

Voting for Bastar LS seat to be held today amid tight security

As many as 1,961 polling booths have been set up in the constituency

Press Trust Of India

JAGDALPUR: Amid heightened security measures, the Naxal-affected Bastar-Lok Sabha constituency in Chhattisgarh will go to polls in the first phase of general elections on Friday, where 11 candidates are in fray.

Maoists' call to boycott elections poses a challenge to security forces, but their morale seems to be high following a major counter-insurgency operation in Kanker district on April 16 in which 29 Naxals, including senior cadres, were gunned down by them. Kanker is part of the Bastar region.

Congress' firebrand leader Kawasi Lakhma will take on BJP's Mahesh Kashyap, a fresh face, in Bastar, which the saffron party has lost in 2019.

"All preparations have



Polling officials with EVMs leave for poll duty. | Photo: PTI

HIGHLIGHT

● The ruling BJP has pinned its hopes on Kashyap, who had been an active member of VHP in the past

been made for conducting a free and fair election in Bastar, the lone Lok Sabha constituency going to polls in the first phase in the state on April 19," state's Chief Electoral

Officer Reena Babasaheb Kangale told reporters on Thursday.

Polling in booths of Kondagaon, Narayanpur, Chitrakot, Dantewada, Bijapur and Kanta assembly constituencies in the Bastar Lok Sabha seat will be held from 7 am to 3 pm. Besides, in the Bastar assembly constituency, the polling will be held from 7 am to 5 pm. In the Jagdalpur assembly segment, 175 booths will

All preparations are ready for a free and fair election

Reena Babasaheb Kangale
Chief Electoral Officer

see voting from 7 am to 3 pm and 72 booths from 7 am to 3 pm, she said.

A total of 11 candidates are in the fray in Bastar, where 14,72,207 voters -- 7,71,679 women, 7,00,476 men and 52 members of third gender -- are eligible to exercise their franchise, the official said.

There are 1,603 service voters, 12,703 divyang (differently-abled) voters, 47,010 voters in the age group of 18 to 19 years, 3,487 in the age group of above 85 years of age and 119 voters above 100 years of age, she said.

CROSS-VERIFICATION

Supreme Court asks if voters can get VVPAT slip

Press Trust of India

The court is hearing petitions seeking cross-verification of votes cast on Electronic Voting Machines (EVM) with paper slips generated through the VVPAT system

NEW DELHI: There has to be sanctity in the electoral process, the Supreme Court told the Election Commission of India today, asking the poll body to explain in detail the steps followed to ensure free and fair polls. "This is (an) electoral process. There has to be sanctity. Let nobody have apprehension that something which is expected is not

being done," the bench of Justice Sanjiv Khanna and Justice Dipankar Datta said.

The court is hearing petitions seeking cross-verification of votes cast on Electronic Voting Machines (EVM) with paper slips generated through the VVPAT system. Senior Advocate Maninder Singh, the poll body's counsel, and poll officials are in court to respond to the questions.

Appearing for one of the petitioners, Advocate Nizam Pasha said a voter should be allowed to take the VVPAT slip after he votes and deposit it in a ballot box. When Justice Khanna asked if such a process won't affect the voter's privacy, Mr Pasha replied, "Voter privacy

cannot be used to defeat voter's rights."

Advocate Prashant-Bhushan then said that the light on the VVPAT machine should remain on at all times -- it now stays on for seven seconds. "One possible solution is if they can't change glass at this stage, at least the light should remain on at all times, so I can see the slip cutting and falling. No privacy will be compromised."

Senior Advocate Sanjay Hegde, also appearing for petitioners, said there should be a separate audit to add greater credibility to the counting process. Bhushan cited a report on mock poll results in Kerala, where extra votes were recorded for the BJP.

Two truck drivers charred to death

ALIGARH: Two truck drivers were charred to death after their vehicles caught fire following a collision here, police said on Thursday.

The incident took place in the afternoon when one truck transporting chemicals hit another stationary truck near Nagola village under Jawaan police station in Aligarh district igniting a fire, they said.

A third truck, which was carrying buffaloes and was parked on the roadside, also caught fire after it was hit by the two trucks. Three buffaloes died in the incident, the police said. Fire tenders rushed to the spot and doused the fire. After the fire was contained, the police recovered the remains of two truck drivers, Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP) Rural P Bansal said.

UNUSUAL VILLAGE

Three mute sisters to vote for first time

Press Trust of India

GANDOH: Three mute sisters of Dadhkai village, also known as 'silent village' of India and situated in Jammu and Kashmir's Gandoh area of Doda district, are eagerly waiting to cast their votes for the first time besides inspiring the other villagers to vote.

Doda is part of the Udhampur parliamentary constituency which is going to polls in the first phase on Friday (April 19) to decide the fate of 12 candidates including Union minister Jitendra Singh of the BJP, former MP Choudhary Lal Singh of the Cong and former minister G M Saroori of the DPAP are in fray

NUMBER

12

● Union minister Jitendra Singh of the BJP, former MP Choudhary Lal Singh of the Cong and former minister G M Saroori of the DPAP are in fray

of the DPAP. The hilltop tribal village, 105 km from Bhaderwah town, is home to 105 families. Of these, 55 families mysteriously have at least one person who can neither speak nor listen. There are 84 such people in the village, of which 43 are women and 14 children

below 10 years. Despite having hearing and speaking disabilities, the three siblings -- aged between 20 and 24 -- are upbeat about participating in the polling after their names were included in the electoral rolls. Reshma Bano (24), Parveen Kousar (22) and Saira Khatoon (20) -- daughters of Reham Ali of Dadhkai B Panchayat -- have become a source of inspiration for their neighbours and relatives, given their enthusiasm to cast their ballot for the first time in their lives.

Ali, 62, said the girls are so excited that they have already selected the dress they will wear for the polling day. They sug-

gested to each other in their sign language what to wear. They also display their voter identity cards proudly and show it to everyone who visit the family. "We are unable to find out why they have become so anxious for their vote... when any neighbours or relatives visit our house, the girls show them their voter ID cards and try to explain them about voting," Ali said. Jamat Danis, who resides in the vicinity, said, "Despite their disability, these deaf and dumb sisters have become a source of inspiration for all of us as their eagerness and enthusiasm for their vote is commendable."

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Published by: Bhim Singh, Bhim Singh, G.A., Phandri, Chauri, Durgam, New Delhi

Raipur



People are struggling to get food grains through PDS outlets as functioning has collapsed.

Kanhaiya Agrawal
Congress leader

Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

CITY DEVELOPMENT

CREDAI Chhattisgarh, QCI to discuss city development today

A discussion on the development of Raipur city is scheduled to take place on April 19th at Hotel Babylon International from 6 pm onwards. This event is being organized under the joint aegis of CREDAI Chhattisgarh and the Quality Council of India (QCI), with the support of Srirohana Maha Parishad. The focus of the discussion will be on exploring the possibilities for the development of Raipur, with the participation of heads of major business and social organizations of the city. During this event, notable figures such as Mr. Jitendra Thakkar, Board Member of Quality Council of India, and Mr. Hemant Rathi, former President of Maharashtra Chamber of Commerce, will be addressing the audience. Additionally, prominent figures like Mr. Anand Singhania, Vice President of CREDAI National, Mr. Kishanbhai Mirani, Trustee of Srirohana Parishad will also be present.

EDUCATION

ABVP for bonus marks against question error



Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) on Thursday submitted a memorandum to Vice Chancellor of Pt Ravishanker Shukla University demanding bonus marks to the students against wrong question asked in the final examination. Providing the above information, the ABVP Joint Secretary Sujal Gupta said that several complaints of mistake in the question papers including the Financial Accounting exam have been received. Due to the above error, the students would not be able to get any marks due to the mistake committed by the Examination Department. Through memorandum, the ABVP delegation has sought bonus marks against the faulty questions.



Commuters are taking all necessary precautions to avoid sunstroke and other with rise in mercury.

BSP releases new list, fielded candidates for all 11 LS seats

BSP by fielding candidates in all 11 LS constituencies of Chhattisgarh, party aims to establish its foothold in the state and challenge traditional rivals BJP and Congress

CENTRAL CHRONICLE NEWS

RAIPUR: BSP has announced the names of its candidates for three more Lok Sabha seats in Chhattisgarh on April 18th. Mamta Rani Sahu has been given the ticket from Raipur constituency. Dilip Kumar Ramteke is the BSP candidate from Durg constituency. Dujram Boudh has got the BSP ticket from Korba constituency. With these three additions, BSP has now declared candidates for all 11 Lok Sabha seats in Chhattisgarh. BSP candidates will face competition from the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and Con-

gress party candidates in Chhattisgarh. BSP by fielding candidates in all 11 Lok Sabha constituencies of Chhattisgarh, the party aims to establish its foothold in the state and challenge the traditional rivals BJP and Congress. On Sunday, BSP has announced candidates for three more seats. In such a situation, the contest on all the seats in the state was now Congress versus BJP, but now Bahujan Samaj Party is also in the fray. Chhattisgarh CM Vishnudev Sai has claimed to have won all the seats in the state. However, it remains to be seen how many seats which party wins out of

HIGHLIGHT

● Party aims to establish its foothold in the state and challenge the traditional rivals BJP and Congress.

● BSP has announced candidates for three more seats, making it a three-way contest alongside the BJP and the Congress

the 11 seats in Chhattisgarh. The Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) has decided to contest elections independently across several states, including Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, and Chhattisgarh, for

the upcoming Lok Sabha elections in 2024. In Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh, the BSP has announced its intent to field candidates on some Lok Sabha seats, challenging the traditional contest between the BJP and the Congress party. In Chhattisgarh, which has 11 Lok Sabha seats, the BSP has announced candidates for three more seats, making it a three-way contest alongside the BJP and the Congress. Initially, the electoral battle in Chhattisgarh was perceived as a direct contest between the BJP and the Congress. However, with the BSP's entry, the dynamics have changed,

and it may influence the vote share and seat distribution. Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel has claimed that the Congress will win all 11 Lok Sabha seats in the state. However, with the BSP's presence, the actual outcome remains uncertain, and it remains to be seen how the vote shares will be divided among the three parties. The BSP's decision to contest independently in these states suggests that it aims to consolidate its support base among the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and Other Backward Classes (OBCs), which form its core voter base.

From around the city

Grand procession of Sakal Jain Samaj on Apr 21



RAIPUR: Mahavir Janam Kalyanak Mahotsav 2024, organized by Sakal Jain Samaj, on the occasion of 2623rd birth anniversary of Lord Mahavir, a grand procession will be taken out from Shri Adinath Digambar Jain Bada Mandir Malviya Road on 21st April at 8 am in which the entire Jain community will participate in traditional men's attire, white clothes and women in saree with slogans 'Jeeyo aur Jeene Do', the message of Lord Mahavir. On this occasion, Mahavir Janam Kalyanak Mahotsav 2024, 15-day religious, social, cultural, game show, medical check-up camp, blood dona-

tion etc. programs are being organized by Sakal Jain Samaj from 6th April to 20th April. A total of 170 blood donation camps have been organized till date. The religious loving brothers have strengthened their virtue by donating their blood.

Today, on 18th April, Kaun Banega Dharmanuraagi game show was played on the lines of KBC by Anand Mahila Mandal in which a total of 10 groups were formed and questions and answers of religious and general knowledge were asked. The participants played the next game by taking various life lines.

Two restaurant employees die while cleaning the sewer line

RAIPUR: Two people died while cleaning a deep sewer line near Ashoka Biryani Restaurant in Telibandha, capital Raipur. According to the information, both the laborers died due to suffocation and also due to poisonous gas released from the sewer while cleaning. Deceased are said to be employees of Ashoka Biryani Restaurant.

The police have started investigating the entire matter. This incident took place in Telibandha police station. According to the information, two employees of Ashoka Biryani, Kamlesh and David, had entered the restaurant on Thursday morning to clean the sewer line about 15 feet deep.

'To eliminate Naxalites, it is necessary to eliminate Cong'

CENTRAL CHRONICLE NEWS

Now the people of Bastar cannot tolerate Naxalites

RAIPUR: Congressmen, who are calling Naxalites martyrs and describing the killing of 29 Naxalites a fake encounter besides demanding an investigation into the encounter, should now clearly know that the people of Bastar want development, Chief Minister Vishnudev Sai said.

Now it has become clear that to eliminate Naxalites, it is necessary to eliminate Congress and the people of Bastar are going to do this task tomorrow on 19th



Chief Minister Vishnudev Sai.

FACTFILE

● CM said naxalites stained the land of Bastar red with the blood of innocent sons of Chhattisgarh Mahtari.

April, he said. Given statements by the Con-

land of Bastar red with the blood of innocent sons of Chhattisgarh Mahtari.

Sai said that with the defeat of Congress in this Lok Sabha election, the BJP government of the state would be going to fight a decisive battle against the Naxalites.

The state government will very soon free Chhattisgarh from Naxalism under the leadership and guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah, he said.

According to him entering the most secure fort of Naxalites and killing 29 Naxalites simultaneously is a historic success.

| POLITICS |

| HEALTH |

Fatty liver is not life threatening but can be dangerous

CENTRAL CHRONICLE NEWS

RAIPUR: Liver is one of the most important organs of the human body, despite being an important organ, a large number of people around the world including India are struggling with the problem of fatty liver. While fatty liver itself is not life-threatening, ignoring and not managing the condition can lead to dan-

gerous consequences said, Dr Sandeep Pandey, Dr Lalit Nihal, Dr Ajit Mishra and Dr Dheeraj Premchandani of Ramakrishna Care Hospital while speaking to the scribes here. On the eve of World Liver Day on April 19th, experts provided crucial information about liver-related diseases and their prevention. The primary reason for liver problems is an unbalanced

Managing fatty liver condition can lead to dangerous consequences

Dr Sandeep Pandey
Expert

lifestyle. Due to a comfort-



able and disorganized way of living, people are facing various liver-related issues. Conditions like fatty liver, liver inflammation, and cirrhosis are becoming more prevalent. Food impurities can naturally lead to liver

problems, while excessive alcohol consumption always poses a risk of liver damage. Nowadays, a new type of problem is emerging in the form of Metabolic Associated Fatty Liver Disease. In simple terms, if someone has conditions like diabetes, obesity, or uncontrolled blood pressure, the chances of developing liver disease increase.

The Day's NUMBERS

LS 2024 Elections to be held today

KANKER LOKSABHA CONSTITUENCY VOTING PERCENTAGE

| | |
|------|-------|
| 2019 | 77.4% |
| 2014 | 70.2% |
| 2009 | 57.2% |
| 2004 | 13.3% |

Source: MOS&PS

CRICKET

Yuvraj scores 90 runs for Bastar

Yuvraj Verma scored 90 runs to help Bastar score 401 runs against Dantewada in the Under 19 Plate Group match being organized under the aegis of CSCS here on Thursday. Apart from him, Aditya Guha also scored 83 runs to put his team in a strong position. In another match, Koriya District has scored 119 runs for 6 wickets against Jashpur. Shreyas Sinha scored maximum 39 runs for the team whereas Atiket Kujur claimed 3 wickets for Jashpur in the match played at RDCA Ground here.



BEAUTY AND BRAINS

Amrita Gajendra outshines in fashion competition at nat'l level



Organized onboard the Cordelia cruise from Mumbai to Goa, the Women First fashion show saw the participation of 130 contestants from various states of India. Representing Chhattisgarh, Amrita Gajendra, residing in the capital Raipur, secured her place in the top 10 finalists through tough competition, thereby bringing pride to Chhattisgarh on the national stage. Amrita's Chhattisgarhi look and the presentation of the Chhattisgarh's culture earned praise from the organizers and jury members. Amrita is a professional makeup artist and a young entrepreneur.

Central Chronicle

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Corrupt Congress are fooling people in the name of scheme: Sai

Congmen first carried out 'Bharat Jodo Yatra', but they were not even able to handle their own party affairs

CENTRAL CHRONICLE NEWS

RAIPUR/BILASPUR: Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai charged Congress as corrupt and they have turned it into centre of corruption in last five years of its ruling and they need to be taught a lesson in the forthcoming LS polls. The Congmen first carried out 'Bharat Jodo Yatra', but they were not even able to handle their own party affairs. Daily some or the big Congress leader or their relatives are joining BJP fold. In the nomination rally in Durg, sister-in-law of former CM Bhupesh Baghel joined BJP fold and in this way there is unrest all over the Congress, he added.



CM Vishnu Deo Sai addressing the nomination rally in Bilaspur | Photo: Chronicle

Former MLA Shori joins BJP

RAIPUR: Miffed with reported ignored in the Congress, the former Member of Legislative Assembly from Kanker Sishupal Shori on Thursday quit party. His resignation is a big blow to the Congress ahead of the polling of votes in tribal-dominated Bastar and Kanker Lok Sabha constituencies. Later in the evening, the former

scams and others. State has been literally looted and turned into empty coffers. By indulging in 'Narwa-Ghurwa...' Scam, they had not even spared money meant for cow-dung collectors. He charged that ex-CM had put the youths into

the gambling business by introducing Mahadev App and took, Rs 508 as protection money and on which an FIR has been lodged against him and it is a shame for entire Chhattisgarh. He said that those involved in the scams in Congress

rule. CM Sai further said that Congress are trying to cheat people in the name of filling of forms and they are promising Rs 8000 per month and Rs 1 lakh per year to women, but no such thing is going to happen.

MLA Shori joined the

BJP's fake news factory is misrepresenting my statement: Surpiya

CENTRAL CHRONICLE NEWS

Congress spokesperson clarifies on the statement calling Naxalites as martyrs



RAIPUR: AICC national spokesperson Supriya Shrinet, who visited Bilaspur to attend the nomination rally of Congress Lok Sabha candidate Devendra Yadav said that 'fake news factory' of the Bharatiya Janata Party was misrepresenting her statement on Naxalites. Later while addressing a press conference she said that in the year 2013, Congress had lost its entire leadership of Chhattisgarh to Naxalites in Jheeram Valley. Can we have even the slightest sympathy with such Naxalites? she asked. Giving clarification on her statement calling Naxalites as martyrs, he fiercely targeted BJP. 'Congress has seen two of its Prime Ministers sacrific-

ing themselves at the altar of violence. The Bharatiya Janata Party of the state is evil, they are quoting my statement', she said. On Tuesday, 29 Naxalites were killed in an encounter between police and BSF in Kanker. Congress national spokesperson Supriya Shrinet gave a controversial statement on this encounter. Supriya Shrinet was questioned in the context of Naxalite encounter and Bhupesh Baghel's statement. On this she said that there should be no politics on this. 'I think there should be a thorough investigation and we have our condolences to all those who were martyred.

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Liver diseases are known as silent killers: Dr Abhishek Jain

CENTRAL CHRONICLE NEWS

Keep Your Liver Healthy: It is extremely important to be vigilant beforehand to reduce the increasing cases of liver transplants



RAIPUR: The liver is the most vital organ of the body. It is the largest internal organ, performing more than five hundred functions in our body. Life without a healthy liver is impossible. According to the World Health Organization report, liver diseases are the tenth most common cause of death in India.

raise awareness about the importance of a healthy liver. The effort of Narayana Hospital is not only to treat people but also to raise awareness about prevention. Moreover, if we talk about the importance of the liver, it is essential for filtering toxins from the blood and aiding in digestion in our body. However, due to negligence towards health, improper diet, and other reasons, diseases like hepatitis, cirrhosis, and liver cancer are increasing, posing a serious threat to people's health worldwide.

With the aim of raising awareness, MMI Narayana Hospital Raipur (a unit of Narayana Health) celebrated World Liver Day to

IIIT-NR conducts 6th Edition of Industry-Academia meet

CENTRAL CHRONICLE NEWS

RAIPUR: IIIT-NR hosted the sixth edition of its Industry-Academia Meet on Tuesday, bringing together a diverse array of industry professionals, students, and academics at its campus in Naya Raipur. The event was marked by its success in fostering a dynamic platform for the exchange of ideas, experiences, and knowledge. Representatives from esteemed multinational corporations graced the occasion, with notable names including Nutanix, Infosys, Cisco, Expedia Group, SigTuple, and Satakam Foundation all in

attendance. Their presence underscored the significance of this collaborative effort between academia and industry. The theme of IAM 2024 was 'Technology Challenge Showcase,' which was aimed to stimulate collaboration between industry and academia and explore avenues for mutual growth. The distinguished panel of industry leaders featured Tusar Gupta, Director Engineering at Nutanix; Sachin Agrawal, Senior Principal Technology Architect at Infosys; Rahul Pandey, Director Software Engineering at Cisco; Sandeep Goyal, Director of Technology

at Expedia Group; Suman Gautam, Vice President of Business Growth at SigTuple; and Abhijit Bhide, Co-Founder of Satakam Foundation. The event commenced with an inaugural address by Dr. Pradeep Kumar Sinha, the VC & Director of the Institute. Dr. Sinha elucidated on the genesis of IAM and IIIT's commitment to bridging the gap between industry and academia through such initiatives. This was followed by a panel discussion on the theme "Future of Work in an AI World and the Way Forward for Freshers", featuring insights from the esteemed industry delegates.

Admn to monitor LS poll process through webcasting

CENTRAL CHRONICLE NEWS

Live video can be watched simultaneously through webcasting of polling stations on big screens in the command and control center established.



RAIPUR: Under the Lok Sabha Elections 2024, a control room has been set up in the office of the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) to monitor the moment-by-moment activities of the voting taking place in Bastar Lok Sabha

constituency in the first phase in the state. CEO Reena Babasaheb Kangale herself is monitoring the election activities through the control room. In the first phase under Lok Sabha Elections 2024,

the voting process will be monitored through webcasting in 811 polling centers out of 1961 in Bastar Lok Sabha constituency. Testing has also been successfully completed in all the centers today

FASTFACTS

- Live images will be collected from 811 polling stations in the first phase
- Testing has also been successfully completed in all the centers before voting.

HNLU holds Online conf

RAIPUR: Hidayatullah National Law University (HNLU) Raipur, hosted a landmark event, the "One-Day Online International Conference on Facets of Social Justice in the Vision of a Developed India @2047: Harnessing Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's Legacy." The conference, held on April 14 marked the birth centenary of the eminent jurist, economist, and social reformer, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar.

Attended by a diverse audience of academicians, professionals, scholars, policymakers, activists, and students from across India, including participants from the United Kingdom and Spain, the conference served as a platform for meaningful discussions and reflections on the enduring legacy of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar in the context of social justice and nation building. Prof. (Dr.) V. C. Vivekanandan Vice-Chancellor HNLU in his opening address remarked, "Though political equity got established with the new constitution, the economic and social equity envisaged by Dr. Ambedkar is a far cry in spite of seven decades of Independence.

INDIAN STARTUP

World Haemophilia Day programme held at Model Blood Center

CENTRAL CHRONICLE NEWS

RAIPUR: A program was organized on the occasion of World Haemophilia Day (17 April) by Model Blood Center located at Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar Memorial

Hospital. The program was conducted by Blood Bank Incharge Dr Vijay Kapse, Medical Officer Dr Sudit Pal and all the blood bank staff. It was told in the program that hemophilia is a hereditary (genetic) disease,

which is passed from parents to children. There are two types of this disease, Hemophilia A and Hemophilia B. Haemophilia A occurs in one in every 5000 men and Haemophilia B occurs in one in every

30000 men. This disease is found mostly in men, while women are mostly carriers of the disease. Hemophilia A is caused by the deficiency of Factor 8 and Hemophilia B Factor 9, these factors are helpful in

stopping bleeding in the body, due to their deficiency, bleeding does not stop on time, which can even lead to the death of the patient. Every year about 60 percent of hemophilia patients become seriously ill, of

which 30 percent lose their lives every year. There is no permanent cure for these patients, they were previously treated with cryoprecipitate, a blood component containing factor 8 and factor 9.

Hemophilia A is caused by the deficiency of Factor 8 and Hemophilia B Factor 9



Total strength of the voters for first phase of polling in Bastar Lok Sabha is 14.72 lakh.

Reena Baba Saheb Kangale
CEO State Election Commission

Gatekeeper Training Programme for Suicide Prevention conducted

The programme garnered significant attendance, with almost 100 participants, including students and staff members

Central chronicle news

Aim is to equip faculty, staff, and students with essential skills to identify and intervene in potential suicide crises

BHILAI: In a proactive step towards addressing mental health concerns and fostering a supportive campus environment, the Indian Institute of Technology Bhilai hosted a comprehensive Gatekeeper Training Programme for Suicide Prevention. The event, spearheaded by Dr Lokesh Kumar Singh, Head of Psychiatry at AIIMS Raipur, aimed to equip faculty, staff, and students with essential skills to identify and intervene in potential suicide crises. Under the guidance of Prof Rajiv Prakash, Director of IIT Bhilai, and the coordination of Wing Cdr Dr Jayesh CS Pai, Registrar of IIT Bhilai, the training program witnessed enthusiastic participation from various segments of the institution. Dr Lokesh Kumar Singh, led the training session, delivering



Participants after attending the Gatekeeper Training Programme

insights into recognizing warning signs, initiating conversations, and providing necessary support to individuals in distress. Through interactive workshops and role-playing scenarios, participants gained practical knowledge and confidence in effectively addressing mental health challenges within the campus community. Prof Rajiv Prakash emphasized the institution's commitment to promoting well-being and fostering a culture of empathy and understanding.

Participants understood effectiveness of proactive measures

The programme garnered significant attendance, with almost 100 participants, including students and staff members. The event's success was evident in the active engagement and positive feedback from attendees, underscoring the importance and effectiveness of proactive measures in addressing mental health challenges within academic settings.

HIGHLIGHT

● Participants gained practical knowledge and confidence in effectively addressing mental health challenges within the campus community

The training program not only equipped participants with essential skills but also fostered a sense

of community responsibility in promoting mental wellness. As IIT Bhilai continues its commitment to prioritizing mental health initiatives, the Gatekeeper Training Programme serves as a testament to the institution's dedication to creating a supportive and inclusive environment where every individual's well-being is valued and safeguarded.

Nine candidates file nominations on the fourth day



Central chronicle new

So far 19 candidates have submitted their nomination papers while 27 people have purchased nominations

BHILAI: On the fourth day of nomination filing for the third phase of Lok Sabha elections 2024, a total of nine candidates submitted their nominations for Durg Parliamentary Constituency. Candidates those who filed the nominations were Arun Joshi (Independent), Bhanu Pratap Chaturvedi (Independent), Anju Bain Keme (Ekam Sanatan Bharat Dal), Rakesh Sahu (Nyaya Dharam Sabha Party),

Khilanand Jaspal (Independent), Dilip Ramteke (Bahujan Samaj Party), Ali Hussain Siddiqui (Independent), Anoop Kumar Pandey (Independent) and Pushpa Marissa (Ambedkarite Party of India) submitted nomination papers. On Thursday, the candidates those who purchased nomination papers are Sheetkaran (Azzad Samaj Party K) and independent candidates Santosh Kumar Markande, Dau Ram Chauhan and Dhruv Kumar. They reached the Collectorate office and purchased the nomination papers. So far, 19 candidates have submitted their nomination papers while 27 people have purchased nominations.

Lokesh seeks immediate completion of houses under PMAY

BHILAI: In a meeting of the officials, Durg Municipal Commissioner Lokesh Chandrakar expressed concern at the status of under construction houses under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) in DMC area. He gave necessary guidelines to ensure immediate completion of the construction work of houses within stipulated time frame. He asked to complete 108 houses in Ganpati Vihar by May 15, and 116 houses in Potiyakala by April 22, up to finishing stage and hand them over to the Municipal Corporation. The possession of complete houses should in turn be handed over to the beneficiaries who have deposited the entire amount on allotment. Nodal Officer Dinesh Netam, Assistant Nodal Officer Jitendra Samaiya, Pritesh Verma from SUDA, PMC and related contractors were present.

Central chronicle new

Chairman's Trophy for Young Managers (CTYM) is a prestigious competition organized every year at the SAIL level on current management topics.

BHILAI: The teams who secured top positions at the Director In-Charge Trophy for Young Managers 2022-23 and Director In-Charge Trophy for Young Managers 2023-24 were felicitated by Anirban Dasgupta, Director I/c (SAIL-BSP). Dasgupta felicitated the winning team comprising of Sonal Shrivastava, Mgr. (RCL), Siddharth Roy, Mgr (BF), and Vinay Kumar Pawar, Dy Mgr (LDCC/RMP-III) on this occasion, along with the first runner-up team for Director In-Charge Tro-

| FELICITATION |

Anirban Dasgupta felicitates winning teams trophy



Winners of CTYM being felicitated

FASTFACTS

● Bhilai Steel Plant has so far been successful in winning this prestigious trophy nine times out of the 19 CTYM competitions held

● Winning team gets Rs 30,000/- per member as a cash award and the runner-up team is given Rs.20,000/-

phy 2023-24 comprising Ashish Pandey, and Nageshwara Rao N, Managers (URM), and the second runner-up team comprising of Himanshu Verma, Mgr (SMS-III), Aiman Ali, Mgr (EMD), and Umesh Malayath, AGM (OP-II). He also felicitated the team comprising Sandeep Sahoo, AGM (SMS-II), Nitin Agnihotri AGM (SMS-II), and

Vishal Shrivastava, Mgr (SMS-II) for securing the 1st runner-up position in the CTYM 2022-23, and winning the Director In-Charge Trophy 2022-23, along with the 1st Runners-Up team of Director In-Charge Trophy 2022-23, comprising of Himanshu Verma, Mgr (SMS-III), and Shalini Chaurasia, Asst Mgr (Pers). The Winning team of DIC

| LETTER OF APPRECIATION: |

BSP Employees felicitated for Commendable Performance

CENTRAL CHRONICLE NEWS

BHILAI: Three Executives of Universal Rail Mill (URM) were felicitated by the Head of the Department with a Letter of Appreciation for their excellent performance during a particular task or a Shift. Anish Sengupta, CGM (URM) felicitated Praveen Jaiswal, Pawan Kumar Jaiswal, Managers (URM), and Deepak Kumar Khadatkar, Sr Operative with Letter of Appreciation.



In his appreciation letter to the respective officers Sengupta stated "I appreciate the good work

done by you. I hope that you will continue to put in your sincere efforts in the future and spread the cul-

ture of excellence amongst others. Keep it up." Praveen Jaiswal with his meticulous planning

and efficient execution achieved the rolling of 163 rails in the B shift, without recording any downtime. He kept the section team stress-free during the entire shift and made this achievement possible through his untiring efforts and constant monitoring.

He has made a significant contribution to the production of shops and by doing so has demonstrated that it is possible to execute effective operations with available



"I appreciate the good work done by you. I hope that you will continue to put in your sincere efforts in the future"

Anish Sengupta
CGM (URM), BSP

resources. Owing to a breakdown in the previous shift, the availability of rail for visual inspection was very low. To ensure the availability of sufficient rail, Pawan Kumar Jaiswal gave a commendable performance at the workplace by rolling 162 rails in the A shift. This goal of enhanced rolling was achieved as a result of his proactive planning and decisive implementation. Deepak Kumar Khadatkar, in the B shift, prepared the Gas Network.

Cultural Evening

Cultural Evening at Kala Mandir to raise voter awareness

BHILAI: Sports, Cultural & Civic Amenities Department (SC&CA) of BSI shall organize a Cultural Evening at Mahatma Gandhi Kala Mandir, Civic Centre on April 20, 2024. This Cultural Evening is aimed to encourage people, to strengthen democracy by massive participation in the forthcoming elections. Musical performances of new and old film songs, folk songs, and comic performances based on voting shall be featured on this occasion. The Shahid Arif Orchestra Group shall render vocal performances of film songs on this occasion, Rajni Rajak for folk songs, while comic performances shall be presented by the Sutradhaar Cultural & Social Group. This Cultural Evening on voter awareness is free of cost. The District administration, Durg, and SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant Management have appealed to the citizens to participate in the voter awareness programme in large numbers.

EDUCATION

DSCEI organises guest lecture

BHILAI: The Department of Education at Dev Sanskriti Mahavidyalaya organised a guest lecture recently. Dr N Papa Rao (Kalyan College) was invited as the main speaker. He delivered a lecture on the topic "Bandura's Theory of Social Learning". The program started with offering prayers to Goddess Saraswati. Thereafter, Principal Mamta Dubey welcomed Dr Rao with a sapling. Rao explained the learning process in very simple words to all the students of the education department and threw light on various principles of learning. In the lecture, Rao explained Bandura's social learning theory in a very interesting manner through various examples. College Director Jyoti Sharma honoured Dr Rao with a memento and appreciated his lecture. The program was successfully conducted under the guidance of Jyoti Dubey, Head of the Education Department. All the teachers of the Education Department made efforts for making the programme successful.

FESTIVAL

Prayers, 'bhajans' and rituals mark Ramnavani

RAJNANDGAON: The birth of Lord Shri Ram was celebrated at ancient time Rani Mandir in Chuikhadan on occasion of Chaitra Shukl Navami on Wednesday. Patron of Mandir Samiti Latarani Lal JK Vaishnav informed that the Bhajan Mandali started the 'bhajans' on the premises of beautifully decorated temple since morning, apart from blowing of conch, ringing of the bells and fire-works and the celebration of Lord Shri Ram was observed in the afternoon.

Battle-2024



Congress will win up to 20 LS seats in Karnataka.

Siddaramaiah
Chief Minister

Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

ROADSHOW

Patil misses 'Vijay Muhurat' due to crowd

NAVSARI: Gujarat BJP president C R Paatil could not file his nomination for the Navsari Lok Sabha seat at an "auspicious" time on Thursday after too many supporters turned up at his roadshow in the morning, said party office-bearers. The sitting MP will now file his nomination at 'Vijay Muhurat' - 12.39 pm - on Friday, they said.

As per the schedule shared by the state BJP a few days back, Paatil was supposed to submit his nomination papers to Navsari collector exactly at Vijay Muhurat.

Many poll candidates prefer to file their papers at 12.39 pm, believing any task undertaken or commenced at this precise time ensures victory.

Paatil on Thursday set out to file his nomination by leading a massive roadshow from his party office to the collector's office here, said senior BJP leader and former state minister Narottam Patel. Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel and many state leaders also joined him during the roadshow. **PTI**

ANANTNAG (JK)

Mehbooba Mufti files nomination on Thursday



KASHMIR: PDP president Mehbooba Mufti on Thursday filed nomination papers from the Anantnag-Rajouri Lok Sabha constituency in Jammu and Kashmir which is going to polls in the third phase of elections on May 7.

Accompanied by several party leaders and hundreds of supporters, Mehbooba arrived at the office of Deputy Commissioner, Anantnag, Syed Fakhruddin, who is the returning officer for the constituency, to file her papers. **PTI**

Baramati LS seat

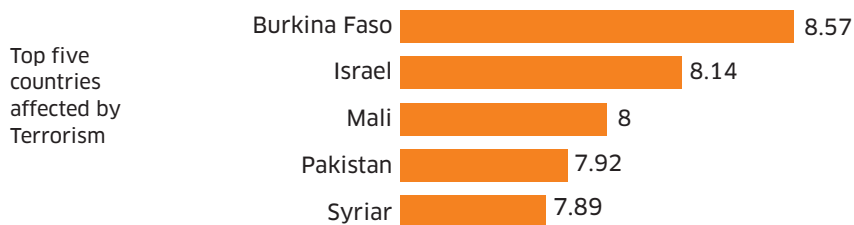
Supriya Sule, sister-in-law Sunetra Pawar file nominations



PUNE: Three-term Lok Sabha member Supriya Sule and her sister-in-law Sunetra Pawar on Thursday filed their nominations for the Baramati Lok Sabha seat in Maharashtra's Pune district on the NCP (SP) and NCP tickets, respectively. Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar, husband of Sunetra Pawar, also filed a set nomination papers for the seat, which an NCP functionary described as a back-up plan in case Sunetra Pawar's nomination does not stand scrutiny or any discrepancy is found in it. Polling in Baramati, the pocket borough of Pawars, will be held on May 7.

The Day's NUMBERS

GLOBAL TERRORISM INDEX REPORT 2023 (IN POINTS)



Source: MoS&PI

8 LS seats in western UP to go to polls on Friday

'A new atmosphere is prevailing as we celebrate the birth celebrations of Lord Ram after 500 years and this is a culmination of centuries of devotion and generations of sacrifice'.

Press Trust of India

LUCKNOW: The voters of eight Lok Sabha constituencies in western Uttar Pradesh, falling in the Jat and sugarcane belt, are set to exercise their constitutional right as polling for the first phase of the seven-phase parliamentary election begins on Friday. The seats are located in nine districts of western Uttar Pradesh.

The poll campaign for the first phase ended on Wednesday evening. Chief Electoral Officer Navdeep Rinwa said no campaign-related activity by candidates is allowed in these eight constitu-

encies now and the final preparations for polling are on. The stage is set for a three-cornered poll contest between the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party-led NDA, Samajwadi Party and Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP). Employment, education and development are among the leading issues for the voters in these constituencies. While the BJP has pitched its campaign on development and the Ram temple in Ayodhya, the opposition leaders have raised the issues of farm bills and unemployment in the region. According to poll officials, the presence of the workers of all

political parties has been restricted in these constituencies with the con-

HIGHLIGHT

● 1 A total of 14,849 polling booths and 7,689 polling centres have been set up for the first phase of voting.

● 2 A total of 80 candidates -- 73 men and seven women -- are in the fray in the first phase of polling.

clusion of the campaign. "Flying squads, excise teams, static surveillance teams and the District

Control Room are active in these constituencies," an officer said.

According to information provided by the Uttar Pradesh Police headquarters, 6,018 inspectors and sub-inspectors, 35,750 constables and 24,992 home guard personnel, along with 60 companies of the Provincial Armed Constabulary (PAC) and 220 companies of the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) have been deployed.

According to the Election Commission (EC), 1.43 crore people are eligible to cast their votes in the first phase. Of them, 76.23 lakh are men, 67.14

lakh women and 824 are transgender persons. According to data compiled by political parties, Muslim voters account for 35 to 50 per cent of the electorate in these constituencies.

Twelve candidates are in the fray from Moradabad, 14 from Kairana, 11 each from Muzaffarnagar and Bijnor, 10 each from Saharanpur and Pilibhit and six each from Nagina and Rampur.

The BJP has joined hands with the Rashtriya Lok Dal (RLD) and the SP has allied with the Congress for the election, while the BSP has decided to go solo.

LOK SABHA POLLS

Rane calls Raut, Uddhav 'mad' for 200 seats for BJP

Press Trust of India

Rane called the Congress manifesto a "bluff" saying the party never fulfilled promises during its long rule.

MUMBAI: Union Minister Narayan Rane dubbed Shiv Sena (UBT) leaders Uddhav Thackeray and Sanjay Raut "mad" for claiming the BJP will win less than 200 Lok Sabha seats.

"Sanjay Raut and Uddhav Thackeray have gone mad and are making all kinds of claims. They are saying the BJP will barely win 200 seats in the Lok Sabha polls.

The BJP has won 300 seats in the previous poll and will cross 400 this



FACTFILE

● The BJP on Thursday announced the candidature of Rane from Ratnagiri-Sindhudurg Lok Sabha seat in Maharashtra's

time," Rane told reporters on Wednesday. "The Congress manifesto is a bluff. It was in power for nearly 65 years and never implemented any of the schemes mentioned in the manifesto. In the 2019

polls, they somehow managed to win 50 seats," Rane added. The BJP on Thursday announced the candidature of Rane from Ratnagiri-Sindhudurg Lok Sabha seat in Maharashtra's Konkan region.

'NE's integration happened under Modi'

KOKRAJHAR/ROWTA: BJP president J P Nadda on Thursday claimed that integration of North East with the rest of the country has happened under the Narendra Modi-led government, accusing the Congress of keeping the region in "isolation and ignorance".

He alleged that opposition parties are not bothered about people's welfare, and are out to save themselves from being indicted in multiple scams. Later at another rally at Rowta, under Darrang-Udalguri Lok Sabha constituency, he maintained that the "character, definition and way of functioning of politics" has changed in the country under Modi, who believes in pro-active, pro-responsive governance.

OPINION

'BJP creating disharmony in nation'

Press Trust of India

KANNUR: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Thursday attacked the BJP saying it was creating disharmony in the nation and, in turn, harming millions of people in the country. Addressing a massive election rally in Kannur, Gandhi said the BJP was attempting to change the diversity of the country, whereas

the Congress accepts the differences. He said the upcoming election will probably be the first one in the country's modern history "which is about the Constitution of India and the democratic structure of our nation". "No political party has attempted what the BJP is trying in India today. The Constitution is the foundation of modern India. It is what gives

The BJP wants to impose one history, one nation, one language on the people of India

Rahul Gandhi
Congress leader



our people equal rights and equal opportunities. And our Constitution is protected by various institutions in our country," Gandhi said. He said the bureaucracy, the judiciary, the election commission, the police, the CBI, the Enforcement Directorate, and other agencies are supposed to be protectors of the Constitution and the rights of Indian citizens.

Central Chronicle

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By taking out rally voter awareness campaign is being run.

VK Langeh
Collector Korea



Chhattisgarh

Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

LOK SABHA

12 other IDs can be used apart from Voter ID in Lok Sabha polls 2024

BIJAPUR: As per instructions by the Election Commission, instructions have been issued to help the voters to exercise their franchise for LS polls 2024 and in this apart from the Election ID card, there are 12 other types of IDs (identification cards) which can be used by a voter to exercise his franchise.

Any voter apart from using Voter ID at the polling centre, can also use his or her Aadhar card, MNREGA job card, bank or the pass-book issued by the post office, Smart Card issued under health insurance scheme by the Labour Ministry; Driving Licence; PAN Card; Smart card under the National Population Register; Indian Passport; Photo based Pension document; photo based ID issued by the centre or the state government or the public limited company or MP, MLA and UDID issued by the Ministry of Social Justice and Rights GoI.

FESTIVAL

Chaitra Navratri celebrated with devotion with worship to Goddess



KURUD: Chaitra Navratri festival was celebrated here in region with devotion and special worship of the goddess was done on Ashtami Tithi in all the Goddess temples including Chandi Mata, Chhattisgarh Mahtari Temple and Shitala Mata temple. A crowd of devotees gathered and participated in the Havan Yagya and made offerings to the presiding deity of the city, Goddess Chandi, apart from grand rituals also being performed in Chhattisgarh Mahtari Temple located on the National Highway and the ancient Shitala Mata Temple.



Expenditure observer for parliamentary electoral area No. 6 of Rajnandgaon Praveen Ranjan convened a meeting with officials.

'Proper monitoring of election expenditure of all is important'

Holds meeting with officers in view of election expenditure monitoring in Parliamentary Area No. 6 of Rajnandgaon and asks all to work with mutual co-ordination

Central Chronicle News

KHAIRAGARH: The expenditure observer for parliamentary electoral area No. 6 of Rajnandgaon Praveen Ranjan convened a meeting with officials in the Collectorate in view of Election Expenditure Monitoring. During this Upper Collector and Nodal Officer Training Prem Kumar Patel, Joint Collector and Dy. Director Returning Officer Surendra Kumar Thakur and other officers were present. Expenditure Observer Praveen Ranjan laying emphasis on all to work with

mutual coordination said that for proper management of the election expenditure accounts of the candidates contesting LS polls, all should work with team spirit.

After having detailed discussions on election expenditure he said that AEO objective is ensure arrangements for entire accounting team. He also took information about appointment of VST, FST, SST and the facilities being provided to them and gave necessary instructions. During t his SDM Chui-khadan Renuka Ratre, SDOP Lalchand Mohale,

HIGHLIGHT

- Expenditure Observer Ranjan took information about appointment of VST, FST, SST and facilities provided to them

- Ensure thorough checking of all the vehicles

Asst. Expenditure Observer JR Sao, Lead Bank Manager Gajanand Dhakite, District Excise officer Digesh Dewan-gan and other officers were present.

Work in co-ordination: In the meeting Ranjan gave instructions to all the officers to work as per guidelines of Election Commission. He gave instructions to ensure thorough checking of all the vehicles, keeping special vigilance in suspicious circumstances and also directed them to ensure action against illegal transportation of liquor, cash and seizure of other items at the check-posts which can influence the elections. He also asked to maintain records of the vehicles. He also emphasised upon active working of flying squad,

Permanent Vigilance Team, Video Inspection team, Video monitoring team, C-VIGIL, MCMC team. Asst. Expenditure Observer was asked to keep close eye on the expenditure by the candidate and present the report on daily basis. Terming the Expenditure Monitoring as an important work, Praveen Ranjan asked the team to work in co-ordination and asked all the Banks to keep in mind suspicious withdrawal of any type during the elections and work likewise.

From around the region

'Kanya Bhoj' offered to girls on Ashtami



MUNGELI: Prior to the 'havan-pujan' on 'Ashtami', 'Kanya bhoj' programme was organised in the houses and temples in the city on Tuesday. In this prayers is performed to group of nine girls and they are presented with beauty materials as gift.

There was an air of religious atmosphere in the city on occasion of 'navratri festival'. On the day of 'Ashtami' there was huge rush of devotees at Devi Mandir Mahamaya Sonarpara, Shakti Mandir at Pan-

daria Road, Mahamaya Mandir at Daupara, Jai Maa Durga Mandir, Kali Mandir at Kharripara, Durga Mandir at Hathanikala and Sarveshwari Mandir at Seteganga.

On occasion of 'Ashtami', 'Havan Pujan' was organised and then programme of 'Kanya Bhoj' was organised in the temples and houses. In this prayers were performed to girls and they were offered sweets and other cuisine and later were distributed with 'Shringar materials'.

One accused nabbed with 243 liters of illegal foreign liquor

JAGDALPUR: Karpavand police station of the district received information from an informer that an accused was smuggling illegal liquor. Accused Bhimsen Manikpuri S/o Laxmi Nath Manikpuri R/o Belputi Khaspara was found illegally transporting 100 pieces of Goa Whiskey Foreign Liquor (quarter bottles) (Madhya Pradesh Brand) in a motorcycle. The statement by the accused stated that he had illegally hidden liquor under the fodder in the farm area behind his house, Belputi Khaspara. Foreign liquor Goa Whiskey (Madhya Pradesh brand) was recovered from the accused. 1250 pieces of quarter bottles filled in 25 pieces of khaki colored cartoon, a total of 243 liters of Foreign liquor Goa Whiskey was seized.

'Jawara', 'Shobha Yatra' marks Ramnavami in nearby villages

Central Chronicle News
On the ninth day of Chaitra Navratri

KHARORA: After the 'Ashtami Havan Pujan' in the villages on the 8th day, a massive 'Shobha Yatra' was taken out along with immersion of 'jawaras' in the villages of the region. Devotees in large number took part in the 'immersion Shobha Yatra' taken out from the temples of Goddess Durga and from houses. In this the women, girls carried 'jawara' atop their head and which after leaving the temple, passed through lanes & by-lanes of the villages and then they finally performed the immersion in the village pond. After nine-days of performing prayers



Devotees in large number took part in the 'immersion Shobha Yatra'

FACTFILE

- Devotees concluded the nine-days fast by taking blessings of the Goddess Durga

and oblations to Goddess Durga as per rituals, the devotees concluded the nine-days fast by taking blessings of the Goddess Durga. After this there was 'Kanya Bhoj' organised in the houses and

temples as per the rituals. In the 'Shobha Yatra' taken out, the women carried 'jawara' on their heads and the devotees kept singing 'Bhakt Geets'. After completion of nine-days, the Goddess Durga devotees bid tearful adieu to Goddess Durga amidst traditional bands and singing of 'bhajans' and religious songs of Goddess. Along with the devotees also wore 'Bana'

(piercing of thin iron rod across the cheeks) and led the Shobha Yatra with women carrying 'jawara' on their head and then immersed the 'jawara' in the pond. On occasion of 'Chaitra Navratri' for all nine days, 'Manokamna Jyots' of faith were lighted in all the temples and it was right since morning till late at night that 'jaasgeet' kept resounding from the temples.

CHALLENGING TERRAIN

Voters, polling parties need to cover 20 to 25 kms

Central Chronicle News

NARAYANPUR: The remote Abujhmad village of Bastar division is ready for the 2024 Lok Sabha elections on April 19 amidst challenging terrain. The remote villages located in Abujhmad of Bastar are preparing themselves for the democratic process amid rugged terrain and transportation challenges.

With 236 villages spread across the Abujhmad region, election officials have set up 32 polling stations for 25,538 voters living in a population of 34,950. The arduous journey to reach these villages is an adventure for the polling team, who have to walk 20 to 25 kilometers to ensure the electoral process. Similarly, voters too faced the same arduous

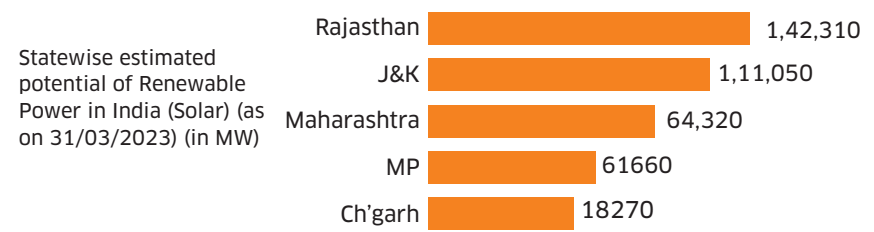
'Despite logistical hurdles, the spirit of democracy remains intact'
Nodal Officer
Polling team



journey to exercise their democratic right. One such village, Bade Penda, which has a modest population of 85 voters, including 41 men and 44 women, exemplifies the challenges faced by both voters and officials. Despite logistical hurdles, the spirit of democracy remains intact, with villagers anxiously waiting for their turn to cast their votes.

The Day's NUMBERS

WHAT IS ESTIMATED POTENTIAL OF RENEWABLE POWER IN INDIA (SOLAR)



Source: Statista

VOTING APPEAL

Modi-ki-Guarantee is there to make country well-developed: BJP

FINGESHWAR: Expressing happiness on declaration of the BJP's election manifesto, the female leaders of BJP viz. Santoshi Shrivastava, Padma Yadu, Bhueshwari Sahu, Seema Thakur, Shanti Kosare, Laxmi Shrivastava and others held the party's election manifesto as the 'Modi-ki-Guarantee-2024', because the Modi government has fulfilled all the promises made under the Modi-ki-Guarantee'. It is not only for LS polls, but BJP fought the last VS polls on 'Modi-ki-Guarantee' and on which the people showed their confidence and ousted the mal-governance led Congress government from the state. This time also in the LS polls the people strongly believing in the 'Modi-Ki-Guarantee', would form the BJP government at the Centre. Female BJP leaders said that the CM Vishnu Deo Sai's government in the state has also fulfilled the promises made under 'Modi-Ki-Guarantee' in the state and it is fulfilling all these guarantees made by BJP that is has been named as 'Modi-Ki-Guarantee'.

VOTERS AWARENESS

Torch rally taken out to create awareness under voter awareness



KOREA: Under the SVEEP program, women and youth of District Panchayat, Sonhat Gram Panchayat Pusla, Mendra and Tanjara have set an example by taking out a torch rally and running a voter awareness campaign. Chief Executive Officer of District Panchayat, Sonhat, Manoj Singh Jagat said that in the past days for Lok Sabha elections Workers working in MNREGA and disabled voters gave messages to vote in large numbers and yesterday the villagers took out a torch rally at night and took the oath of 'Shamtadan Karbo-Karabosh' and also motivated the voters to vote.

Grand procession taken out on the occasion of Ramnavami

On the auspicious occasion of the birth of Lord Shri Ram, the festival of Ram Navami, was celebrated throughout the day in small and big villages

CENTRAL CHRONICLE NEWS

The Shobha Yatra of Ram Lalla travelled in the chariot from Tikrapara Ram Temple

KHAIRAGARH: On the occasion of Ramnavami, a procession of Lord Shri Ram took place in the district headquarters Khairagarh, which started from Barfanidham Ram temple with Ramlala (the statue enshrined in Ayodhya) with slogans of Jai Shri Ram to the tune of DJ Dhumal. The Shobha Yatra of Ram Lalla travelled in the chariot from Tikrapara Ram Temple, Bus Stand, Ambedkar Chowk, and Tempo Stand Chowk via the State Highway.



A massive procession was taken out by devotees on occasion of 'Ramnavami' here on Wednesday.

about Ram Navami, especially among the youth, while devotional bhajan programs also continued in Ram temples since morning.

On the auspicious occasion of the birth of Lord Shri Ram, the festival of Ram Navami, the birthday of Lord Shri Ram, was celebrated throughout the day in small and big villages and towns including district headquarters Khairagarh, Salhewara, Gandai, Chhuikhadan, Jalbandha, Pandadah, Bazaar Ataria, Mudhipar, Thelkadhih. People hugged each other and congratulated Ram Navami. There was a lot of enthusiasm

On the last day of Chaitra Navratri in village Anwari, the Jyoti Kalash enshrined in Shitala temple and the Jwara sown by the devotees in their homes were immersed, dancing to the tune of Seva Jasgeet and swaying to the beats of Mandar, the devotees immersed the Jyot Jawara with devotion.

Immersion of Jyot-Janwara concludes with Jasgeet, dancing

On the last day of Chaitra Navratri, Jyot Janwara placed in houses and Shitala temples in rural areas including Khairagarh district headquarters were immersed, with full devotion. The devotional service was organised with dancing to the tune of Jasgeet, the devotees immersed the Jyot Jawara with devotion and swaying to the beat of

HIGHLIGHT

- Power of devotion seen on the last day of Chaitra Navratri
- Immersion took place in rural areas including the district headquarters

Maander. After worshipping Mother Goddess for nine days, the procession

of Jyot-Janwara immersion was taken out with much fanfare in every village including the city. In Shitala temple and many devotees of rural areas including the city, lamps were lit at their homes, which were immersed in local rivers and ponds through Jasgeet Seva. Apart from this, the Jyoti Kalash installed in the famous Devi temples.

Pensioners Association submits memorandum to CM

CENTRAL CHRONICLE NEWS

DPA submitted a memorandum to Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai regarding the resolution of pensioners' problems

KHAIRAGARH: District Pensioners Association (DPA) submitted a memorandum to Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai regarding the resolution of pensioners' problems at the district level. It may be noted that in the memorandum submitted through District Vice President and Shadow MLA of Khairagarh Vikrant Singh, the Association said that in the meeting of the Provincial Executive on February 14, it was decided that with reference to the letter submitted on January 16 regarding resolution of the problem along with their nine-point demands.

District President Basant Yadu said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had increased the relief pension by 4 percent from July 1, 23, which is now being reported to be increased to 50 percent. He told that they are not getting the increased relief pension, while in Bihar, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh and Uttaranchal, these states pay the pension obligations of the pensioners independently and as per the revised pay

scale, the order related to relief pension and arrears is issued by the Center from the same date. District President Basant Yadu said that the exact opposite process is being adopted in Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh, using Section 49 of State Reorganization as an excuse, mutual consent has been made mandatory for payment.

On January 1, 2006, the Centre issued an order

FASTFACTS

- Pensioners in Chhattisgarh are not getting the increased relief pension as on date
- Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh, using Section 49 of State Reorganization as an excuse

to give pension as per the sixth pay scale, but in Chhattisgarh, a commission was formed for pension payment as per the revised pay scale and the arrear payment of 32 months from January 1, 2006 to August 31, 2008 and was suspended till September 1, 2008. Regarding the problem of pensioners, District President Basant Yadu said that even after 17 years, both the state governments are not making the payments on the pretext of the section of the Reorganization Act.

NEWSLINE

FESTIVAL

Devotees gather in Jyot Janwara Visarjan Yatra



ANWARI: Jyot Janwara was immersed on Wednesday, the ninth day of Chaitra Navratri, in the local pond of village Supela. Let it be known that before this, the program of Havan Puja was celebrated on Ashtami and the program of Havan Puja and Kanya Bhoj continued from morning till late evening in Shitala temple. On the occasion of Chaitra Navratri, the devotees of Shitala Mata temple of the village had lit the urn of wishes and for the same, a special ritual of Havan puja was performed, in which a large number including Village Development Committee Chairman Moolchand Sahu, Secretary Dwarika Pradhan, Treasurer Digvijay Singh, Krishnadayal Sahu, Hitendra Sahu, Chetan Dewangan, Ashwani Sahu and others were present.

FESTIVAL

Jawara of Maa Mahamaya temple immersed in Mauraha

RAJIM: Jawara immersion was done in the city's Goddess Adishakti Maa Mahamaya Temple and the devotees were moving ahead along with the service group, singing Jas Seva songs with musical instruments. Temple priest Baldu Singh Thakur was holding the main Jyoti Kalash on his head, and the devotee's followed, till reaching Mauraha pond. It must be mentioned that Jyoti Kalash was lit from 9th April, Panchami was celebrated on 13 April and on the concluding day the immersion was done with much fanfare. Lileshwar Yadu, Fagu Ram Nishad, Ashish Sahu, Ramkumar Sahu, Sadhu Nishad, Rakesh Gupta, Mayank Soni and many others were present.

FESTIVAL

Jyot Janwara immersed in Bhaishod

ANWARI: Jyot Jawara was immersed in village Bhaishod on Wednesday, the ninth day of Chaitra Navratri, in the local Bandha pond accompanied by musical instruments. Mata devotees were moving forward dancing to the tune of traditional Seva Jasgeet, and devotees were bidding their last farewell to Jyot Jawara, the symbol of faith of Mata Rani, with tearful eyes. Let it be known that earlier on Ashtami, the Havan puja program was conducted with great enthusiasm and the program of Havan Puja and Kanya Bhoj continued in the Devi temples from morning till late evening. On this occasion, Dularva Ram, Ravikumar, Harish Sahu, Kumbhakaran, Ganesh Ram, Kuman Sahu, Birsing Yadav, Bishat Tarak, Gajendra Sahu, Lilesh Sahu, Ramesh Dhiwar, Dilip Sahu, Neelkanth Yadav and all the villagers were present in large numbers.

Sector officers should inspect polling stations: Collector

CENTRAL CHRONICLE NEWS

Collector asked the sector officers to visit polling stations associated with them and ensure all the basic facilities



KOREA: Collector and District Election Officer Vinay Kumar Langeh has given instructions to all the sector officers appointed for the Lok Sabha elections 2024 to inspect the route chart and polling stations allotted to them and take stock of the arrangements. In the weekly time limit meeting held in the Collectorate's meeting room, the Collector, while reviewing the preparations for the Lok Sabha elections, asked the sector officers to visit the polling stations associated with them and ensure all the basic facilities like shade, water,

electricity, toilets etc are present.

The Collector also reviewed the resolution of department-wise pending cases and also gave instructions to quickly submit the reply on the pending cases related to the Honorable High Court, Bilaspur.

Taking various departmental pending cases seriously, he gave instructions to the concerned officers to resolve them soon. District Panchayat CEO Dr. Ashutosh Chaturvedi, Additional Collector Arun Kumar Markam along with nodal and district officers were present in the meeting.

CM has grossly insulted Yadav community: Suryakant

KHAIRAGARH: The Yadav community is angry over Chief Minister Vishnu Dev Sai's lathi-charged statement and sharp reactions are coming from the society regarding this statement. Regarding the matter, State and District Organization Minister of Yadav community Suryakant Yadav said that Chief Minister Vishnudev Sai, who holds the constitutional post, has made objectionable remarks about the Yadav community while addressing the election meeting in Bilaspur Lok Sabha. Yadav community condemns his statement and Chief Minister Shri Sai should publicly apologize to Yadav community, he said. Yadav further said that Chief Minister Vishnudev Sai has addressed the people of Yadav community by calling them lathaits and through this social comment an attempt has been made to degrade the entire Yadav community.

Administration also bowed before the factory operator!

| CONTROVERSY |

CENTRAL CHRONICLE NEWS

Factory is being operated in Krishna and Narayan Industries located in village Baheradhih

JANJGIR-CHAMP: There is an industry operating in Janjgir-Champa district of Chhattisgarh which is openly playing with the lives of common citizens. On the other hand, the administration has also bowed down before the operator of this factory. It is known that the factory is being operated in Krishna and Narayan Industries located in village Baheradhih under Janjgir-Champa district keeping safety in mind.

Let us tell you that select bangle stone grinding work is done in this factory due to which many workers had lost their lives in the last decade and the health of the workers working in this factory



An outside view of the factory in Janjgir-Champa district.

FASTFACTS

- In the factory, patients can also suffer from silicosis due to the dust of grinding select bangles.
- Testing is also not conducted. Due to which the threat to the lives of the workers is always looming.

is never checked by any specialist doctors. Testing is also not conducted.

Due to which the threat to the lives of the workers is always looming. Whereas in the factory, patients can also suffer from silicosis due to the dust of grinding select bangles. Not only this, many workers have fallen victim to silicosis in the past. It is also important to tell you that a complaint has been made to the Prime Minister's Office about this famous factory, but the reason why the administration is not

opening its eyes is not hidden from anyone because a huge amount has been paid to the administrative staff by the operators of the factory. The operator of the factory is saying loudly and it is true that the matter is not being investigated? If the administration does not close this factory in time, it has been said on the condition of anonymity that a high level investigation will be demanded.

| ELECTRICITY CRISIS |

Electricity playing hide and seek with onset of summer

CENTRAL CHRONICLE NEWS

PANDARIYA: With the onset of summer, power tripping has started increasing in the region and for the last two-three days, power tripping has been happening many times in the city.

Due to overuse of electric appliances and use of pumps for irrigation the load has increased, resulting in power trip-

ping. Due to power cut, people had to face the problem of water and due to tripping during the day, they were troubled by the heat and due to hours of electricity being shut down, people are facing the scorching heat and complaints are being received from the villagers about the officials not receiving the calls and not getting immediate rectification



on the complaints. Apart from the cities, the electricity system in the rural areas is even worse and after the electricity is switched off, there is no electricity for several days. 132 KV sub station is located in Domsara, but here the electricity remains closed every day and villagers have been demanding improvement in the electricity system for a long time.



Despite having a sub-station in the village, many times the electricity remains switched off.

Villagers of Domsara

Recently, in one locality of Domsara, electricity remained off for more than 14 hours, while in another locality it remained off for 8 hours and even after complaining about the improvement, improvement was achieved after 14 hours. Villagers have opined that despite having a sub-station in the village, many times the electricity remains switched off throughout the night.



QUOTE FROM THE QUOTABLE
Government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.
 [Abraham Lincoln]

Comment

BJP's Foray in Tamil Nadu: Shifting Political Tides

Tamil Nadu is going for voting in the very first phase of 2024 Lok Sabha elections. As the intense campaign in the scorching Sun climate came to an end the speculation on the winner are varied. Speculations on the outcome vary widely, with some anticipating a repeat of the 2019 results favoring the DMK and its allies, while others predict surprise wins for the BJP in at least 5 seats. However, the noteworthy aspect is the national attention drawn to the BJP's spirited efforts to attract voters away from the Dravidian movement, marking a significant shift in the state's political landscape.

Tamil Nadu's electoral landscape, long dominated by the Dravidian parties, is undergoing a seismic shift with the entry of the BJP onto the scene. Historically, Tamil Nadu's 39 seats were staunchly held by the DMK or AIADMK and their allies. However, the rise of coalition politics at the national level since the 1990s and the BJP's ascension to power in

2014 reshaped the political dynamics. The BJP's focused efforts in Tamil Nadu, highlighted by Prime Minister Modi's frequent visits and attempts to bridge cultural divides, have transformed the state's political arena. This has disrupted the traditional bipolar contest between the DMK and AIADMK, introducing a triangular dynamic with the BJP emerging as a significant player. In response, the DMK has shifted its campaign focus from language and cultural sentiments to issues like the CAA and secularism, reflecting concerns about BJP encroachment.

The BJP's entry has forced the DMK to adapt its agenda to counter the new threat, signaling a departure from its traditional discourse. M.K. Stalin fears that, once a national party gets a foothold in his state his appeal may get weakened.

The ruling party's poor performance in the power sector has exacerbated the situation. State-owned hydropower plants saw a drastic 50% decrease in out-

put compared to the previous year, resulting in severe power shortages and scheduled and unscheduled power cuts across Tamil Nadu. The failure of the Dravidian model of development, championed by the Karunanidhi clan, has been laid bare. The Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Corporation Limited (TANGEDCO) is burdened with hefty loan interest payments and substantial expenses on power procurement from private players, totaling a projected 65,000 crores for the financial year. M.K. Stalin, mindful of the repercussions of the 2011 power crisis, has sought to divert voters' attention by focusing on emotive issues such as the abolition of Sanatana Dharma and non-implementation of CAA and NEET, despite their jurisdiction lying beyond the purview of the state government.

The BJP's strategic overtures to Tamil pride, from organizing Tamil Sangam meets in Varanasi to Modi's symbolic gestures like wearing traditional Tamil dress and addressing in Tamil with

the help of AI, signify a concerted effort to court Tamil voters. Despite potentially not securing any seats this election, local observers note BJP's growing foothold in Tamil Nadu, estimating a near 20% vote share. This reflects discontent among voters not aligned with Dravidian parties, who perceive BJP as an alternative to the governance styles of DMK and AIADMK. The SC communities, in particular, have suffered under Dravidian rule, while middle castes, historically aligned with Dravidian parties, perpetrate harassment against SC groups. Annamalai's articulate advocacy for BJP exposes these disparities, positioning the national party as a viable alternative. The ongoing election is poised to underscore two significant shifts: the diminishing influence of regional parties in Tamil Nadu and BJP's emergence through steadfast voter support. This outcome is poised to prompt a reassessment of political alliances and ideologies, compelling Congress to reconsider its ties with DMK.



Dr. Duggaraju Srinivasa Rao

Author is a Retired Professor and contributes on the Politics and Environment.

Population Dynamics: India's Challenges and Prospects

India's demographic landscape is evolving rapidly, with the latest estimates placing its population at a staggering 1.44 billion, a significant increase from the 1.21 billion recorded in the 2011 census. What's striking is that nearly a quarter of this population falls within the 0-14 age bracket, highlighting the nation's youthful demographic profile. According to a report by the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA), India is projected to witness a doubling of its population within the next 77 years. This demographic trend presents both challenges and opportunities for the nation's development trajectory. While India's success in reducing maternal mortality rates is commendable, disparities in healthcare access persist, particularly among marginalized communities. Despite strides in improving maternal health services, access remains skewed towards wealthier women and certain ethnic groups, leaving behind those most in need. Of particular concern is the prevalence of child marriage, which persists at an alarming rate despite efforts to combat it. The period between 2006-2023 saw a troubling 23% of marriages involving children, underscoring the urgency of addressing this issue to ensure the well-being of future generations. Moreover, the vulnerability of women with disabilities to gender-based violence remains a pressing issue, exacerbated by factors such as climate change, humanitarian crises, and mass migration. Dalit activists have rightfully called for legal protections to combat discrimination in workplaces and educational institutions, emphasizing the need for inclusive policies. As India grapples with the implications of its demographic dividend, it must prioritize investments in education, healthcare, and social welfare to harness the potential of its youthful population. Addressing disparities in access to essential services and tackling entrenched social norms are critical steps towards building a more equitable and prosperous society for all. In the complexities of population dynamics, India has the opportunity to chart a path towards sustainable development that ensures the rights and dignity of every individual, irrespective of their socio-economic background or demographic profile.

Tackling the epidemic of child sexual assault

Despite the enactment of the POSCO Act, instances of sexual assault against minors remain alarmingly prevalent across India, demanding urgent intervention from governmental bodies and societal awakening. Illustrating the urgency of the matter, Rajya Sabha member Derrick Oberon bravely shared his own traumatic experience of childhood sexual abuse during legislative discussions on the POSCO Act amendments in July 2019. His testimony underscores the crucial need for public figures to address such atrocities openly. Recent events, such as the sexual assault of a 6-year-old girl at a night camp, highlight the widespread occurrence of these crimes. Such incidents are not isolated and necessitate a collective societal response. The vulnerability of children, particularly those from socioeconomically disadvantaged backgrounds, exposes them to various forms of exploitation, emphasizing the need for a robust safety framework within our society. The World Health Organization defines child sexual abuse as any involvement of a child in sexual activity without full comprehension or consent, a reality that affects over half of India's child population.



Ysah Pal Ralhan

The current China situation presents an opportunity to be an alternative or additional node in global supply chains, a former US trade official said Tuesday and asserted that India's economic prosperity will be driven by its global interdependence in increasing trade and investments into and from India, helping drive job creation, GDP growth and prosperity.

The former official said as India becomes the third largest economy in nominal GDP and as the Indian middle class grows to become larger and with higher incomes, it will emerge as a significant market for US and global businesses. India's productive capacity will similarly find enhanced ways to serve global demand as we already see in technology, he said.

"India is a beneficiary of globalisation. Its economic prosperity will be driven by its global interdependence, in increasing trade and investments into and from India, helping drive job creation, GDP growth and prosperity. Today the global supply chain situation works in India's favor for increased participation in manufactur-

ing," Arun Kumar, managing partner at Celesta Capital and former US Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Global Markets told a Washington DC audience.

"A continued focus on the ease of doing business, ease of trade facilitation, creation of modern infrastructure and associated logistics are required to facilitate greater participation in global value chains," he said in his remarks at a conference on "Making India an Advanced

Economy by 2047: What Will it Take" at the George Washington University here.

Amidst the US-China discord, with over 25 per cent of global manufacturing coming from China -- and most critical value chains intertwined with China -- a key issue that has emerged is that of concentration risk, he said. "This drives a need for redundant sources of supply, what is known as supply chain resilience. The concentration risk came into sharp focus

during the Covid pandemic. For example, Chinese manufacturers made 40 per cent of all Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients--the vital components of medicines -- and 42 per cent of all personal protective equipment (PPE)," he added. "From India's vantage point, the China situation presents an opportunity to be an alternative or an additional node in global supply chains, supplanting or supplementing China. The focus on supply chain

resilience is driving onshoring or near-shoring of value chains. A concept that gained currency is 'friend-shoring' -- reshaping of supply networks to include geopolitically closer countries," Kumar said. Observing that India is not part of major regional free trade agreements, Kumar warned that this posture will handicap it in participating fully in many supply chains.

While the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership may be unpalatable to India for domestic political or perceived security reasons on account of China's dominance in the agreement, the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership CPTPP could well be one for India to consider.

"The CPTPP is an Indo Pacific treaty. Although it is interesting to note that the UK has applied to join it. And so has China. While staying out of these regional FTAs, India is embracing and is key to several other multilateral frameworks, mostly focused on the Indo-Pacific. The most important of these is the Quad, made up of the US, Japan, Australia and India.

India's global links fuel economic growth

India's prosperity hinges on global ties, bolstered by trade and investments. Enhanced participation in supply chains and focus on resilience offer avenues. by *Arun Kumar*



India needs to grow at 8-9 per cent for the next 20 years to become a developed nation Photo: AP

YOUR LETTERS

Microplastics and cardiovascular risks

Recent findings indicate a concerning link between microplastics and heightened cardiovascular disease risks. A study involving 250 patients, published in the New England Journal of Medicine, revealed a nearly fourfold increase in heart attack risk associated with microplastic presence in the body. With plastic production surging and aged plastics entering ecosystems, exposure to microplastics is on the rise. Vigilant government oversight on plastic quality and concerted efforts to reduce plastic usage, particularly in healthcare and industrial sectors, are imperative.

Arka Goswami, Durgapur

Tab on drunk driving

An alarming increase in drunk driving incidents, exemplified by the Mahendragarh school bus accident, plagues the nation. Alcoholism, now a socioeconomic scourge, inflicts detrimental effects on all bodily organs, endangering drivers whose reflexes are impaired. While patrolling efforts can be heightened, tipsy drivers often evade checkpoints. Authorities must restrict alcohol access and availability. Fellow drivers must remain vigilant and report erring individuals to the police. Collaboration between authorities and the community is vital.

Dr Ganapathi Bhat,

Send your articles (500-600 words) and letters (70-80 words) for this page on: editorcentralchronicle@gmail.com
 The letters can be edited or rewritten for clarity.

Business



Daimler India Commercial Vehicles plans to foray into the domestic battery electric segment
Satyakam Auto
MD & CEO, DICV



External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar during an interaction at the Institute of Company Secretaries of India, in Bengaluru.

Global future will not be driven by big tech but by India's DPI: Kant

Kant said India will transfer its digital public infrastructure (DPI) to the rest of the world, and already there are many examples of countries warming up to the same

Press Trust of India

MUMBAI: India's G-20 sherpa Amitabh Kant on Thursday said the global future will not be driven by big technology firms but by the digital public infrastructure platforms developed locally.

Speaking at the 'We Made in India' event here, Kant said India will transfer its digital public infrastructure (DPI) to the rest of the world,

and already there are many examples of countries warming up to the same. "DPI will become synonymous with the rest of the world," he said, adding this will be a big part of the India growth story during the period till 2047.

The DPI consists of the digital identity through Aadhaar, real time payment through the UPI platform and other services like account

NUMBER

6.7%

● DPI consists of the digital identity through Aadhaar, real time payment through the UPI platform

● India's DPI will transfer to the world, and the same will present a lot of opportunities for the country's entrepreneurs

aggregator, and was showcased to the world during India's presidency of G-20 last year. Kant said during the G-20, the world accepted the definition and framework of the DPI, given the strides that India has made through its strategies. "During G-20, the world accepted the definition of digital public infra, the world accepted the framework of DPI and to our belief, the future

will not be driven by big tech, it will be driven by DPI," he said.

It can be noted that 'big tech' generally refers to a set of global tech majors like Apple, Google's owner Alphabet, Amazon and Meta. Kant said India's DPI will transfer to the world, and the same will present a lot of opportunities for the country's entrepreneurs which need to be leveraged on.

Voda Idea CEO hopes to arrest telco's subscriber loss with FPO

NEW DELHI: Buoyed by investors like GQG lapping up shares reserved for anchor investors, Vodafone Idea CEO Akshaya Moondra on Wednesday expressed confidence that the FPO will sail through, providing the loss-making telco funds for network expansion that he hoped will help arrest the loss of subscribers.

In an interview with PTI, the top honcho said the just-concluded anchor book allocation that drew in big global and domestic names has been a "good start" and gives VIL confidence about the progress of the fundraising exercise.

Moondra said he does not believe that Vodafone-Idea's "some-what later entry" into 5G would impact the telco in the long run.

The company have static training hubs that will operate from the location where they are, and they are also going to deploy Drone on wheels.

NEW DELHI: Drone Destination is planning to grow its workforce by about four-fold to 1,200 people by the year-end, a senior company official said.

While announcing the expansion plan, Drone Destination CEO Chirag Sharma said the company plans to set up 250 hubs through which it will offer services.

"We are a team of around 350 people. We are looking to deploy 250 hubs in the next two



Drone Destination CEO Chirag Sharma (C), Chairman Alok Sharma and others during a press conference.

FASTFACT

● Company is transitioning from just imparting skills training to offering a full spectrum of services

● To deploy 250 such vehicles, which will more focus on agriculture

months, for which we will hire 500 people. Based on the response to technology adoption, we intend to be 1,200 people company by the end of the year," Sharma said.

The company is transitioning from just imparting skills training to offering a full spectrum of services where drones can be used,

like in agriculture, surveillance, mapping, repair and maintenance, among others, he added.

Drone Destination has a presence at 12 locations for training, which it plans to convert into a Drone hub. "We are open to partnering with industry partners to leverage our network, he noted.

LARGEST PRODUCER

Hindustan Zinc now 3rd largest silver producer globally

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Vedanta group firm Hindustan Zinc on Thursday said it has become the third largest producer of silver globally. As per a survey, its Sindesar Khurd Mine in Rajasthan now stands as the world's second largest silver-producing mine, moving up from last year's fourth spot, the company

said in a statement.

Silver plays a pivotal role in the global energy transition and Hindustan Zinc's production growth of 5 per cent year-on-year is attributed to increased ore production and enhanced grades, reinforcing its status as a key player in the global silver market, Hindustan Zinc Chairperson Priya Agarwal Hebbar said.



Hindustan Zinc, a Vedanta Group company in zinc, lead and silver businesses, is the world's second largest integrated zinc producer and now the third largest silver producer. The company has a market share of 75 per cent of the growing zinc market in India with its headquarters in Udaipur along with zinc, lead mines and smelting complexes.

BizBriefs

BEST OF THE REST

OILMEAL EXPORT

India exports record 48.86 lakh tonnes oilmeal in FY24: SEA

NEW DELHI: India exported a record 48.86 tonnes of oilmeal -- used as animal feed -- during the 2023-24 financial year on revival of shipments of soyabean meal, industry body SEA said on Thursday. In value terms also, the country's oilmeal exports were highest at Rs 15,368 crore during 2023-24 fiscal. he previous record was 43.81 lakh tonnes achieved in 2013-14 fiscal, while in value terms shipments stood at Rs 11,500 crore. "This is the highest export of oilmeals since 2013-14 in terms of quantity and value," the Solvent Extractors Association of India (SEA) said in a statement. The overall export of oilmeals during the April-March period of 2023-24 fiscal was highest at 48.86 lakh tonnes, up by 13 per cent from 43.36 lakh tonnes in the previous year. The industry body said the export of soyabean meal revived during the year and reported at 21.33 lakh tonnes in 2023-24 fiscal. **PTI**

INDICATORS

Share MARKETS

| Market | Close | %chg |
|-----------------|-----------|-------|
| Sensex: | 72,488.99 | -0.62 |
| Nifty: | 21,995.85 | -0.69 |
| Nifty Midcap: | 48,995.70 | -0.49 |
| Nifty Smallcap: | 16,286.35 | -0.28 |
| Nifty Bank: | 47,069.45 | -0.87 |

Closing rates as on Apr 18, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. (IST)

Forex RATES

| Foreign currency Vs Rupee | Rate | %chg |
|---------------------------|-------|------|
| US Dollar | 83.52 | ↘ |
| Euro | 89.18 | ↗ |
| Chinese Yuan | 11.53 | ↘ |
| UAE Dirham | 22.74 | ↘ |
| Pakistan Rupee | 0.29 | ↘ |
| Sri Lanka Rupee | 0.27 | ↗ |

On Apr 18, 2024

World INDICES

| Stock | Value | %chg |
|------------------|-----------|-------|
| Dow Jones (US) | 37,753.31 | -0.12 |
| FTSE 100 Index | 7,866.88 | +0.24 |
| Nikkei 225 (JPN) | 38,079.70 | +0.31 |
| CSI 300 (CHN) | 3,569.80 | +0.12 |

Index at 05:30 p.m. (IST, Apr 18, 2024)

How markets behaved today?

Markets face heavy fluctuations; settle lower taking downtrend to 4th day



MUMBAI: Equity benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty faced heavy volatility on Thursday and ended lower, taking their losing streak to the fourth straight session, dragged by bank stocks and foreign fund outflows. Concerns over fading rate cut hopes and persisting FII fund exodus from domestic equities also dampened investors' sentiment. The 30-share BSE Sensex declined abruptly post noon, reflecting heavy fluctuations, wiping out all its early gains. It tanked 454.69 points or 0.62 per cent to settle

at 72,488.99. During the day, it gyrated 1,107.38 points between the day's high and low. The benchmark quoted 73,135.5 at 13:31 hours but within two minutes it declined to 72,817.03 at 13.34 hours, reflecting a drop of 318.47 points. The NSE Nifty declined 152.05 points or 0.69 per cent to 21,995.85.

Stock that gained today

Bharti Airtel, Power Grid, Infosys and Larsen & Toubro were among the gainers. **PTI**

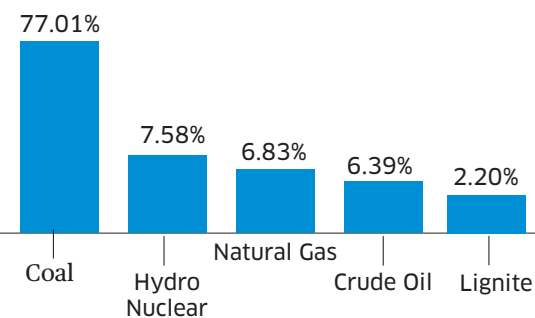
The Day's NUMBERS

From different commercial sources in India during FY: 2022-23

Total Energy Generated: 19,549 PJ

Source: MoS&I

SHARE OF TOTAL ENERGY GENERATED (IN PETAJOULES)



CORPORATE

Airtel delivers best video experience on 5G network: Open Signal

MUMBAI: Open Signal, the independent global standards for network and subscriber insights has awarded Bharti Airtel, the best video experience on 5G network in Madhya Pradesh telecom circle.

OpenSignal is the global standard for analyzing mobile experience and is a definitive guide to understanding true customer experience.

Airtel has topped the chart for overall 5G video streaming experience both in live and on-demand video streaming offering customer uninterrupted experience.

The company also leads the game in voice app experience, providing seamless connectivity to its users while playing multiplayer mobile games and using over-the-top (OTT) voice services on mobile voice apps.

Overall, Airtel remains the outright winner of best 5G upload speed award across the country, with the winning score of 25.1 Mbps. **PTI**

VOLUNTARILY RECALLING

Nissan recalls Magnite units to fix front door handle sensors



NEW DELHI: Nissan Motor India on Thursday said it is voluntarily recalling Magnite units produced between November 2020 and December 2023 for a retrofit of front door handle sensors.

The company did not share the number of affected units. This proactive and mandatory preventive action impacts the base XE and mid XL variants only, with no impact to the safety of customers, the automaker said in a statement on its website.

All Nissan Magnite units manufactured after December 2023 remain unaffected, it added. **PTI**



JNU was never 'anti-national'
Santishree Dhulipudi Pandit
VC, JNU



Foreign tourists during celebrations of World Heritage Day at the Agra Fort, Thursday. PTI PHOTO

Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

SUCCESS

Son of civic sweeper Prashant Suresh Bhojane cracks UPSC exam

THANE: For 32-year-old Prashant Suresh Bhojane, whose mother works as a civic sweeper in Maharashtra's Thane city, cracking the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) exam was always his dream, and he persevered against all odds to finally fulfil the goal. In the UPSC Civil Services Examination (CSE) 2023 final results declared on Tuesday, he passed the exam by securing the 849th rank. Prashant had started the journey towards fulfilling his dream in 2015, when he first appeared for the exam, and finally cracked it in the ninth attempt. His achievement gave a reason to cheer for the residents of Khartan Road Sweepers Colony, where his family lives, as they took out a procession in celebration on Wednesday night. A few local politicians also took part in it. Prashant's mother works as a sweeper with the Thane Municipal Corporation (TMC), while his father is a Class IV employee in the civic body.

KEJRI

Diabetic Kejriwal eating mangoes, sweets for bail: Enforcement Directorate

NEW DELHI: Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, arrested in an excise scam case, is eating food high in sugar like mangoes and sweets every day despite having type 2 diabetes to create grounds for medical bail, the ED claimed before a court here on Thursday. The Enforcement Directorate (ED) made the claim before special judge for CBI and ED cases, Kaveri Baweja, who directed the Tihar jail authorities to file a report in the matter, including Kejriwal's diet chart.

Kejriwal has moved the court seeking permission to consult his regular doctor via video conference because of fluctuating sugar levels. The judge directed the authorities concerned to file the report by tomorrow, when the court is likely to take up the matter again. "Arvind Kejriwal is eating high sugar content food despite having type 2 diabetes. He is consuming 'aloo poori', mango, sweets, daily.

From around the web on India

Biden admin supports permanent UNSC seat for India



WASHINGTON: The US supports much-needed reform of the United Nations, including the Security Council, to make it reflective of the 21st-century world, a senior Biden administration official has said, amidst growing calls for inclusion of India as the permanent member of the powerful organ of the world body. State Department's Principal Deputy Spokesperson Vedant Patel's remarks came as he responded to a question about billionaire tech magnate Elon Musk's assertion that there is no meaning in hav-

ing the UN without India's permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council. He said President Joe Biden has spoken about this (the need for reforms) before in his remarks to the UN General Assembly. "We certainly support reforms to the UN institution, including the Security Council, to make it reflective of the 21st-century world that we live in. I don't have any specifics to offer on what those steps are, but certainly, we recognise that there is a need for reform," Patel said during a press briefing on Wednesday.

For World Heritage Day, India Post's nod to Mysuru's lesser-known heritage

The set of five postcards, titled 'Namma Ooru Tales - Mysuru,' embedded with a QR code will be available for sale at Philatelic Bureau, Bengaluru GPO, Mysuru HO, Mangalore HO and Belagavi HO

Press Trust of India

BENGALURU: The magnificence of Mysuru's Amba Vilas Palace often overshadows other iconic buildings in the city that pay homage to the times gone by. To offset this, India Post has chosen five other Mysuru marvels to highlight this World Heritage Day. "Every year, to commemorate World Heritage Day, we try and shine the light on some hidden heritage gems. This year,

we decided to present a Mysuru that looks beyond its palace," S Rajendra Kumar, chief postmaster general, Bengaluru HQ region, told PTI. According to Kumar, when Mysuru-based architect, Sakshi Jain approached him with a set of her water colour sketches of other famous buildings - like the 19th century Devaraja Market with its ornate facade and courtyard; the colonial era bungalow The Heritage House with its lofty

HIGHLIGHT

- Twenty-five-year-old Jain could hardly believe her luck
- It has been my dream to become a conservation architect and one of the reasons why she document heritage buildings

windows and spacious verandah; Maistry Thimmaichar Choultry, a 1935 public rest house with a

central courtyard in need of immediate restoration; 19th century Kukkharalli Lake Tower, a blend of kiosk and lighthouse; and Singer building, another 19th century specimen that was once rumoured to be a Freemason lodge - he decided to issue them as postcards. Twenty-five-year-old Jain could hardly believe her luck. "This is all so serendipitous. When I travel, I sketch the landmark buildings and when I was in Gujarat, I made

my own postcard of my sketch of Neminath Jain Temple in Girnar. When I went to post it, one gentleman there told me that India Post commissions these kinds of sketches as postcards," Jain told PTI. When she came back to Mysuru, Jain said she decided to try her luck and dropped in at the head post office of Mysuru but was asked to go to the headquarters in Bengaluru. The rest, as they say, is history.

Campaign inspiring citizens to Vote

GURUGRAM: Bangur Cement unveiled a new multimedia campaign inspiring the citizens of the nation to exercise their right to vote. The campaign, 'Vote Solid, Desh Solid', highlights the importance of each individual's vote in making the nation more solid. The campaign is innovative because it is a sequel to the previous brand launch campaign featuring popular Bollywood star Sunny Deol. The key message of the campaign is 'Vote Solid, Desh Solid.' Just as Bangur Cement helps you build a solid home, you can help build a solid nation by exercising your right to vote. Further, the brand encourages citizens to take a pledge to vote, through its "Vote ka Vachan" button on its website voteka-vachan.bangurcement.com. Bangur Cement has pledged to donate 1 KG of cement for every pledge to vote which would be used for social welfare purposes.

AAP MLA Khan appears before ED in money laundering case

Press Trust of India

The money laundering case stems from a CBI FIR and 3 Delhi Police complaints

NEW DELHI: AAP MLA Amanatullah Khan on Thursday appeared before the Enforcement Directorate for questioning in a money laundering case linked to alleged irregularities in the Delhi Waqf Board, officials said. The deposition of the 50-year-old legislator from the Okhla assembly seat comes after the Supreme Court last week refused to entertain his anticipatory bail application in the case related to alleged irregularities in the Delhi Waqf Board during his chairmanship. The apex court directed him to join the investigation on April 18.



AAP leader Khan arrives at the ED office. PHOTO: PTI

FACTFILE

- SC, in its order on Apr 15 where it refused any relief to Khan

Speaking to reporters before entering the ED office, Khan claimed he followed the rules when he was the chairman

of the Waqf Board and did everything after taking legal opinion and as per the new Act (for the board) that came in 2013, he said.

The money laundering case against Khan stems from a Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) FIR and three Delhi Police complaints.

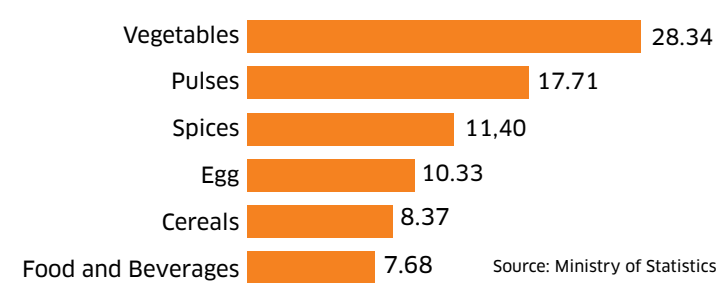
The ED, which had conducted raids on the premises of the legislator, has claimed Khan acquired "huge proceeds of crime" in cash through illegal recruitment of staff in the Delhi Waqf Board and invested those to purchase immovable assets in the name of his associates.

| ILLEGAL PERSONAL GAINS |

The Day's NUMBERS

4.85
General Index
(All Groups)

RETAIL INFLATION (BASED ON CPI)



CLOSE SHAVE

Indian woman cadet on vessel MSC Aries returns home from Iran

NEW DELHI: Ann Tessa Joseph, a woman cadet who was among the 17 Indians onboard container vessel MSC Aries that was seized by Iranian military over the weekend, returned to Cochin on Thursday.

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) on Thursday said the Indian mission in Tehran is in touch with the remaining 16 Indian crew members of the container vessel. "With the concerted efforts of the Indian mission in Tehran and the Iranian government, Indian deck cadet Ms Ann Tessa Joseph from Thrissur, Kerala, who was among the Indian crew members of container vessel MSC Aries, has landed safely at the Cochin International Airport today afternoon," it said. At the airport, Joseph was received by the regional passport officer. "The Indian mission in Tehran remains seized of the matter and is in touch with the remaining 16 Indian crew members of the container vessel," the MEA said.

COURT

HC acquits two men convicted of murder over two decades ago

NEW DELHI: The Delhi High Court has set aside the conviction and life sentence of two men for allegedly committing a murder over 26 years ago and acquitted them of all charges, holding that they cannot be held guilty merely because they were "last seen together" with the deceased.

A bench headed by Justice Suresh Kumar Kait, while deciding their appeals against the trial court's decision of October 2001, maintained since they were working with the deceased, their being together cannot not be said to be unusual. And the testimony of the witnesses did not inspire confidence. The bench, also comprising Justice Manoj Jain, added as the accused and deceased were working together, the "Last seen theory" should be applied taking into consideration the case of the prosecution in its entirety and keeping in mind the circumstances that precede and follow the point of being so last seen.

Classifieds

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| DUPING INVESTORS |

ED attaches properties of Shilpa Shetty

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Thursday said it has attached a bungalow and a flat, apart from equity shares, worth about Rs 98 crore of actor Shilpa Shetty and her husband Raj Kundra in connection with of



a money-laundering case linked to the alleged crypto assets Ponzi scheme.

We have faith in the fair investigation

Prahant Patil
Advocate

Court defers order on framing charge against Brij Bhushan

In his application, Singh sought time for making further submissions on charges

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: A Delhi court is likely to pronounce on April 26 its order on whether to frame charges against former Wrestling Federation of India chief and BJP MP Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh in a sexual harassment case lodged by six female wrestlers against him.

Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (ACMM) Priyanka Rajpoot, who was scheduled to pass order on Thursday, deferred the matter after Singh moved an application before the court seeking further probe in the matter.

In his application, Singh sought time for making further submissions on charges and for further investigation, saying he was not in India on the date of one of the incidents, where a complainant has alleged that she was harassed at the WFI office. Singh's counsel claimed that the Delhi Police had relied upon the call detail records (CDR) of the coach who had accompanied the complainant and stated that they had gone to WFI on September 7, 2022, where she was allegedly molested.

However, the CDR has not been placed on



Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh arrives at the Rouse Avenue Court.

record by the police, the counsel claimed.

The counsel further claimed that Singh was not in the country on the date when the offence is alleged.

"I (Singh) am seeking direction to Delhi Police to investigate the issue. The dates on which the offence is alleged are not clear. This has a bearing at the stage of charge. If I am not there when the offence is being alleged against me, my plea of alibi will come in", the counsel argued.

but subject to the direction of election authorities concerned in view of ensuing Lok Sabha elections.

The West Bengal govt prepones vacation of state-run schools

KOLKATA: The West Bengal government on Thursday preponed the summer vacation of state-run and aided schools from April 22 in view of the prevailing heatwave conditions. A notification issued by the School Education Department on Thursday said apart from pupils, the teaching and non-teaching staff of the schools will be on leave during the period

HIGHLIGHT

• Earlier summer vacation was scheduled from May 6

• Now preponed to April 22 due to heat wave

but subject to the direction of election authorities concerned in view of ensuing Lok Sabha elections.

Considering the prevailing heatwave situation, the competent authority has decided to prepone the summer vacation in the schools under your administrative jurisdiction with effect from April 22 except for schools in hill areas of Darjeeling and Kalimpong districts, wherein the existing academic schedule may continue until further order.

Bengal Governor calls off Cooch Behar tour on advice of ECI

Press Trust of India

'Governor alleged that an attempt was being made to "politicise the Governor's office", and will not allow anyone to use him'

KOLKATA: Acting on the advice of the Election Commission of India (ECI), West Bengal Governor C V Ananda Bose on Thursday called off his proposed tour to Cooch Behar, during which he intended to "oversee" the polling process.

He, however, alleged that an attempt was being made to "politicise the Governor's office", while asserting he would not allow anyone to use him as a "pawn on the political chess board".

"My priority is to be with the people of Bengal. My focus is to fight against violence in the state, particularly during election(s). My field visits are for these purposes but there is an attempt to politicise the Governor's office. I will not let anyone to lower the dignity of the office of the Governor," Bose said in a statement released by the Raj Bhavan. "I will not allow anyone to use me as a pawn on the political chess board," he added.

Stating that according to the Constitution, no one could "restrict his

movement", the West Bengal governor, however, said he was not in favour of getting involved in any political controversy.

"Under the Constitution, no one can restrict the movement of a Governor. However, I do not want to get involved in the unsavoury political controversy around me," he said, adding he was available to the people 24/7 at his 'peace

FASTFACTS

- The poll body advised Bose to call off his proposed tour of Cooch Behar
- Governor said that his priority is with the people of Bengal

room' over emails and phone calls. "Because of unsavoury political implications, I am calling off my visit to north Bengal today," Bose said.

The poll body advised Bose to call off his proposed tour of Cooch Behar in the northern part of West Bengal on the eve of the first phase of voting as it was violative of the Model Code of Conduct, sources said on Wednesday.

Polling will be held in Cooch Behar on April 19 and the 48-hour silence period when campaigning is barred began on Wednesday evening.

NEWSLINE

MUZAFFARNAGAR

Court accepts clean chit to Nawazuddin



A special POCOS court here on Thursday accepted a police closure report giving clean chit to all five accused, including actor Nawazuddin Siddiqui, in a molestation case filed by his estranged wife Aliya.

Special judge Ritesh Sachdeva accepted the closure report after Aliya did not appear in the court for her reply despite being given opportunity several times.

Government counsel Pradeep Balyan told PTI that Aliya had filed a molestation case against Siddiqui and his four family members alleging that the actor's brother Minazuddin allegedly molested a minor in 2012 while others had supported him. According to the prosecution, the FIR was lodged in Mumbai and later shifted to Budhana police station in Muzaffarnagar in 2020.

After investigation, police filed a closure report in the case giving a clean chit to Siddiqui, his mother Mehrunisa and brothers Faizuddin, Ayaazuddin and Minazuddin.

Married woman, man jumps in front of moving train

Press Trust of India

Nigar was married and her husband lived in Saudi Arabia while Dubey was soon getting married and his pre-wedding functions were supposed to start today. They were having an affair and prima facie, it seems that they committed suicide due to fear of separation, they said. Additional Superintendent of Police (North) Chiranjeev Nath Sinha said a motorcycle was also found parked about 50 meters away from the spot. They left their homes a day earlier on the pretext of taking medicine, the ASP said, adding that the matter is being investigated.

The bodies of Shailendra Kumar Dubey (25) and Mahe Nigar (22), both residents of the same village in Ayodhya, were found on the Gonda railway line, they said. According to police, Nigar was mar-

ried and her husband lived in Saudi Arabia while Dubey was soon getting married and his pre-wedding functions were supposed to start today. They were having an affair and prima facie, it seems that they committed suicide due to fear of separation, they said. Additional Superintendent of Police (North) Chiranjeev Nath Sinha said a motorcycle was also found parked about 50 meters away from the spot. They left their homes a day earlier on the pretext of taking medicine, the ASP said, adding that the matter is being investigated.

The police had also charged Vinod Tomar, the suspended assistant secretary of the WFI, in the case.

Upma served by IndiGo has higher sodium content

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: A social media influencer has claimed that 'upma' and 'poha' served onboard by IndiGo have higher sodium content than Maggi while the airline has said the salt content in its pre-packaged products is well within the prescribed norms. Taking to social media, user Revant Himatsingka 'Food Pharmer' said there is a shocking video about food served by IndiGo. "Most

of us already know that Maggi is a high sodium food! What most of (us) don't know is that IndiGo's Magic Upma has 50% more sodium than Maggi, Indigo's Poha has -83% more sodium than Maggi, and Daal Chawal has as much sodium as Maggi," he said in a post on X on Wednesday. He also said that just because 'Upma', 'Poha' and 'Daal Chawal' sound healthy, does not mean they are healthy. In a statement on Thursday, IndiGo said the preparation of some

Fire erupts at industrial estate in Mumbai

MUMBAI: A major fire broke out at an industrial estate in Mumbai on Thursday morning, officials said. There was no report of injury to anyone in the blaze, they said. The fire erupted at the Devidayal Compound in Darukhana locality on Reay Road at around 10.30 am, a civic official said. "The fire is confined to a single storey godown," the official said. Twelve fire engines and other fire brigade vehicles were rushed to the spot.

Efforts were on to douse the blaze, a fire brigade official said. Local civic ward staff, Mumbai police, Brihanmumbai Electric Supply and Transport (BEST) personnel and ambulance also reached the spot. The cause of the fire was not yet known, the officials said.

AIIMS Bhubaneswar starts AUS implantation service

Press Trust of India

This service is particularly tailored for patients who have experienced urinary incontinence

BHUBANESWAR: To provide new hope and improve the quality of life of patients suffering from severe urinary incontinence, AIIMS Bhubaneswar has launched a cutting-edge service for the placement of artificial urinary sphincters (AUS), a significant advancement in urological care, an official said.

The AUS implantation procedure is recognized as a gold standard treatment for urinary incon-



AIIMS Bhubaneswar is known for medical excellence.

FASTFACTS

- This modern facility is the first of its kind in Odisha, the official claimed

tinence that has not responded to conventional treatment modalities. This service is particularly tailored for patients who have expe-

rienced urinary incontinence due to prostate surgery, spinal cord injuries, or other underlying conditions that affect urinary control.

PUBLIC NOTICE

(Regarding Lost Online Stamp of Regd. Sale Deed)
By this Public Notice without prejudice we hereby inform the public at large to whomsoever it may concern that, applicant Smt. Nirmala Raj W/o Sri. Ramesh Kumar Raj (P.O. Quarter No. 756, Type-B, WPS Colony, Khamesra Raipur, Tal. C.O. Raipur wants to mortgage her own (Divided land) Part of Pl. No. 412/117 After Mutation No. No. 612/113, Area 990 sqft, situated at Vaidya Lal Ward No. (4, Village - Gondwana, P.H.No. 108/38, R. I. Circle - Raipur-1, Tah. & Dist- Raipur to our Client SBI RACBP, Raipur and avail the loan from SBI.
The applicant Smt. Nirmala Raj W/o Sri. Ramesh Kumar Raj has purchased the said property from one Smt. Changuoti Pata W/o Sri. Prasenjit Pata vide Regd. Sale Deed duly entered in office of Sub-Registrar Raipur in Book No. 412-1, Vol. No. 14306, Page No. 281 to 288, S.No. 6900, Dist. 30.03.2021. The said page is a Original E-Stamp Paper No. No. CG0281541031521, Amount 31,900/- dt. 24.03.2021 of said original Regd. Sale Deed dt. 24.03.2021 has been lost from legal possession of Smt. Nirmala Raj & she is unable to produce the said Original E-Stamp dt. 24.03.2021 before SBI for availing of loan.
So, we hereby invite objections, if any upon the proposed above-mentioned property to be mortgaged. Any Person, Bank, Financial Institution, Corporation, Society, State / Central Government or Anyone has any objection or issue, regarding question property, subject her her/his respective objection in writing alongwith documentary evidence before us within 7 days from date of publication of this Public Notice to our office between 11 PM to 5 PM on Govt. working days otherwise our client SBI may create equitable mortgage on question property of said Smt. Nirmala Raj in basis of Certified copy of Regd. Sale Deed dt. 24.03.2021. So, any objection that any objection thereafter to the above proposed equitable mortgage in respect of the above referred property will have no bonafide and shall not be binding on applicant Smt. Nirmala Raj and our client SBI. become null & void.
So take this notice accordingly
Raipur, 19.04.2024
N.K. Shrivastava
Advocate
Shrivastava & Associates
F-33, Hira Arcade, Old Bus Stand,
Penthr, Raipur (C.G.) Mob. No. 9826113956

Chola Enter a better life
CHOLAMANDALAM INVESTMENT AND FINANCE COMPANY LIMITED
Corporate Office: Chola Crest, C 54 & 55, Super B-4, Thiru Vi Ka, Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai - 600 032.
Branch Office: Shop No.- 7th Floor, Currency Tower, VIP Chowk, G.E. Road, Tolibandha, Raipur, CG 492001
Contact No: Prakash Verma- 9981343191, Prakhar Sharma- 9826432751

E-AUCTION NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES
E-auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 9(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.
Notices hereby given to the public general and in particular to the Borrower/Co-Borrower/Mortgagor(s) that the below scribed immovable properties mortgaged to the Secured Creditor, the Physical Possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Limited the same shall be referred here in after as Cholamandalam investment and Finance Company Limited. The Secured Assets will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "What ever there is" basis through E-Auction. It is hereby informed to General public that we are going to conduct public E-Auction through website <https://bankauctions.in>.

| Account No. and Name of borrower, co-borrower, Mortgagors | 1. Date 2. Demand Notice Amount 3. Total Loan Outstanding 4. Possession Date | Description of the Immovable property | Reserve Price Earnest Money Deposit & Bid Increment Amount (In Rs.) | E-Auction Date and Time, EMD Submission Last Date, Inspection Date |
|---|--|---|--|---|
| Loan Account No. X0HERRH00003397345 and HE02RRH00000001725. Borrower & Co-Borrowers:- 1. Jayashree Mukherjee 2. Manas Mukherjee 3. M/s. S.M. Marketing, All are Residing At- P-2, Sale Tax Colony, Khamesra Raipur, Jagannath Temple, Raipur, Chhattisgarh- 492001. | 11.04.2022 ₹ 93,84,734.79/- and ₹ 14,63,190/- totalling to ₹ 1,08,47,924.79/- as on 07-04-2022 ₹ 1,28,72,925/- and ₹ 22,71,143/- totalling to ₹ 1,51,44,068/- as on 18-04-2024 together with further interest, penal interest, costs and charges thereon till the date of payment. 30.11.2022. Physical Possession | Residential House Bearing part of Plot No.P-2, Comprising Area- 1800 Sq.Ft, or 0.017 Hect. Comprised in Part of Khasra No. 622/4. Situated at Mouja Khamesra, Shankar Nagar, Sale Tax Colony, Maharshi Valmiki Ward, Ward No. 28, P.H.No. 110/63, R.I.C. Raipur-1, Tahsil & District-Raipur (C.G.) Boundaries:- As Per Sale Deed: NORTH : Road, SOUTH : Others Land, EAST : Land of Sansitha, WEST: Plot No P-1. | ₹ 59,00,000/- ₹ 5,90,000/- ₹ 1,00,000/- | 10.05.2024 at 11:00 am with 1:00 PM (with unlimited extension of 5 min each), 08.05.2024 (up to 29.04.2024 and 30.04.2024 (10.00 A.M to 1.00 P.M) |

1. All interested participants / bidders are requested to visit the website <https://bankauctions.in/> & <https://cholamandalam.com/news/auction-notices>. For details, help, procedure and online training on e-auction, prospective bidders may contact Mr. Muhammad Rahees 8124000030, Ms.4 Closure.: Mr. Jaya Prakash Reddy, Phone No. 8142000064, Email: info@bankauctions.in.
2. For further details on terms and conditions please visit:- <https://bankauctions.in/> & <https://cholamandalam.com/news/auction-notices> to take part in e-auction.

THIS IS ALSO A STATUTORY 15 DAYS SALE NOTICE UNDER RULE 9(1) OF SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES, 2002
Date: 19.04.2024. Place: Raipur (C.G.) Authorised Officer/ M/s. Cholamandalam Investment And Finance Company Limited

World



Terrible performance
by Joaquin Phoenix in
'Napoleon'

Brian Cox
Veteran actor

Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

HEROISM

French hero gains
Australian residency for
confronting killer

SYDNEY: French construction worker Damien Guerot was made an Australian permanent resident on Thursday as a reward for his heroism during a knife attack in a Sydney shopping mall that left six victims dead and a dozen wounded. Guerot was nicknamed "Bollard Man" on social media after security camera footage showed the 31-year-old standing at the top of an escalator at the Westfield Bondi Junction mall on Saturday and warding off knife-wielding Joel Cauchi with a plastic barrier post. Cauchi fled down the escalator and people on Guerot's floor were safe. Guerot's temporary Australian work visa was due to expire in July until Prime Minister Anthony Albanese intervened with an invitation to settle in Australia. Guerot told Nine Network Television he was happy about the opportunity to stay in Australia but felt mixed emotions.

ENTERTAINMENT

Sydney Sweeney slams
Hollywood producer for
calling her 'not pretty'

LOS ANGELES: Actor Sydney Sweeney has responded to a Hollywood producer's remarks calling her "not pretty" and someone who "can't act". Veteran producer Carol Baum had made disparaging remarks about Sweeney, the breakout star of "Euphoria" and "White Lotus", at an event where she had also slammed the actor's hit rom-com "Anyone But You". "How sad that a woman in the position to share her expertise and experience chooses instead to attack another woman.

From around the web

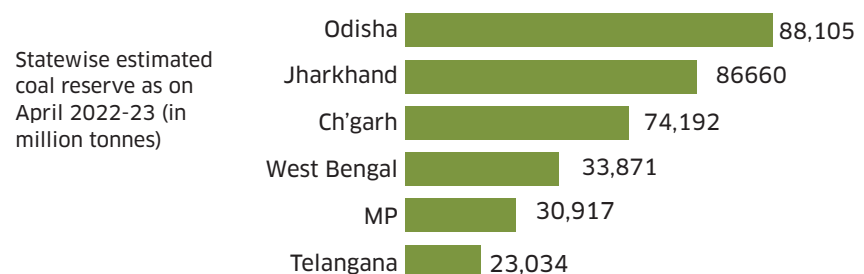
X says 'continue to work' with Pak govt
to understand its 'concerns'

ISLAMABAD: A day after the Pakistan government told a high court that the popular microblogging website X has been banned in the country due to national security issues, the social media platform on Thursday for the first time said that it continues to work with the relevant authorities on their concerns.

The Elon Musk-owned social media platform, formerly known as Twitter, was suspended in Pakistan on February 17 when former Rawalpindi com-

missioner Liaquat Chattha accused the chief election commissioner and the chief justice of being involved in rigging the February 8 general elections. In a brief statement, X's Global Government Affairs team said, "We continue to work with the Pakistani Government to understand their concerns."

On Wednesday, the Islamabad High Court (IHC) heard a petition by journalist Ehtisham Abbasi against the disruption in the access to X.

The Day's
NUMBERSWHAT WAS ESTIMATED COAL
RESERVE AS ON APRIL 2022-23

CRIME

No signs of radicalization
in Sydney teen who
allegedly stabbed 2 clerics

SYDNEY: A 16-year-old boy accused of stabbing two Christian clerics during a Sydney church service might have "anger management and behavioral issues" and a "short fuse" but had shown no signs of being radicalized, a community leader said Thursday, after authorities declared the stabbing a terrorist attack.

The teen spoke in Arabic about the Prophet Muhammad being insulted after he stabbed Bishop Mar Mari Emmanuel and the Rev. Isaac Royel during Monday night's Assyrian Orthodox service, which was being streamed online. The bishop released an audio statement on Thursday saying that he was "doing fine, recovering very quickly" and that he forgave his attacker. Jamal Rifi, a Sydney doctor and Muslim community leader, said the boy had apologized when his family visited him at a hospital on Tuesday and Wednesday.

UN

Support for families of
Japanese abducted and
taken to North Korea

TOKYO: The United States ambassador to the United Nations said Thursday that America will stand with Japan until all the Japanese abducted by North Korea decades ago return home to end their painful separation. Linda Thomas-Greenfield made the comments on Thursday as she began her visit to Tokyo by meeting with the families of those kidnapped. Japan says North Korea abducted at least 17 Japanese citizens, possibly many more, to train them as agents during the 1970s and 1980s. After admitting in 2002 it had abducted 13 Japanese.



Men, mainly from India, wait to be processed after crossing the border between Mexico and the United States as they seek asylum.

Lawmaker in UK suspended on
alleged misuse of party funds

Mark Menzies took thousands of pounds (dollars) given to the party by donors for medical costs and other personal expenses

Press Trust of India

LONDON: Britain's governing Conservative Party said Thursday it has suspended a lawmaker who is alleged to have used campaign funds for personal medical expenses and to pay off someone who was threatening him.

The Times of London reported Mark Menzies took thousands of pounds (dollars) given to the party by donors for medical costs and other personal expenses. It said that in Decem-

ber he called a 78-year-old aide at 3 a.m. asking for help because he had been locked in an apartment by "bad people" who were demanding money for his release. A sum of 6,500 pounds (\$8,100) was paid personally by Menzies' office manager, who was reimbursed from donors' cash, the newspaper said.

Menzies, who has represented the seat of Fylde in northwest England since 2010, told the Times: "I strongly dispute the allegations put to me. I have fully complied with

HIGHLIGHT

● Menies says 'I strongly dispute allegations put to me. I have fully complied with all rules for declarations'

● Menzies had "agreed to relinquish Conservative whip, pending outcome of investigation."

all the rules for declarations. As there is an investigation ongoing I will not be commenting further."

He did not immediately respond to a request for comment from The Associated Press.

The Conservative whips' office said Menzies had "agreed to relinquish the Conservative whip, pending the outcome of an investigation." The suspension means he will remain in Parliament as an independent lawmaker.

The case is the latest allegation of sleaze to hit the Conservatives, who have lost several lawmakers to ethics scandals in the past two years -

including former Prime Minister Boris Johnson.

They include a lawmaker caught looking at porn in the House of Commons, another who reportedly offered to lobby on behalf of gambling firms and a legislator alleged to have drunkenly groped strangers at a London private members' club.

The Conservatives have been in power since 2010, but opinion polls put them well behind the opposition Labour Party, with an election due later this year.

| G7 |

Floodwater covers major roads in UAE

Press Trust of India

Without more Patriot air defence missile systems to guard against incoming Russian strikes, the electricity system of Ukraine will be destroyed.

CAPRI: The European Union's top diplomat urged Group of Seven foreign ministers on Thursday to take quick, concrete steps to provide more air defence systems to Ukraine, warning that continued delays could tilt the war in Moscow's favour. Without more Patriot air defence missile systems to guard against incoming Russian strikes, "the electricity system of Ukraine will be destroyed. And no country can fight without having electric-



EU official urges G7 to step up air defence for Ukraine and expand Iran sanctions.

ity at home, in the factories, in the front line," EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell warned. He was speaking on the sidelines of a G7 foreign ministers meeting on the Italian resort island of Capri, where Russia's war in Ukraine and surging tensions in the Middle East over Iran's unprecedented attack on Israel

HIGHLIGHT

● Continued delays could tilt the war in Moscow's favour

● If Ukraine loses, Putin will never sit at the peace table

were topping the agenda. Italian Foreign Minister

Antonio Tajani opened the first working session of the meeting by calling for new sanctions against Iran for its weekend attack and concrete help for Ukraine to defend itself from Moscow's invasion. "If Ukraine loses, Putin will never sit at the peace table," Tajani warned. Russia's war in Ukraine and the Israel-Hamas war

were taking centre stage at the Capri meeting, which dovetailed with other regional diplomatic efforts sending the same messages. On Wednesday, EU leaders meeting in Brussels vowed to ramp up sanctions on Iran to target its drone and missile deliveries to proxies in Gaza, Yemen and Lebanon. Borrell said the existing EU sanctions regime on Iran would be strengthened and expanded to punish Tehran for its attack and help prevent future ones on Israel. At the same time, he said, Israel needed to exercise restraint.

"I don't want to exaggerate but we are on the edge of a war, a regional war in the Middle East, which will be sending shockwaves to the rest of the world, and in particular to Europe," he warned. "So stop it."

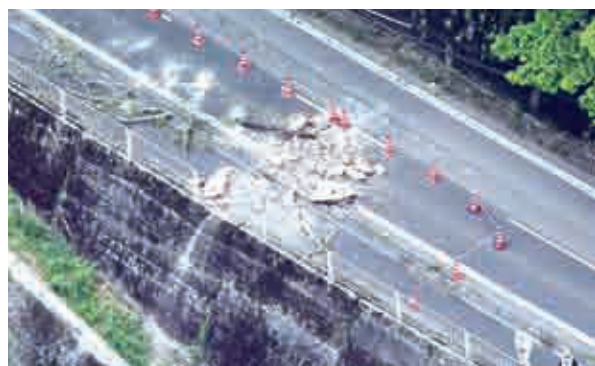
| QUAKE |

Nine injured in strong quake in Japan

Press Trust of India

TOKYO: A strong earthquake that struck southwestern Japan late Wednesday left nine people with minor injuries and caused damages such as burst water pipes and small landslides, authorities said, but there was no danger of a tsunami. The magnitude 6.6 quake was centred just off the

western coast of the southwestern main island of Shikoku, in an area called the Bungo Channel, a strait separating Shikoku and the southern main island of Kyushu. The quake occurred 50 kilometres (30 miles) below the sea's surface and posed no danger of a tsunami, the Japanese Meteorological Agency said. The Fire and Disaster Management



Site of a rock fall following an earthquake in Ohzu Japan

Agency said Thursday that six in Ehime prefecture, two in neighbouring Kochi and two others in Oita on Kyushu island suffered minor injuries, mostly from falling at home.

Water pipes were ruptured at a number of locations in Sukumo City in Kochi prefecture, and grave stones collapsed at a Buddhist temple in Ainan town in Ehime prefecture.



FineDine

SPECIAL OF THE WEEK

Cricket, cuisine, and cocktails: Lucknow's IPL delights

Lucknow's IPL Spectacle offers more than just cricket matches, transforming the city into a lively hub of entertainment and culinary delights for enthusiasts.



Cricket enthusiasts gather at Lucknow's vibrant eateries and entertainment spots, enjoying themed menus and live screenings, enhancing their IPL experience beyond the stadium.



experience. Not to be outdone, clubs like Oudh Gymkhana Club and Lucknow Golf Club are elevating match days into grand affairs, with live screenings complemented by food festivals and music extravaganzas. Club Momentz entices patrons with discounted drinks and snacks, promising a memorable viewing experience by the poolside or at the Neoo Nightclub. As each establishment vies to surpass the other in catering to cricket zealots, Lucknow's IPL frenzy transcends the boundaries of mere spectatorship, offering an immersive and exhilarating experience for all who partake.

Lucknow's IPL frenzy transcends the boundaries of mere spectatorship, offering an immersive and exhilarating experience for all who partake in the city's vibrant cricket culture."

HIGHLIGHT

● Lucknow's IPL fervor transforms the city, with themed menus, live screenings, and enticing offers, creating unforgettable cricket experiences for enthusiasts.

screenings and irresistible drink deals, providing patrons with an unforgettable viewing



The luxury of Japanese Fruits: Worth the Hefty Price Tag?

Ikigai Fruits offers Japanese kokota, awayuki, and pearl white strawberries to Americans, priced at \$780 for 27. Crown melons, hand-pollinated and rigorously tested, cost \$128 each. These luxury fruits, akin to Michelin-starred meals, come with meticulous cultivation and packaging. While expensive, they eliminate guesswork and offer a unique taste experience. Useum, one of the largest.

Fruit: Strawberries
Details:

A variety set of 27 Kokota, Awayuki, and Pearl White strawberries goes for \$780.



GOOD DINING |

Coachella 2024: Culinary delights await beyond the stage & more



Experience Coachella's culinary scene at Indio Central Market, featuring Chef Kasem Saengsawang's fried chicken-topped noodles and Roy Choi's loaded Korean BBQ fries. Don't miss Burger She Wrote's double smash wagyu burger. Despite desert logistics, chefs eagerly return year after year, making Coachella a premier culinary confab. With 15 fan favorites under one tent, indulge in fabulous food and beverage offerings while soaking up the festival vibes.

| TRAILBLAZER |

Manish Mehrotra: A Trailblazer in Modern Indian Cuisine

Central Chronicle News

Chef Manish Mehrotra innovates Indian cuisine, blending tradition with modernity.

Manish Mehrotra, the visionary Executive Chef and Culinary Director of Indian Accent, has been instrumental in redefining Indian cuisine with his innovative culinary style. Trained in Oriental cuisine, Mehrotra's unique perspective transformed Indian cooking by infusing it with modern techniques while retaining its authentic flavors.

At Indian Accent, with locations in New Delhi, London, and New York City, Mehrotra's approach emphasizes fresh-

ness, innovation, and bold flavors, earning the restaurant international acclaim as one of the world's best Indian dining destinations. His influence extends beyond the kitchen, inspiring chefs globally to rethink traditional Indian culinary practices. Among Mehrotra's standout creations is the iconic Burrata Chaat with Crispy Lotus, a fusion of Italian burrata cheese with Indian spices, served alongside crispy lotus roots. The Puri Aloo Sweet Pumpkin is another innovative dish, blending traditional Indian flavors with modern presentation techniques. For dessert, Mehrotra's Badam Halwa Pie with Sorbet tantalizes the palate with the rich flavors of almond halwa paired with refreshing sorbet.



Meet Manish Mehrotra, the culinary genius behind Indian Accent's global acclaim. With innovative dishes like Burrata Chaat and Potato Sphere Chaat, he's redefining Indian cuisine worldwide.

His Potato Sphere Chaat offers a contemporary twist on Indian street food, featuring crispy potato spheres filled with tangy chutneys and yogurt foam.

FoodPick

MUST TRY WHEN TRAVEL

Savor the Season

Indulge in the ultimate summer cool-down with refreshing drinks curated to beat the heat. From fruity cocktails to icy mocktails, discover a variety of chilled delights perfect for sunny days. Elevate your summer gatherings with these thirst-quenching beverages, guaranteed to keep you cool and refreshed all season long. Whether lounging by the pool or hosting a backyard barbecue, these drinks are sure to be a hit at any summer soiree.



Free Chicken Shack

Score a complimentary Chicken Shack sandwich every Sunday in April at Shake Shack. Just spend \$10 online or in-store and use promo code "CHICKENSUNDAY" to redeem. Enjoy crispy, antibiotic-free chicken breast topped with pickles and buttermilk herb mayo on a toasted potato bun. Note: Limit one free sandwich per order, and the offer excludes airport, stadium, and arena locations.



Personal Pineapples

Del Monte debuts Precious Honeyglow pineapples, perfect for solo consumption at 1.5-2 pounds. Grown in Costa Rica, these single-serving fruits boast sweeter taste and golden hue. Vice President Melissa Mackay highlights their appeal, catering to diverse consumer preferences and reducing food waste. With single-person households on the rise.



Creamy Everything Bagel Ramen

Nissin Foods introduces an Everything Bagel with Cream Cheese instant ramen, exclusively at Walmart. Combining ramen noodles with caraway seeds, dried onion, garlic, and more, plus a cream cheese-flavored sauce, it's part of the brand's breakfast-inspired lineup. Priscila Stanton, Nissin Foods USA's senior VP of marketing, notes the inspiration from noodle fans and foodies who've been experimenting with Everything Seasoning, offering a creamy



Mint Fruity Mocktail

Dummy text eep Tissue Massage Gun | Percussion Muscle Massager for Full Body Pain **How to make it:** Massage gun comes with a frequency ranging from RPM. Equipped with the QuietWave technology, the massager some moretext to come here in normal body copyhas an almost noiseless operation with less than 45 dB. It helps in treating ortho pains also. anging from RPM. Equipped with the QuietWave technology, the massager some moretext to come here in normal.



Mango Apple Fusion

Dummy text eep Tissue Massage Gun | Percussion Muscle Massager for Full Body Pain **How to make it:** Massage gun comes with a powerful motor with frequency ranging from RPM. Equipped with the QuietWave technology, the massager some moretext to come here in normal body copyhas an almost noiseless operation with less than 45 dB. It helps in treating ortho pains also.



Sports



Cricket is played by 11 players not 12 players. I am not a big fan of 'Impact Player'

Rohit Sharma
Indian Cricketer

Gukesh slips to tied 2nd; losses for Pragg, Gujrathi



GM D. Gukesh of India during the Round 11 match against Grandmaster Fabiano Caruana of USA | Photo: PTI

In Candidates Chess Tournament, Gukesh draws with Caruana, Nepomniachtchi leads; Chinese dominate women's competition.

Press Trust Of India

TORONTO: Grandmaster D Gukesh played out a creditable draw against top seed Fabiano Caruana but slipped a rung to the joint second position on a day when two other Indians endured frustrating losses in the Candidates Chess Tournament's 11th round here. Nerves finally came into

play as R Praggnanandhaa and Vidit Gujrathi lost their way against American Hikaru Nakamura and Russian Ian Nepomniachtchi respectively. But 17-year-old Gukesh held his own against Caruana. In the other encounter, Frenchman Firouza Alireza proved superior to Nijat Abasov of Azerbaijan.

HIGHLIGHT

- Pragganandhaa faces challenges against Nakamura; Chinese dominance continues with Tan's victory.
- Gujrathi's loss adds to Indian setback; Humpy emerges as a contender in women's tournament.

With just three rounds remaining, the die seems to be cast in favour of Nepomniachtchi, who is gunning for his third straight Candidates title. The Russian, who has to compete under the FIDE flag here owing to his country's international suspension, shot back to sole lead on seven points out of a possible 11 and it would be difficult for

other contestants to get past him. Caruana, Nakamura and Gukesh are in pursuit of the leader half a point behind in the standings. Pragganandhaa and Gujrathi have fallen apart with 5.5 and five points respectively. Coming back from behind is Alireza, who probably has no contest from Abasov in the bottom half.

CricBriefs

BEST OF THE REST

OLYMPICS

Siwach backs India men's hockey team for Paris Olympics gold

New Delhi: Former Indian women's hockey captain Pritam Rani Siwach is confident that the men's team will pass the Paris Olympics test and will change the colour of their last edition's medal to gold.

Eight-time champions India had ended a 41-year wait to win an Olympic medal at the Tokyo Olympics when they defeated Germany 5-4 to return with a bronze.

"The team has some really talented players who have the capabilities of winning matches," Siwach said in a Hockey India release.

"Yes, the pool in which India is placed in is a bit tricky, but I am confident that the team will pass this test and hopefully change the colour of the medal to gold."

Indians are clubbed alongside defending champions Belgium, Australia, Argentina, New Zealand and Ireland in Pool B. **PTI**

PARIS OLYMPICS

Down with knee injury, Sreeshankar ruled out of Paris Olympics

New Delhi: Ace Indian long jumper Murali Sreeshankar has been ruled out of Paris Olympics after sustaining a knee injury during training that would require a surgery, which will also see him miss the entire 2024 season.

Sreeshankar, an Asian Games and Commonwealth Games silver medalist, had made the cut for the Paris Olympics after recording an 8.37m jump en route to a silver medal at the 2023 Asian Athletics Championships.

The 25-year-old was slated to begin his season with back-to-back Diamond League Meetings in Shanghai/Suzhou and Doha on April 27 and May 10 respectively.

But he sustained an injury during training on Tuesday, ending his Olympic dream.

"Unfortunately, in what feels like a nightmare, but is a reality, my Paris Olympics dream is over," Sreeshankar said in a social media post. **PTI**

IPL BATTLE

Chennai Super Kings ropes in Richard Gleeson as replacement for injured Devon Conway



Chennai: Defending champions Chennai Super Kings named English pacer Richard Gleeson as their replacement for injured New Zealand opener Devon Conway. The Black Caps southpaw had suffered a fractured left thumb during the T20 International series against Australia in February and had undergone surgery for the same. Anticipated to be out for eight weeks, Conway's unavailability for the season was confirmed even before the tournament started last month. The New Zealander has been playing for

CSK since 2022 and has been a vital cog in its batting. He earned the Player of the Match recognition in the IPL 2023 final, helping his team win the record fifth title with a 25-ball 47. As for Gleeson, it would be his maiden outing in the IPL, joining the Yellow Brigade for his base price of Rs 50 lakh. He has featured in six T20Is for England, scalping nine wickets at an economy of 8.90 with best figures of 3/15. Considering his T20 numbers, Gleeson has claimed 101 wickets in 90 outings at an economy-rate of 8.18. **PTI**

Gauff reaches Stuttgart quarterfinals with win over Vickers

STUTTGART: Coco Gauff battled her way to the quarterfinals of the Porsche Grand Prix on Wednesday with a hard-fought 6-3, 4-6, 7-5 win over compatriot Sachia Vickery. The 134th-ranked Vickery created 19 break points but could not hem against the world No. 3 in the second round. Gauff had 15 double faults in the match, but rallied from 4-2 down in the final set before winning in 2 hours, 26 minutes with her first match point. Gauff, who received a first-round bye at the clay-court tournament, awaits the winner between No. 7 Zheng Qinwen and Marta Kostyuk. Kostyuk earlier overcame former champion Laura Siegemund 6-3, 6-7 (4), 6-4.

Maxwell unlikely to play against KKR on Sunday

Press Trust of India

Struggling with form and injury, Glenn Maxwell reveals hip strain, uncertain for Royal Challengers Bengaluru's IPL match.

BENGALURU: On a "mental and physical break" to fight his poor form, Royal Challengers Bengaluru all-rounder Glenn Maxwell has revealed that he is also nursing a "hip strain" and is unlikely to return for his team's away IPL match against Kolkata Knight Riders here on Sunday. The 35-year-old, who has managed just 32 runs in six innings with an average of 5.33, pulled out of their previous match against Sunrisers Hyderabad saying "phys-



RCB's Glenn Maxwell struggling with poor form | Photo: PTI

FACTFILE

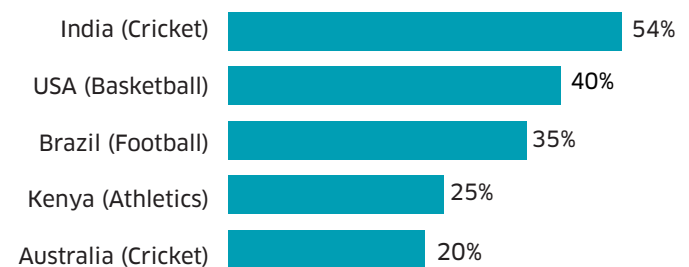
- Battling poor form, nursing hip strain; physical and mental toll probably just wore me down a little bit in IPL, said Glenn Maxwell.

ical and mental toll probably just wore me down a little bit." On ESPN's 'Around the Wicket' show he also disclosed his hip injury. "I've actually got a little bit of a hip strain so I've got a few more days off

and during recovery," he said. "So I've got a little period here where I'm still training, still trying to get myself right. If there is a spot that becomes available, I'll obviously put my hand up and take it."

The Day's NUMBERS

COUNTRY DOMINANCE IN VARIOUS SPORTS



SPAIN

Juventus ordered to pay Ronaldo more than \$10 mn in salary dispute

Turin: Juventus has been ordered to pay Cristiano Ronaldo more than USD 10 million by an arbitration board following a salary dispute. The dispute regarded a move by Juventus players to defer part of their salaries during the coronavirus pandemic. The 9.8 million euros (USD 10.5 million) that Juventus was ordered to pay Ronaldo is half the amount that the five-time Ballon d'Or winner had been seeking from the Turin club in back wages.

Juventus said in a statement late Wednesday that "with the support of its legal counsel" it's "reviewing the decision made by the arbitration board, reserving all assessments and initiatives to preserve its rights." Ronaldo played for Juventus from 2018-21, helping the club to two Serie A titles. Former Juventus president Andrea Agnelli and the entire club board resigned in 2023 amid an investigation into false accounting - which then resulted in a 10-point penalty. **PTI**

INDIA

Dipa qualifies for final at Apparatus World Cup, Pranati misses out



New Delhi: Star India gymnast Dipa Karmakar on Wednesday entered the women's vault final after finishing sixth in the qualifying round of the ongoing FIG Apparatus World Cup, a Paris Olympics qualifying event, in Doha. The 30-year-old, who had finished a creditable fourth at the Baku Apparatus World Cup in Azerbaijan last month, scored 12.500 in the first vault and 13.066 in the second vault to total 12.783. Navas Karla (13.916), Georgieva Valentina (13.316) and An Chang Ok (13.166) took the first three positions in the qualifying round. **PTI**

WOMEN CRICKET |

Depression caused early retirement: Lanning

Press Trust of India

MELBOURNE: In a stunning disclosure, Australia's six-time World Cup-winning former women's cricket team captain Meg Lanning has said that her early retirement at 31 was forced by bouts of depression and weight-loss due to "over-exercising and under-fueling". Lanning took a six-month

mental health break after winning the 2022 Commonwealth Games gold in Birmingham to work in a coffee shop. She eventually retired after skipping three international assignments, including the Ashes, in 2023 but did not disclose her reasons at that time. "It sort of just spiralled and I was in denial, even though everyone kept telling me something wasn't quite right.

Struggle with depression and weight-loss led to early retirement, affecting personal life decisions.

Meg Lanning
Australian Woman



I was not in a place to be able to go on tour and play cricket and give the commitment levels required for that Ashes series, mentally and physically," Lanning told 'The Howie Games' podcast. The most successful skipper in the history of Australian cricket, Lanning's last big success was leading the team to victory in the T20 World Cup in South Africa in 2023.

Sports News



Chennai Super Kings players in a practice session | Photo: PTI



Lucknow Super Giants players in action | Photo: PTI

LSG face stern home test against CSK

Press Trust of India
Ruturaj Gaikwad's team, still 'marshalled' by the peerless Mahendra Singh Dhoni, is coming into the game with back-to-back victories.

here on Friday. The two teams endured contrasting fortunes in their previous couple of matches. While Ruturaj Gaikwad's team, still 'marshalled' by the peerless Mahendra Singh Dhoni, is coming into the game with back-to-back victories, LSG under KL Rahul have endured a mini-slump with successive defeats. With LSG's batting unit not exactly inspiring the highest level of confidence despite its firepower, it remains to be seen how it tackles an attack where each bowler brings something different to the table.

Teams
Chennai Super Kings
MS Dhoni (wk), Aravelly Avانش (wk), Devon Conway, Ruturaj Gaikwad (c), Ajinkya Rahane, Shaik Rasheed, Moeen Ali, Shivam Dube, RS Hangargekar, Ravindra Jadeja, Ajay Jadav Mandal, Daryl Mitchell, Rachin Ravindra, Mitchell Santner, Nishant Sindhu, Deepak Chahar, Tushar Deshpande, Mukesh Choudhary, Mustafizur Rahman, Matheesha Pathirana, Simarjeet Singh, Prashant Solanki, Shardul Thakur, Maheesh Theekshana, Sameer Rizvi.
Lucknow Super Giants
KL Rahul (c), Quinton de Kock, Nicholas Pooran, Ayush Badoni, Kyle Mayers, Marcus Stoinis, Deepak Hooda, Devdutt Padikkal, Ravi Bishnoi, Naveen-ul-Haq, Krunal Pandya, Yudhvir Singh, Prerak Mankad, Yash Thakur, Amit Mishra, Shamar Joseph, Mayank Yadav, Mohsin Khan, K. Gowtham, Shivam Mavi, Arshin Kulkarni, M. Siddharth, Ashton Turner, Matt Henry, M. ohd. Arshad Khan.

Matheesha Pathirana, with his yorkers, is literally unplayable at the death, while Mustafizur Rahman has at least three variations of cutters, including one with

an option to play the extra spinner in Maheesh Theekshana to make full use of the conditions. Lucknow, on the other hand, have had issues with injuries. Their young pace sensation Mayank Yadav had to sit out of the last two games after suffering lower abdominal strain after playing just two and a quarter games. The 21-year-old has resumed training on Wednesday and his blistering pace could seriously have an impact on the match as most of the other bowlers playing this game are either medium-fast or fast medium.

IPL's 'Impact Player' rule will hold back development: Rohit Sharma

NEW DELHI: India skipper Rohit Sharma is "not a big fan" of the IPL's 'Impact Player' rule as he feels it is hurting the country's all-rounders by not allowing cricketers like Washington Sundar and Shivam Dube to showcase their bowling prowess. The 'Impact Player' Rule, introduced in the 2023 season, allows all IPL teams to substitute a player -- batter or bowler -- during their respective innings as per the



demands of the match. "Eventually, cricket is played by 11 players not 12 players. I am not a big fan of 'Impact Player', you are taking out so much from the game just because of little bit of entertainment, for people around," he pointed out.

'Pant's Mobility Encouraging for India's T20 Campaign'

Press Trust of India
Pietersen praises Pant's mobility, sees promise for India's T20 World Cup campaign.

and the Indian team management should feel very encouraged by the comeback-man's mobility in the IPL game against Gujarat Titans here as the T20 World Cup draws closer. Pant grabbed two catches, effected a stumping and then played a 16-run cameo in Delhi Capitals' six-wicket triumph over Gujarat Titans

here on Wednesday. He was adjudged 'Player of the Match' based purely on his keeping skills, a first in IPL since Dinesh Karthik won one in 2009 edition in South Africa. Pant is the top contender for the wicketkeeper's slot in the Indian squad that will be chosen for the showpiece in June.

"His mobility was something that will give him great encouragement, which will also encourage Team India. Of course, he needs game time, as everyone does when coming back from an injury," Pietersen said on 'Star Sports Cricket Live'. "He's returning from a horrific injury, so game time is crucial for him.

'Important to build bond with not only players but also with coaches you work'

Press Trust of India
Rahul feels he has struck the right balance between backing his gut and listening to the advice of the team management.

NEW DELHI: K L Rahul got instant success as captain of Lucknow Super Giants in the IPL and he put it mainly down to trusting

his instincts, something he didn't do enough in his initial days as a leader. Rahul took LSG to the play-offs in the franchise's first two years in the IPL and the team could make it three in a row this season. Before joining LSG, Rahul captained Punjab Kings for two seasons but could not take them to the play-offs. The right-hand batter has also captained India. Rahul feels he has struck the right balance

between backing his gut and listening to the advice of the team management. "Building a team is about players you pick, key positions you can't afford to miss in the auction. First few years of me captaining, I am not shy to admit, I made a few mistakes as well," he said on fellow India teammate R Ashwin's youtube channel. Rahul is currently working with head coach Justin Langer and has teamed

up with Anil Kumble and Andy Flower in the past. "There is so much information coming as you captain. "Initially, it was hard to go against that as culturally we are taught to respect the elders. Somehow things did not go according to plan and I was not being able to sleep. I have realised you need to build the trust and bond not only with the players but also with the coaches.

Wrestler Sakshi listed among 100 most influential people by Time magazine

Press Trust of India
BARCELONA: Olympic medallist Indian wrestler Sakshi Malik has been listed among the 100 most influential people of 2024 by Time magazine. Sakshi, India's only female Olympic medalist in wrestling, has been honoured for her relent-



less fight against alleged sexual harassment of female grapplers of the country. The protest, which began in January last year, became a year-long battle against Singh drawing support and attention both in India and abroad. A charge sheet was filed against Singh but he continues to deny the allegations. "This fight is no longer only for India's female wrestlers," said Sakshi of the movement she helped spark. "It is for the daughters of India whose voices have been silenced time and again." Shortly after Singh relinquished his post, his close aide and business partner, Sanjay Singh, was elected as WFI president. Sakshi decided to quit the sport the day Sanjay Singh took charge of WFI. Other Indians to feature in the list include actress Alia Bhatt, Indo-British actor Dev Patel and Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella.

Bhushan Sharan Singh. Sakshi along with two-time World Championships bronze medalist Vinesh Phogat and Tokyo Olympics bronze

winner Bajrang Punia spearheaded the protest against Singh at the Jantar Mantar here, demanding his arrest for intimidating and allegedly sexually

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Ananya Panday
Actress



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CLOSE UP

HOLLYWOOD

Richa & Fazal Launch Ehaab Couture

Ehaab Couture is inspired by the cultural richness of the city

Central Chronicle News

Ehaab Couture invites you to experience the magic of handmade craftsmanship and join us in our mission to preserve one of India's many culturally significant art forms.

Actor-couple Richa Chadha and Ali Fazal on Thursday launched their fashion label Ehaab Couture, dedicated to celebrating the art of Chikankari embroidery. According to a press release, Ehaab Couture is inspired by the cultural richness of the city and encapsulates the



essence of tradition, nostalgia, and old-world charm. "The name 'Ehaab' means the art of gifting and ties in with who Richa and Ali are as people having always backed the right kind of causes. With this, their motive is to help preserve an art form and empower an entire community of

artisans from Lucknow," it said. "Chikankari is Lucknow's gift to the world. With this venture, we envision fashion as a medium of love, where each piece is crafted by hand, carrying the soulful essence of the artisans who meticulously weave every thread," Fazal said.

Press Trust of India

Superstar Vikram has announced that his 62nd feature film project has been titled "Veera Dheera Sooran". SU Arun Kumar, best known for films such as "Sethupathi", "Sindhubaadh" and "Chithha", has written and directed

the movie. Vikram, who celebrated his 58th birthday on Wednesday, shared the official poster and teaser of the movie on his official social media pages. "If you're a Gangsta.. I'm a Monsta! #Veeraadheerasooran" the "Ponniyin Selvan" actor posted. The project will be bank-

rolled by Riya Shibu's HR Pictures, who have earlier produced films such as "Thugs" and "Mumbai-kar". GV Prakash Kumar is attached to compose the soundtrack of the movie. "Veera Dheera Sooran" will also feature SJ Suryah, Dushara Vijayan and Suraj Venjaramo in pivotal roles.

CineBriefs

BEST OF THE REST

Hollywood

Sydney Sweeney slams for calling her 'not pretty'

Actress Rasika Dugal deciphers the triumph of the Mirzapur series, emphasizing substance over style. As anticipation builds for its third season, she applauds the team's dedication to delivering a rewarding experience for fans. Dugal, known for her role as Beena Tripathi, expresses gratitude for the show's loyal following and excitement for the upcoming installment. Additionally, she praises the character depth in Mirzapur and highlights her admiration for Ali Fazal's portrayal of Guddu Bhaiya. At the Red Lorry Film Festival, Dugal discusses her latest project, the dark comedy thriller "Lord Curzon Ki Haveli," and her diverse upcoming ventures.

Bollywood hot news

Aamir Khan deepfake video: Mumbai Police register FIR against unidentified person



The Mumbai Police have registered an FIR against an unidentified person in connection with a deepfake video of Bollywood superstar Aamir Khan in which he is purportedly seen promoting a political party, an official said. The FIR was filed on Wednesday at the Khar police station following a complaint by Khan's office under relevant Indian Penal Code sections, including 419 (impersonation), 420 (cheating) and provisions of the Information Technology Act, the official said. In the purported 27-second clip, which seems to have been edited using artificial intelligence (AI) technology, Khan can be seen talking about staying away from rhetoric (jumla). The deepfake video shows the actor purportedly in a scene from a decade-old episode of his television show, "Satyamev Jayate".

Trending on Insta

@ayushmannk

Ayushmann Khurrana's Rashtrapati Bhavan Visit: Instagram Exclusive

Ayushmann Khurrana, the acclaimed Bollywood actor, shares an exclusive behind-the-scenes glimpse of his prestigious visit to Rashtrapati Bhavan on his official Instagram account, delighting fans with a rare insight into his experiences at the esteemed residence of the President of India.

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