikeya, Akash Madhwal, Kwen Maphaka, Mohammad Nabi, Shams Mulani, Naman Dhir, Shiv- alik Sharma, Romario Shephard, Arjun Tendulkar, Nuwan Thushara, Tilak Varma, Harvik Desai, Nehal Wadhwa, Luke Wood.

#### Lucknow Super Giants

Quinton de Kock, KL Rahul (c & wk), Deepak Hooda, Ayush Badoni, Marcus Stoinis, Nicholas Pooran, Krunal Pandya, Ravi Bishnoi, Mohsin Khan, Shamar Joseph, Yash Thakur, Manimaran Siddharth, Prerak Mankad, Arshad Khan, Krishnappa Gowtham, Amit Mishra, Kyle Mayers, Ashton Turner, Matt Henry, Naveen-ul-Haq, Devdutt Padikkal, Yudhvir Singh Charak, Mayank Yadav and Arshin Kulkarni.

June by displaying some sharp work behind the stumps and sensational knocks with the bat, Samson has also made a strong case for himself by playing match-win-

ning knocks for Rajasthan Royals at a brisk pace.

In such a scenario, Rahul needs to play more fearlessly and exploit the field

restrictions not only to strengthen his Indian team selection prospects but also to help his side score in excess of 200 runs, which has become a norm in this edition. LSG were handed a seven-wicket loss by Rajasthan Royals, who chased the 197-run target with six balls to spare. The onus will also be on the team's big hitting trio of Quinton de Kock, Marcus Stoinis and Nicholas Pooran to hit those towering maximums and get match-winning totals as the race for the playoff heats.

## Gaikwad's smart batting earns praise from Hussey

**CHENNAI:** The ability to remain one step ahead of the bowlers has allowed Ruturaj Gaikwad to flourish in this Indian Premier League, reckons CSK batting coach Michael Hussey.

After an unbeaten 108 in the previous game, CSK skipper Gaikwad was on the cusp of another century on Sunday but fell two runs short of the milestone against Sunrisers Hyderabad.



"Gaikwad is such a wonderful player. He is a brilliant timer of the cricket ball. I've been asking him what his secret is in terms of his placement since he always finds the gaps," said Hussey after the win over Sunrisers.

"He is a smart batsman as well. He knows when to attack and when to soak up pressure. He plays spin and seam well. He can score all around the ground.

### THOMAS CUP BADMINTON

## India secures quarterfinal berth

**Press Trust of India**

HS Prannoy returned to winning ways, defeating Harry Huang 21-15 21-15 to give India a 1-0 lead.

**CHENGDU:** Defending champions India sailed to the knockout stage of the Thomas Cup with a 5-0 rout of England in a Group C contest here on Monday.

India, who defeated Thailand 4-1 in their opening tie, notched up a second consecutive win to qualify for the quarterfinals.

HS Prannoy returned to winning ways, defeating Harry Huang 21-15 21-15 to give India a 1-0 lead.

"To give a start to the team is really important, it gives a good boost to the team to go ahead. It is really important to finish off the matches clinically, you saw against Thai-



### HIGHLIGHT

● Kidambi Srikanth recorded a 21-16 21-11 victory over Nadeem Dalvi.

land one match was bad for us. So it's important to finish off the matches clinically," Prannoy said after his match.

The star pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty was stretched to three games by Ben Lane and Sean Vandy in the first doubles fixtures before 2022 world champions bronze

medallist picked up a 21-17 19-21 21-15 win in one hour five minutes.

Former world number one Kidambi Srikanth recorded a 21-16 21-11 victory over Nadeem Dalvi to give India an unassailable 3-0 lead.

"Happy with the way both the matches have gone for me (in the tournament). There is a lot of pressure on players to win games. I feel I have played little easier opponents so far. But from now we will face better opponents and I have to be my best," Srikanth said.

## Real Betis and Sevilla call it draw

**MADRID:** Real Betis was frustrated in its pursuit of a European place in the Spanish league after a 1-1 draw at home against Sevilla in the Sevilla derby. Betis went ahead with a goal by Isco in the 38th minute but Kike Salas equalized for the visitors in the 56th, leaving Betis two points from sixth-place Real Sociedad in the final Europa Conference League spot. Fifth-place Athletic Bilbao was nine points ahead of Betis in the final Europa League qualification place. Sevilla stayed in 13th but opened a 12-point gap to the relegation zone with five rounds to go.

Betis was awarded a penalty kick shortly after Sevilla equalized, but the call was reversed with the help of video review. Isco's penalty kick came after a controversial handball. Betis was coming off two straight victories – against Celta Vigo and at Valencia – after a run of four straight losses.

## People can talk anything they want to, I know my game better: Virat Kohli

**Press Trust of India**

**AHMEDABAD:** Indian superstar Virat Kohli on Sunday dismissed the constant talk over his strike rate against spin in the middle overs, saying he knows his game better than those who question his approach.

Kohli upped his game against spinners to make 70 not out off 44 balls in Royal Challenger Bengaluru's nine-wicket win

over Gujarat Titans here on Sunday. However, the likes of Sunil Gavaskar had questioned his lack of intent against Sunrisers Hyderabad on Thursday when he made 51 off 43 balls. His knock was in stark contrast to Rajat Patidar's uber aggressive 50 off 20 balls.

"There's a reason why you do it for 15 years, for me, it's just about doing my job. It's kind of muscle memory for me now.

People can talk anything they want to, they can talk about me not able to push on (strike rate) and me not playing spin well. But you yourself know the game better," Kohli said after the match. Despite back to back wins, RCB are languishing at the bottom of the table with three wins in 10 games.

"We wanted to play more for our self respect, we want to play for the

fans who have backed us, we know we haven't played up to the standards required (so far in the tournament), we know we can do a lot more better and it's something which we'll try and do," he said.

Talking about Jacks stunning hundred, he said, "Phenomenal, initially when he came to bat, he was annoyed that he wasn't able to strike the ball as he wanted to.

## Paris Saint-Germain win French league title

**Press Trust of India**

**PARIS** Paris Saint-Germain has won the French league in Kylian Mbappé's last season at the club after Monaco lost 3-2 at Lyon. PSG has an unassailable 12-point lead over second-place Monaco, which has three games left.

The Ligue 1 triumph is PSG's third in a row and a record-extending 12th overall.

Mbappé has been



involved in six of them, but comes off contract at the end of the season. He's expected to be signed by Real Madrid.

PSG is on course for a potential historic treble as it will play at Borussia Dortmund in the first leg of the Champions League semifinals on Wednesday and face Lyon in the French Cup final on May 25.

In coach Luis Enrique's first season at the

club, PSG produced one of the most dominant seasons in league history with just one loss in 31 games so far.

PSG could have secured the title a day earlier but was held 3-3 by Le Havre on Saturday.

Last season, PSG supporters were booing Lionel Messi even though the soccer great was the player who helped the club clinch an 11th league title by scoring in a 1-1 draw with Strasbourg.

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# World



Israel must still do more to boost humanitarian aid to Gaza  
**Antony Blinken**  
US Secretary of State

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## युवाहितैषी है मोदी सरकार

भारतीय जनता पार्टी, छत्तीसगढ़



Inter Milan team is paraded in an open-air bus outside the San Siro stadium to the city cathedral to celebrate the Nerazzurri's 20th Italian league title, in Milan, Italy.. | Photo: PTI

# Missile attack by Houthi rebels targets container ship in Red Sea

The attack happened off the coast of Mokha, Yemen, the British military's United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations center said.

**Press Trust Of India**  
**JERUSALEM:** A suspected missile attack by Yemen's Houthi rebels targeted a container ship in the Red Sea on Monday, authorities said, the latest assault in their campaign against international shipping in the crucial maritime route. The attack happened off the coast of Mokha, Yemen, the British military's United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations center said, without offering any other immediate details. It urged vessels to exercise caution in the area. The private security firm Ambrey said a salvo of three missiles targeted a

Malta-flagged container ship traveling from Djibouti onward to Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. "The vessel was targeted due to its listed operator's ongoing trade with Israel," Ambrey said. CMA CGM, a Marseille, France-based shipper, had its Malta-flagged CMA CGM Manta Ray due to sail to Jeddah from Djibouti on Monday. However, the shipper said the vessel remained at harbor in Djibouti and could not have been targeted in the incident. The Houthis did not immediately acknowledge any attack, though suspicion fell on the group. It typically takes the rebels

**HIGHLIGHT**  
● A salvo of three missiles targeted a Malta-flagged container ship traveling from Djibouti onward to Jeddah  
● The Houthis did not immediately acknowledge any attack, though several hours to claim their assaults. The Houthis say their attacks on shipping in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden are aimed at pressuring Israel to end its war against Hamas in Gaza, which has killed more than 34,000 Palestinians there. The

war began after Hamas-led militants attacked Israel on Oct. 7, killing 1,200 people and taking some 250 others hostage. The Houthis have launched more than 50 attacks on shipping, seized one vessel and sunk another since November, according to the U.S. Maritime Administration. Houthi attacks have dropped in recent weeks as the rebels have been targeted by a U.S.-led airstrike campaign in Yemen. Shipping through the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden has declined because of the threat. American officials have speculated that the rebels may be running out of

weapons as a result of the U.S.-led campaign against them and after firing drones and missiles steadily for months. However, the rebels have renewed their attacks in the past week. The Houthis on Saturday claimed they shot down another of the U.S. military's MQ-9 Reaper drones, airing footage of parts that corresponded to known pieces of the unmanned aircraft. U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Bryon J. McGarry, a Defense Department spokesperson, acknowledged to The Associated Press on Saturday that "a U.S. Air Force MQ-9 drone crashed in Yemen."

## Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

**COVID-19 VACCINE**  
**Top scientist behind China's first COVID-19 vaccine expelled**

**BEIJING:** China's top scientist, who developed the first inactivated COVID-19 vaccine at the height of the pandemic in the country in 2020, has been dismissed from Parliament for alleged corruption. Yang Xiaoming, the chairman of China National Pharmaceutical Group's vaccine subsidiary China National Biotec Group (CNBG), has been stripped of his membership in the National People's Congress (NPC) due to serious discipline and law violations, official media reported here on Monday. The charge of serious discipline and law violations is a common euphemism for corruption under the ruling Communist Party of China (CPC) disciplinary practice. Yang, 62, is a veteran researcher who headed the CNBG - a vaccine subsidiary of state-owned Sinopharm - and led a team that developed Sinopharm's BBIBP-CorV vaccine, China's first coronavirus shot approved for general use. **PTI**

**TRANSGENDER ID**  
**Hong Kong transgender activist gets ID card reflecting gender change**

**HONG KONG:** A Hong Kong transgender activist on Monday received a new ID card reflecting his gender change, after a years-long legal battle to change the document, and he vowed to continue working for equality for the LGBTQ+ community. Henry Tse won his appeal over the government's refusal to change the gender on his ID card in February 2023. Previously, Tse was not able to make the change because he did not undergo full gender-affirmation surgery. **PTI**



*From around the world*  
**Pair of giant pandas set to travel from China to San Diego Zoo**



**SAN DIEGO:** A pair of giant pandas will soon make the journey from China to the US, where they will be cared for at the San Diego Zoo as part of an ongoing conservation partnership between the two nations, officials said on Monday. The San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance said its caretakers recently visited China to meet the giant pandas, Yun Chuan and Xin Bao, ahead of their planned trip to Southern California.

An exact date for the handoff hasn't been set. Yun Chuan, a mild-mannered male who's nearly 5 years old, has "deep connections" to California, the wildlife alliance said. His mother, Zhen Zhen, was born at the San Diego Zoo in 2007 to parents Bai Yun and Gao Gao. Xin Bao is a nearly 4-year-old female described as "a gentle and witty introvert with a sweet round face and big ears". **PTI**

| FRANCE-OLYMPIC EQUESTRIAN |

# Horses Show Off in Versailles

**Press Trust Of India**  
**The historic Versailles Palace Gardens will soon host the Paris Olympics equestrian sports.**



The entrance to the royal stables, in Versailles | File photo

they take part in a prestigious show at the Great Stables of Versailles every weekend to the delight

of spectators. While the Academy is open to both genders, women form the majority of applicants.

**FASTFACTS**  
● After years of hard work, they take part in a prestigious show at the Great Stables of Versailles every weekend to the delight of spectators. Commissioned by France's King Louis XIV, or Sun King, the stables were built between 1679 and 1682 opposite the palace's main entrance. They once housed more than 2,000 horses during the 18th century.

from the once male-dominated world of equestrianism. Lorre, 28, is known as an ecuieres' - the French word for squire or horse rider, and has a vast knowledge of the royal stables' history. "We are only women here now," said one of those experienced riders, Fanny Lorre, gleefully smiling as she noted how big of a change it was

| UK-CYBERSECURITY |

# UK's 'world first' laws crack down on cyber attacks

**Press Trust Of India**  
**LONDON:** All internet connected smart devices will be required to meet minimum security standards under what the UK government has dubbed as "world first" laws, effective from Monday to protect consumers and businesses from hacking and cyber-attacks. Under the new regime,

manufacturers will be banned from having weak, easily guessable default passwords like "admin" or "12345" and if there is a common password, the user will be prompted to change it on start-up. An investigation conducted by the Which? consumer group found that a UK home filled with smart devices could be exposed to more than 12,000 hack-



ing attacks from across the world in a single week, with a total of 2,684 attempts to guess weak default passwords on just five devices. "From today, consumers will have greater peace of mind that their smart devices are protected from cyber criminals, as we introduce world first laws that will make sure their personal privacy, data and finances are safe".

**SKOREA-POLITICS**  
**SKorea's oppn leader urges President to accept probes**

**SEOUL:** Emboldened by his party's recent election win, South Korea's opposition leader pressured President Yoon Suk Yeol to accept special investigations into allegations involving top officials and his wife, as they met Monday for talks on bipartisan cooperation. The meeting was their first since Yoon took office in 2022 after defeating Lee in the country's closest presidential election. During their 2022 campaigns, Yoon, Lee and their supporters demonised each other and filed dozens of lawsuits against one another. Yoon proposed the meeting as he faces growing calls to cooperate with Lee's Democratic Party.

**GOLDMAN ENVIRONMENTAL PRIZE**  
**Environmental activist Teresa Vicente wins 'Green Nobel'**

**LOS ANGELES:** Growing up, Teresa Vicente spent long days in Spain's Mar Menor swimming in transparent waters, cupping seahorses in her hands and partying under the moonlit sky. But over the decades, chronic contamination from mining, development and agricultural runoff turned the once crystal-clear waters of Europe's larg-

est saltwater lagoon into a graveyard.

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