

WEEKEND

Central Chronicle



OPINION
Journalism Ethics and Data Privacy: A Vital Imperative Page 08



SPORT
At this stage in my life, it would be the greatest feeling for me to represent India. Page 14



WEEKEND
Richa Chadha Pays Homage: Immersing in Meena Kumari's Iconic Roles Page 16

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Arvind Kejriwal stopped taking insulin before his arrest

NEW DELHI: Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal had stopped taking insulin months before his arrest and is on a basic anti-diabetes oral medicine, officials said on Saturday, citing a report by the Tihar jail administration to Lt Governor



VK Saxena. In response, AAP leader Atishi said

the report has "exposed" the BJP's "conspiracy". "At the behest of the BJP, a conspiracy is underway to kill Kejriwal in jail. The chief minister has been taking insulin for 12 years, what is the problem for the Tihar administration to give insulin to him?," she asked.

Many joined hands to remove me from power

Serving mothers, sisters and daughters and protecting them is Modi's priority

CHIKKABALLAPUR: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said big and powerful people in India and abroad have joined hands to remove him from power. Addressing a mega public meeting here, he said, "Mothers and sisters have come in a large number here. Your struggle and the challenges you face to nurture your family, Modi has seen this in his house. These days big and powerful people in the country and abroad have united to remove Modi." "But, because of Nari



PM Modi with Maha CM Eknath Shinde during an election campaign. | Photo: PTI

Shakti and Maatru Shakti's blessings and Suraksha kavach (safety armour), Modi is able to move on fighting challenges." "Serving mothers, sisters and daughters



Have blessings of mothers and sisters
Narendra Modi
Prime Minister

HIGHLIGHT
• PM said the first phase of voting has gone in favour of NDA and protecting them is Modi's priority," he said, listing out measures taken by his government for women's welfare in ten years, like supporting their self help groups and creating 'Lakhpati Didis'. Former Minister K Sudhakar is the BJP candidate from Chikkaballapur, while its alliance partner JD(S) has fielded M Mallesh Babu from the neighbouring Kolar.

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

THIS IS MODI'S GUARANTEE

Right Intent Right Results

Phir Ek Baar
Modi Sarkar

Press the lotus button Make BJP win

Manaskand Corridor Yatra to begin from Apr 22

PITHORAGARH: Uttarakhand tourism department in collaboration with the Indian Railways will start the 'Manaskand Corridor Yatra' next week to popularise the ancient temples of the Kumaon region, officials said on Saturday. A special train will be run from Pune to Tanakpur in Pithoragarh district for the yatra from April 22, District Tourism Officer Kirti Chand Arya said. The train will carry over 600 pilgrims in two batches to the famous temples of 'Manaskhand', a phrase used in ancient Hindu scriptures to refer to the Kumaon region of Uttarakhand.

Accused's mother demands strict punishment for son

HUBBALLI: The mother of 23-year-old Fayaz, who allegedly killed daughter of a Congress councillor inside a college campus in Hubballi, apologised to the victim Neha's family for her son's act and demanded strict punishment for him. There have been protests in several parts of the state demanding capital punishment for Fayaz, who has been arrested



Lingayat seers hold a protest over the Hubballi murder case. | Photo: PTI

in connection with the incident that occurred on April 18. With folded arms and tears in eyes, the accused's mother Mamta, a teacher said, "I apologise to the people of Karnataka as well as Neha's family for what my son has done. It is a great injustice to Neha and her family. "What my son has done is completely wrong and we hang our heads in shame. What he did is a big mistake and he should be given strict punishment as per the law of the land," she said. Speaking to reporters in Dharwad, she said that her son and Neha were not just friends but that

Villagers boycotted poll in village of Maoist leader

SUKMA: While the residents of several remote villages in Chhattisgarh's Bastar Lok Sabha constituency defied the poll boycott call given by Maoists and exercised their franchise on Friday, people from Puvarti village, the native place of a hardcore Naxalite leader, chose to stay away from the electoral process. Puvarti, a Maoist-stronghold in Sukma district bordering Bijapur district, is the home village of dreaded Naxalite leader Hidma, who is believed to be the mastermind of several deadly attacks on security forces in Bastar region. Polling was held in the Bastar Lok Sabha seat on Friday and a voter turnout of 67.56 per cent was recorded there. "No voters from Puvarti village exercised their voting right during polling on Friday," Booth Level Officer (BLO) of Puvarti polling booth Java Patel told PTI. Some officials said the villagers did not cast their vote out of fear. The Puvarti polling booth (No. 4), meant for



EASTFACTS

- The number of voters in Puvarti is 332
- Village is in dense forest around 150 km away from Sukma

NEWSLINE
CHHATTISGARH
Land mafia indulged in illegal plotting
Illegal plotting of rural and urban land is being carried out indiscriminately in the district including Khairagarh, particularly in areas surrounding Khairagarh, Chhuikhadan, Gandai as well.

SPORT
Dhoni's limited batting role due to knee Recovery
His brilliant form notwithstanding, Mahendra Singh Dhoni cannot be promoted in the batting order as his recovery from a knee injury has restricted his ability to wield the willow for long periods, Chennai Super Kings coach Stephen Fleming has said.

NATION
Railways succeeds in mining tunnel in sandy soil below NH-10
The Sivok-Rangpo Rail Project, which will connect Sikkim to the railway network for the first time, has got a major boost with the completion of an 855-metre-long emergency exit tunnel.

J'khand logs above 40° C in several districts

RANCHI: Amidst heat wave-like conditions prevailing across Jharkhand, the state government has announced a change in school timings from April 22 until further notice, an official said on Saturday. Under the new schedule, students from kindergarten to class 8 will attend schools from 7 am

to 11.30 am, while senior pupils from class 9 to 12 will continue classes till noon, an order by the education department said. This adjustment applies to all categories of government, non-government aided, unaided, and private schools in the state. The order explicitly prohibits prayer meet-



NUMBER
46.4°C
• Heat wave alert has been issued from April 20 to April 22

ings or sports activities conducted under the sun during this period, although mid-day meals will continue to be served. Additionally, a separate decision will be made and communicated regarding compensation for any educational losses incurred during this period. "Prayer meetings and sports will not be held under the sun during this period, but mid-day meals will continue," the order said.

Raipur



There was silence in BJP's polling booth in first phase of polling

Deepak Baij
PCC Chief

Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

PUBLIC MEETING

PM Modi to address public meeting in Ambikapur on Apr 24

On April 24, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will address a public meeting in Ambikapur, where the symbolic Red Fort was built 11 years ago on the same college grounds. This symbolic Red Fort was constructed by the people of Surguja region, expressing their desire for Modi to address the nation from the ramparts of the Red Fort in Delhi. Interestingly, after this symbolic gesture, the NDA alliance secured a majority in the Lok Sabha elections just a year later, leading to Narendra Modi becoming the Prime Minister of the country. Modi has been actively addressing election rallies in Sarguja region, particularly in Ambikapur, since the past two Lok Sabha elections, Deputy Chief Minister Arun Sao communicated the visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi on April 24th, highlighting the significance of the occasion.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

FM gave instructions to provide Rs. 4 lakh to boat accident victim



Finance Minister O.P. Chaudhary, MLA from Raigarh, announced the sanction of Rs. 4 lakh under the Revenue Assistance Book Circular to assist the families of the victims of the tragic boat accident near Sharda Ghat in Orissa. This assistance is designated for those who lost their lives when a boat carrying devotees capsized while en route to visit Patthar Saini. Additionally, Minister Chaudhary instructed the district administration to ensure that the families of the deceased receive the sanctioned amount promptly. Moreover,



With many trains getting late, there was huge rush of passengers at the railway station and no relief from scorching heat.

All branches of Ashoka Biryani in city sealed

Hotel management has agreed to give Rs 15 lakh as compensation each to the family of the deceased. It also agreed to give Rs 15,000 to each family per month.

Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: The district administration has taken major action after the death of two employees of Ashoka Biryani. All the branches of Ashoka Biryani Center have been sealed for three days. The administration has taken action on Station Road, Pachpedi Naka, Labhandi Mahoba Bazaar and Raipura branch.

Also by giving notice, a reply has been sought from the management within three days. Collector Dr. Gaurav Singh said that during investigation it was found that the Gumasta licenses

of many branches had expired. Some branches were sealed due to cleanliness related problems.

Both the employees died while cleaning the sewer. In the presence of Home Minister Vijay Sharma, the hotel management has agreed to give Rs 15 lakh as compensation each to the family of the deceased.

It also agreed to give Rs 15,000 to each family per month. Earlier on the death of the employees, Telibandha police station registered a case of non culpable homicide against the Ashoka Biryani Center management.

A case was registered against hotel MD

HIGHLIGHT

● On the initiative of Home Minister Vijay Sharma, the hotel management agreed to pay compensation of Rs 15 lakh each to the families of the deceased employees

● MLA Motilal Sahu warned the police that they will continue to sit at the protest site until the manager was arrested

KK Tiwari, CEO Sanaya Tiwari and GM Rohit Chand along with branch manager Romina Mandal under section 304 of

non culpable homicide. GM Rohit Chand and manager Romina Mandal have been arrested.

After the death of two employees - David Sahu and Neelkumar Patel, their family members were sitting on a dharna in front of Ashoka Biryani located at Labhandi, demanding justice.

Even till evening no one from the management had come to talk, after which the family members demonstrated with the dead bodies of the youth after the post-mortem. Members of Sahu Samaj and Chhattisgarh Kranti Sena were also present during the demonstra-

tion.

After which Raipur Rural MLA Motilal Sahu also sat on strike along with his family members. MLA Motilal Sahu warned the police that they will continue to sit at the protest site until the manager was arrested and the victims were compensated.

Later Home Minister Vijay Sharma reached Ashoka Biryani, where he met the family members of the deceased. Eventually the hotel management came forward and agreed to give a compensation of Rs 15 lakh each to both the families along with Rs 15,000 per month for the whole life.

Women SVEEP Car Rally to start today

RAIPUR: As per the instructions of District Election Officer and Collector Dr. Gaurav Singh, a car rally has been organized on April 21st under the SVEEP voter awareness program. The above women sweep car rally will depart from Raipur Shankar Nagar BTI Ground and conclude at Science College. It is noteworthy that Women Sweep Car Rally has been organized on April 21 at 4 pm in which attractive prizes have been fixed for the participants. For this, the participants will have to decorate their cars with attractions and also paste slogans and messages for voter awareness. The prizes include first prize of Rs 21,000, second prize of Rs 11,000.

Bike rally organised by Youth Chamber to create awareness

Central Chronicle News

Bike rally to ensure the target of 100% voting in Raipur and inspired traders and people to exercise their franchise

RAIPUR: A voting awareness bike rally organized on Saturday by the youth chamber. The rally was flagged off by Election Observer, Rohanchand Thakur (IAS) and Collector Dr Gaurav Singh from marine drive in the presence of Youth Chamber office bearers. Municipal Corporation Commissioner Abinash Mishra, and District Panchayat Chief Executive Officer Mr. Vishwadeep, Chamber State President Mr. Amar Parwani, Yuwa



Bike Rally was organised by Youth Chamber on Saturday.

FACTFILE

● Role of traders in the Lok Sabha elections to be held on Saturday, May 7

Chamber incharge Jai Nanwani, Vikram Singh deo and other office bear-

ers. Chamber State President Amar Parwani led the bike rally. Traders and heads of business organizations of the district participated enthusiastically in the bike rally and encouraged traders and common people to use their voting rights. Youth

Chamber General Secretary Kanti Patel said that in order to ensure the role of businessmen in the Lok Sabha elections to be held on Saturday, May 7 (festival of elections - pride of the country) and to achieve the target of 100 percent voting,

FELICITATION |

Collector Dr. Gaurav Singh felicitates Neha Byadwal

Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: Collector Dr. Gaurav Singh visited Neha Byadwal's house to congratulate her for securing the 569th rank in the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) examination 2024. Neha Byadwal's father is Shraavan Kumar Meena, an Income Tax Commissioner. Her uncle is IG

Badrinarayan Meena. Collector Dr. Gaurav Singh honored Neha Byadwal by presenting her with a shawl and a flower bouquet. Municipal Corporation Commissioner, Abinash Mishra, District Panchayat CEO Mr. Vishwadeep and SDM Nandalal Choubey also congratulated Neha by presenting her flower bunch and felicitated

Gaurav Singh honored Neha Byadwal by presenting her with a shawl and a flower bouquet.

her for this outstanding achievement.

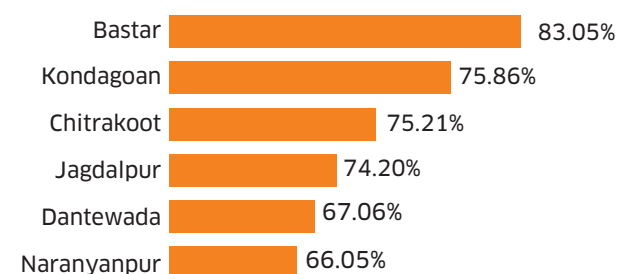
Neha demonstrated exemplary dedication and perseverance in her journey to success. Completing her primary school education in Raipur, Korba, and Bilaspur, she pursued Commerce and Mathematics subsequently, at DB Girls College, Kalibari, Raipur she

studied History, Economy, and Geography under the BA program. It was during her college years that Neha aspired to become an IAS officer, prompting her to start preparing for the UPSC exam. After a period of coaching in Delhi, she returned to Raipur for self-study, dedicating many hours to preparing for the UPSC exam.

The Day's NUMBERS

Polling held on Friday in Bastar

PERCENTAGE OF POLLING IN 6 SEATS OF BASTAR LS CONSTITUENCY



ELECTION

Congress claims to win entire Chhattisgarh including Bastar

State Congress President Deepak Baij after the first phase of voting, expressed confidence in the Congress party's success in Bastar, Chhattisgarh, and nationwide. Deepak Baij mentioned that the people of Bastar have shown support towards a change in the country by favoring the Congress party. He also highlighted the widespread public discontent against the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Modi government, citing reasons such as inflation, unemployment, corruption, and rhetoric as key concerns that influenced the voters. Additionally, he predicted that the India Alliance would secure approximately 70 percent of the 102 seats contested in the first phase of voting State Congress President Deepak Baij claims the public in Chhattisgarh is ready to bring about political change in the state. He mentioned that within four months of forming the government in Chhattisgarh.

ELECTORAL PROCESS

SVEEP salad competition organised for voting awareness



The sweep salad competition, organized in the Chief Medical and Health Officer's office under the instructions of Collector and District Election Officer Dr. Gaurav Singh, aimed to bring together participants from various departments for a friendly competition. The event not only fostered camaraderie among the participants but also served as a platform to emphasize the importance of voting. Administering an oath to all participants after the competition is a commendable way to promote civic engagement and raise awareness about the electoral process.

Raipur News

Excise scam case: Anil Tuteja, his son Yash detained by ED

The Enforcement Directorate has taken major action in the liquor scam case worth Rs 2,000 cr in Ch'garh.

Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: The Enforcement Directorate i.e. ED has taken major action in the liquor scam case worth Rs 2,000 crore in Chhattisgarh. The ED team has detained retired IAS officer Anil Tuteja and his son Yash Tuteja. Former IAS Anil Tuteja and Yash Tuteja had reached the ACB and EOW office to record their statement in the excise scam case. Meanwhile, the ED team left with Anil Tuteja and Yash Tuteja in car from the ACB and EOW office.

ACB and EOW have also included the names of Anil Tuteja and Yash Tuteja in the liquor scam

case. The names of both have been registered in the new FIR. It is said that ED has detained both of them for questioning. ED interrogated both of them for about 5 hours in the EOW office.

According to the ED investigation, a syndicate consisting of high level officials, private individuals and political officials was operating in the previous Congress government. A large scale scam was allegedly committed in liquor trade in Chhattisgarh and more than Rs 2000 crore of black money was allegedly earned in the year 2019-22. The money laundering case stems from an Income Tax Department



chargesheet filed in a Delhi court in 2022. The previous Congress government was accused of bribery while purchasing liquor from CSMCL (the state body for purchase and

sale of liquor). Bribes were allegedly taken from distillers in the state on a per liquor case basis and country liquor was sold off-the-books. According to the ED, bribes were taken from

distillers to form a cartel and allow them a certain share in the market.

ACB and EOW registered FIR in January 2024 on the basis of ED's letter. In the FIR registered by EOW, Anil Tuteja, Arunpati Tripathi and Anwar Dhebar were named as the masterminds of the liquor scam.

The rest of the IAS and other government officers and people involved in the FIR had cooperated. A major part of the income from liquor scam went to these three.

Tuteja is an IAS officer and was joint secretary of the Commerce and Industry Department when the scam was committed.

Poster launch: BJP questions absence of Congress RS members

Central Chronicle News

RS members of Congress quota in Chhattisgarh missing from poll campaign.

RAIPUR: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) General Secretary Sanjay Srivastava has said that the deceit that former Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, who beat the drum of Chhattisgarhism, had done to the grassroots workers of Chhattisgarh by sending leaders from other states to the Rajya Sabha from the Congress quota in Chhattisgarh, will be punished for that act.

Srivastava made the above statement on Saturday while launching the poster to find the Rajya Sabha members elected from Congress quota in

FASTFACTS

● Congress leaders KTS Tulse, Rajeev Shukla and Ranjita Ranjan have become RS members not from the quota of Ch'garh by snatching away the rights of the people of Chhattisgarh.

Chhattisgarh, asking that after the first phase of elections has been completed, why have these MPs not been seen yet?

BJP leader said that the three Congress leaders KTS Tulse, Rajeev Shukla and Ranjita Ranjan have become Rajya Sabha members not from the quota of Chhattisgarh, but from the quota of Bhupesh Baghel's boss, by snatching away the rights of the people

of Chhattisgarh and now they have nothing to do with Chhattisgarh. Srivastava said that Bhupesh Baghel, who made him a Rajya Sabha member to please his masters, should clarify to the people of Chhattisgarh as to where the money from his MP fund has been spent in Chhattisgarh. Or, is this money also used in 'serving their masters'? He further said that the Rajya Sabha MPs of Congress are continuously insulting the people of Chhattisgarh. Ranjita Ranjan had said that not all Naxalites are bad.

This is a direct insult to the soldiers martyred in Naxalite incidents. Srivastava said sarcastically that today Congress has left the reluctant, neglected and tired Lok Sabha candidates in Chhattisgarh to their fate.

| CAMPAIGNING |

BJP Chief Nadda and HM Amit Shah to campaign on April 22



Central Chronicle News

Amit Shah would be among the star campaigners of the saffron brigade holding public meeting in favour of the party candidates

RAIPUR: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) President JP Nadda and Union Home Minister Amit Shah would be among the star campaigners of the saffron brigade holding public meeting in favour of the party candidates on April 22 under the Lok Sabha elections.

Apart from them, Prime Minister Narendra Modi would be holding three public meetings on April 23 in favour of the party candidates to create atmosphere in favour of the party whereas Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath too would be holding a public meeting at Kawardha on Sunday under the Rajnand-

gaon Parliamentary polls. Deputy Chief Minister Arun Sao on Saturday inspected the preparations for the public meeting to be addressed by JP Nadda at Lormi in Mungeli District under the Bilaspur Lok Sabha segment. He instructed the party workers to make essential arrangement.

Sao said that the people are very enthusiastic over the proposed visit of Party President JP Nadda on April 22 to create atmosphere in favour of saffron brigade in Bilaspur segment.

Meanwhile, the senior BJP Legislator Ajay Chandrakar and former Minister Prem Prakash Pandey held discussion with the party workers over the proposed public meeting of Amit Shah in Kanker constituency. Prime Minister Narendra Modi too is expected to hold public meetings in Raigarh, Sarguja and Korba segment next week.

YC for action against BJP leader Rathore for his remarks



Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: Abhishek Kasar, the State Secretary of Chhattisgarh Youth Congress, through a memorandum submitted at Raipur Kotwali police station demanded strict action against BJP leader SharadRathore for allegedly tampering with and spreading derogatory remarks in the Congress Justice Guarantee Form on his social media platforms. Abhishek Kasar stated that there is significant enthusiasm among the public following the historic Justice Guarantee Letter from the

Congress Party, and BJP leaders are rattled by their defeat, resorting to such negative publicity.

Those present at this occasion were Dinesh Thakur, City District Congress Vice President, Mahamantri Praveen Chandrakar, Block President Arun-Janghel, Rahul Tiwari, the Youth Congress District Secretary of Raipur, and Mohsin Khan, informs AbhishekKasar, State Secretary, Chhattisgarh Youth Congress. Kasar alleged that any repetition in future will lead to legal action against BJP leader.

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<p>Acharya Shri Jin Piyush Sagar Surishvar ji M.Sa.'s Agyanuvarti Sadhvi Shri Sulakshna Shri ji M.Sa (Maharaj Sahab)</p>	<p>Yugpradhan Acharya Shri Mahashraman ji's Vidushi Shishya Sadhvi Shri Annima Shri ji M.Sa. (Maharaj Sahab)</p>

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Watch the live telecast of the program on DD News



Election expenditure monitoring is a significant task; need to work in a planned manner.

Prasanna V Pattanshetti
Expenditure Observer

Expenditure Observer reviews works of concerned teams

Strict surveillance is being maintained on the activities of the candidates and the political parties to assess the expenditure made by them in the elections.

Central chronicle news

Separate observers and teams deployed for all nine assembly constituencies

BHILAI: Expenditure Observer of Durg Parliamentary Constituency, Prasanna V Pattanshetti chaired a meeting of Assistant Expenditure Observers and Accounting Team and gave instructions for continuous monitoring of election expenditure and preparation of reports. Collector and District Election Officer Richa Prakash Chaudhary also attended the meeting. The Expenditure Observer directed to specially monitor all the election activities. Separate Assistant Expenditure Observers and Accounting Teams have been appointed for the assembly constituencies - Durg Rural, Durg City, Bhilai Nagar, Vaishali Nagar, Ahiwara, Patan, Saja, Bemetara and Navagarh. Expenditure Observer Prasanna sought information about the committees related to expenditure, Expenditure Monitoring Cell, Accounts Team, Flying Squad, Static Monitoring



Expenditure Observer of Durg Parliamentary Constituency Prasanna V Pattanshetti chairing review meeting.

Team, Media Certification and Monitoring Committee, Expenditure Accounts, Video Surveillance Team etc. He inquired about the expenditure incurred by the candidates during the Code of Conduct. He said that there is a need to work by paying special attention on the expenditure made by the candidates. The teams should maintain records of expenditure and provide daily reports in the prescribed format. He said that the accounting team should submit daily reports. He took information regarding the action taken by the team of SST, FST, VVT and VST.

Assistant Expenditure Observer will continuously monitor expenditure of candidate

Expenditure Observer Prasanna V Pattanshetti said that the Assistant Expenditure Observer will continuously monitor the expenditure of the candidate and submit daily report.

He asked to pay attention to the expenditure seizure monitoring system. As the expenditure monitoring is a very important task, the team needs to work in a planned manner.

HIGHLIGHT

● All teams instructed to maintain records and report daily

● As the expenditure monitoring is a very important task, the team needs to work in a planned manner.

Prasanna said that if the expenditure team members face any prob-

lem, they should take guidance from their senior officers and ensure action within the time limit. He also asked the assistant expenditure observers to visit the assembly constituencies and monitor the situation. He directed that flying squads, static surveillance teams and teams related to election expenditure to remain alert at various checking points and other places.

Former Chairman of UPSC delivers talk on NEP at CSVTU

Central chronicle news

The talk was on the topic "National Education Policy 2020 and its Implementation Strategy"

BHILAI: Former UPSC Chairman Dr DP Aggarwal addressed the B Tech, M Tech and PhD students at Chhattisgarh Swami Vivekananda Technical University the other day. It may be noted that an expert lecture was organized at CSVTU on the topic "National Education Policy 2020 and its Implementation Strategy". This lecture was chaired by Vice-Chancellor of the University, Prof MK Verma and conducted under the guidance of Prof Sanjay Aggarwal in the UTU. The program began with the chief guests being welcomed with floral bouquets by Dr PK Ghosh, director of UTU. In his address, the Director Dr Ghosh gave detailed information about various activities of UTU through presentation. Dr DP Aggarwal, the main spokesperson, explained the new education policy 2020 in detail. Dr Aggarwal said that according to the Education Act 2010, children up to 14 years of age

have the right to education and this right comes under the legal right to education. After the new education policy comes into effect, students can choose any subject; students can study Accounts or Arts subjects along with Physics. In the new education policy, aim is on connecting children with Indian culture, making education flexible, teaching discipline and empowerment, making education policy transpar-

FASTFACTS

● In NEP emphasis has been laid on basic education

● Students should follow a regular routine, as was done in ancient time Gurukul

ent, developing creative thinking of students, developing quality education, more focus on research as well as skills. Along with development, emphasis has also been laid on basic education. Dr Aggarwal also told the students that for excellent studies they should follow a regular routine, as was done by the students in Gurukul in ancient times. With this, students will be able to improve their physical and mental health.

CRIME

Man kills wife; surrenders before police



BHILAI: In a shocking incident, a 35-year-old man killed his wife after a family dispute. Initially he tried to conceal the body but later he surrendered before the police.

SP Jitendra Shukla informed that the accused Kishun Sahu (35) son of Late Arjun Sahu, a resident of village Deori, surrendered at Dhamdha Police Station on April 19. He confessed to killing his wife and thereafter hiding the body in the home itself. Kishnu revealed that following a domestic dispute, he strangled his wife Kavita Sahu to death. He used the cattle rope to strangle her. Thereafter, he packed the body with plastic sheets and concealed it over the wooden ceiling in the cattle byre at home.

ELECTION

Nominations of two candidates cancelled in

BHILAI: Collector and District Election Officer Richa Prakash Chaudhary conducted the scrutiny of the nominations received for Durg Parliamentary Constituency under the third phase of Lok Sabha elections 2024. Till the last day of filing nomination, a total of 29 candidates purchased nomination papers out of which 27 candidates submitted their nominations. After scrutiny, nominations of Shyam Sundar Sahu (Loktantra Congress Party), Vijay Baghel (Bharatiya Janata Party), Rajendra Sahu (Indian National Congress), Dr Harishchandra Sahu (Independent), Savita Shailendra Banjare (Shakti Sena, Bharat Desh), Baldev Sahu (Independent), Ashok Jain (Independent), Yashwant Sitaram Sahu (Bharatiya Shakti Chetna Party), Sukhdev Tandon (Rashtriya Jan Sabha Party), Shankar Thakur.

ACCIDENT

Woman killed in road accident

BHILAI: An elderly woman was killed, while her daughter-in-law suffered injuries in a road accident which occurred near Kohka Square on Friday. The victims were travelling on a scooter and were hit by a truck, which was moving rashly on the wrong side of the road. According to information, Mother Teresa Nagar Camp-1 resident Ganeshi Bai and her daughter-in-law had gone to Junwani to attend a marriage function. They were returning back home on a scooter around 16:30 hrs on Friday. Near Kohka Square, they were hit by a truck which was coming from the wrong direction. Ganeshi Bai suffered fatal injuries and succumbed on the spot. Her daughter-in-law has been admitted to the hospital. Police have seized both the vehicles and a case has been registered against the truck driver.

State Mini Boys & Girls Handball Team announced



Mini boys and girls handball team selected to play nationals in a photo session

Central chronicle news

Team to participate in the 17th Mini National Handball Championship to be at Mumbai from April 21 to April 24

BHILAI: Mini Boys and Girls (under 12 years) handball team of Chhattisgarh state left for Mumbai (Maharashtra) to participate in the 17th Mini Boys and Girls National Handball Championship. The Championship is being organized by Mumbai Handball Academy under the aegis of Handball Association India from April 21 to April 24 at Police Ground, Dadar, Mumbai (Maharashtra). A 24-member team of mini boys and girls category (10 boys, 10 girls, 02 trainers

and 02 managers) is participating in the tournament. Sameer Khan, General Secretary of Chhattisgarh Handball Association announced the list of selected players on April 18 at Handball Ground, Baikunthdham, Bhilai. Thereafter, a photo session was done. The mini boys handball team members are Shivam Verma, Anurag Banerjee, Abdul Hammad Khan, Vinay Mali, Anant Nirmalkar, Domendr Kumar Sahu, Shubham Sinha, Vikrant Kumar Kaushik, Suryakant Bhaskar, Aditya Sapaha, Team coach Mohammed Ghani and Team Manager Sumit Kumar Yadav. The girls handball team included Purvi Pillay, Tanishka Sahu, Purvi Manikpuri, Tanushka Sahu, Palak Manikpuri.

Ban on organizing & broadcasting exit polls

BHILAI: Ban on organizing and telecasting any kind of exit poll by the Election Commission of India has come into effect from April 19, 2024, which will remain banned till June 01, 2024.

Conducting and telecasting any type of exit poll during this period has been prohibited by the Commission under the provisions of the Representation of the People Act, 1951.

It is mentioned in the notification issued by the Election Commission of India that in view of the Lok Sabha Elections-2024, no exit poll of any kind should be organized in the context of the Lok Sabha general elections in the period from 07:00 hrs on April 19, 2024 to 18:30 hrs on June 01, 2024.

Also, there will be a ban on publishing or publicizing its results through print or electronic media or disseminating it in any other way.

Workshop organised on Improving Risk Perception

WORKSHOP

Central chronicle news

Emphasis was given for involving all individuals in the discussion of activity and its related safety

BHILAI: A full day workshop on Improving Risk Perception, Hazard Identification and Mitigation plan was organised in BSP's Coke Ovens & Coal Chemical Deptt with the sessions taken by Ashish Chakraborty, ED (SSO), Ranchi and Vashisht, CGM (SSO), Ranchi who were invited specially for this session.

During the workshop, emphasis was given for involving all the individuals in the discussion of activity and its related safety.

ED (SSO), Ranchi advised that various good practices like, recording of observations in the



Special invitees Ashish Chakraborty, ED (SSO), Ranchi and Vashisht, CGM (SSO), Ranchi addressing the workshop

FASTFACTS

● Risk Perception, Assessment and Mitigation are one of the important steps in achieving zero accidents

● Risk assessment needs to be practiced by every individual so that untoward incidents can be avoided

protocol after the job is completed be continued and all the individuals concerned in the investigation of any incident be involved. In addition, the tool for risk assessment was also discussed in detail.

Under the guidance of Tarun Kanrar, CGM (CO&CCD) this special programme was attended by cross section

of executives in CO&CCD as well as key non-executives in the supervisory cadre.

Shop floor activities to improve risk perception among the employees was also presented by Shubhashis Nandi and Anurag Kishore Deepak. The programme was conducted and coordinated by Pradeep Menon, AGM (CO&CCD).

ACCOMPLISHMENT

BSP's employees bag 12 awards under JCSSI's Annual Competitions

Central chronicle news

BHILAI: Winners of the Annual Competitions on Safety, instituted by the Joint Committee on Safety, Health & Environment in the Steel Industry (JCSSI) were felicitated by Prabir Kumar Sarkar, Acting ED (Works), at ED (Works) Conference Hall. The employees of SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant have bagged a total of 12 out of 31 awards at the JCSSI's Annual Competitions on safety essays,



calendars, and poster designs, aimed at generating safety awareness among employees of member organizations. PK Sarkar, along with

PR Bhalla CGM (Safety & Fire Services) and SK Agrawal GMI/c (SED) felicitated Prabhu Charan Jena, ACT (CO&CCD), Prakash Kr Kaushik, SrTech. (ETL),

Umakant Thakur, MLoco Oper (T&D), Jaya Tiwari, AGM (Projects), Ranjan Goswami, OCT (MARS-I), Rashmi Nayak, SrOCT (INCOS), Sushant Buldeo,

MOCT (RMD), Harish Kr Gond, SrLoco Oper (T&D), Prabhu Charan Jena, ACT (CO&CCD), Prakash Kr Kaushik, SrTech (ETL), Priyanka Raj Gupta, OCT (SMS-II), and Satish Kr Bhardwaj, OCT (URM) for winning.

Sarkar congratulated the winners and stated strict adherence to safety Protocols is the key to safe production in the Steel Industry. When employees from our Plant take part and win the various com-

"Strict adherence to safety Protocols is the key to safe production in the Steel Industry"

Prabir Kumar Sarkar
Acting ED (Works) BSP

petitions on safety, it not only brings laurels to the organization but also motivates other employees. The winners must also encourage their colleagues to take part in such competitions, Sarkar said. PR Bhalla in his address appealed to them to be role models for safety, not only at their workplace, but inside and outside the Plant as well. The function was compered by Shovan Ghosh AGM (SED) and assisted by Janardan Rao, JO (SED).

Battle-2024



Narendra Modi govt facing strong anti-incumbency

Siddaramaiah Karnataka CM



TMC Supremo Mamata Banerjee with party candidates Yusuf Pathan and Abu Taher Khan during an election campaign rally.

‘EC chalked out seven-phase polls to assist BJP campaigning’

Banerjee accused the CPI (M) and Congress of bolstering the BJP in the state and urged people not to cast votes for any non-TMC candidate.

Press Trust of India

MALDA (WB): West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Saturday alleged that the Election Commission of India chalked out seven-phase polls to enable Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his cabinet colleagues to carry out extensive campaigning using the nation's resources. Addressing a public meeting at Gajol in Malda district in support of Maldaha Uttar TMC candidate Prasun Banerjee, a former IPS officer, Mamata Banerjee, the party supremo, said polls have

been scheduled from April 19 to June 1 so that Modi and his cabinet colleagues can travel on special planes across the country before every phase to "overwhelm the Opposition". "On earlier occasions, elections used to be over by May but this year, it has been extended till June 1 to enable Modi to visit various places on military planes, while we are made to arrange for our own transport, including helicopters, which are also being booked by BJP leaders so that we get little space," she alleged.

HIGHLIGHT

● "I had coined the name of INDIA bloc. But INDIA bloc does not exist in Bengal. For us, it exists outside the state," she said.

● "Our MP Mahua Moitra was expelled from Parliament for unmasking the misdeeds of the Modi government and its proximity to big business houses."

"People are greatly inconvenienced by the scorching heat but Modi is

unperturbed as they (BJP leaders) are campaigning in VVIP comfort with all facilities at hand," she added. Banerjee alleged that though the Union council of ministers led by Narendra Modi is a caretaker cabinet after the announcement of elections and the EC is in charge of running the administrative machinery, the poll body is "toeing the line dictated by Modi and his party colleagues". Attacking the BJP and Congress MPs from West Bengal, Banerjee alleged that despite being elected from the state in 2019,

none of them took up the state's cause regarding the release of MGNREGA funds by the Centre or building houses for the poor under PM Awas Yojana. "On the other hand, our (TMC) MPs were manhandled and arrested when they went to Delhi in November last year to demand the release of MGNREGA funds," she said. "But what have the Congress and BJP MPs done for the poor? What has (Maldaha Uttar) BJP MP Khagen Murmu done for job card holders of the state?" she questioned.

Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

LOK SABHA POLLS

Delhi BJP to hold influencers' meet to increase voter outreach

NEW DELHI: New Delhi: The BJP in Delhi will hold a mega influencers' meet next week for increasing voter outreach through social media ahead of the Lok Sabha elections, party leaders said on Saturday.

Social media is a very potent tool to send across any message and there are a large number of users on platforms such as X, Facebook and WhatsApp, among others, that need to be reached, the BJP's Delhi unit chief Virendra Sachdeva said.

"The influencers' meet will help us bring those supporting us together for coordinated, organised publicity and campaigning on different social media platforms," he said.

The meeting is expected to be attended by 1,000 influencers, he said. Social media influencers are people from various fields who actively use the various platforms to express their views and opinions and have a large number of followers. **PTI**

ELECTION

Faced protests from TMC workers during campaigning: Adhir



KOLKATA: Senior Congress leader and the party's Baharampur Lok Sabha candidate Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury on Saturday alleged that he faced protests from TMC workers during campaigning in his constituency. Dismissing the allegations, the Trinamool Congress said he is facing protests from common people as he "shows his face only before elections". Chowdhury alleged that TMC workers surrounded his car and raised 'go back' slogans during campaigning in Nowda area in Murshidabad district of West Bengal. **PTI**

Grand old party leader calls them 'betrayers' More from Cong cross over to BJP in MP



BHOPAL: A Congress ex-MLA from Madhya Pradesh's Shivpuri district and several other local leaders of the party joined the BJP on Saturday, prompting a functionary from the grand old party to call them "betrayers".

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav welcomed Harivallabh Shukla, who represented the Shivpuri assembly constituency, and other Congress workers to BJP at an event here, a day after six Lok Sabha seats in the state went to polls in the first phase of parliamentary elections.

"We welcome you with open arms to the party. We are going to work with one accord. You are free to give suggestions and play an important role in the party (BJP)," Yadav told the new saffron party members.

More than 100 Congress leaders joined the BJP at the function, claimed a party release. In the run-up to the Lok Sabha polls, the saffron party had launched a campaign to induct disgruntled Congress leaders into its fold in MP. Several Congress leaders have joined the BJP in the state in the past few months.

'Modi govt posing threat to Constitution'

BHAGALPUR: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Saturday charged the BJP-RSS combine and a handful of billionaires with posing a threat to democracy and the country's Constitution, to which "Dalits, tribals and the poor owe all that they have". Addressing an election rally at Bhagalpur, his first in Bihar, Gandhi also drew a contrast with the previous UPA government headed by his party, claiming the amount of debt written off under the Narendra Modi regime was "25 times the farmers' loans we had waived". "I would like to give you some startling statistics. The country has 22 individuals who own wealth that is equivalent to the holdings of 70 crore people. There are 70 crore people in the country who are surviving on less than Rs 100 a day," claimed Gandhi.

BJP will not let anyone do away with reservation: Shah

Press Trust of India

Urging people to vote for the BJP candidate, Shah said, "Press the button of the lotus symbol on the EVM so hard so that electric shocks are felt in Italy."

JAIPUR/KOTA: Accusing the Congress of being against the Other Backward Classes, Union Home Minister Amit Shah Saturday said even if the opposition party wants to do away with the reservation given to SC, ST and OBCs, the BJP will not allow that to happen.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi belongs to the OBC community, he



Amit Shah addresses during a public meeting for Lok Sabha polls.

said, adding that it was Modi who implemented schemes for people of small backward classes.

Shah was addressing an election rally in support of Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, the BJP's candidate and sitting MP from the Kota Lok Sabha seat.

"Even if the Congress party wants to remove SC, ST and OBC reservation... we will not allow it. This is Modi's guarantee," he asserted.

The Congress is a party which opposes Other Backward Classes (OBC), Shah alleged. "The Congress govern-

FACTFILE

● Rajasthan is going to make a hat-trick of giving all 25 seats to Narendra Modi for a third time.

● Modi government spent Rs 13,000 crores and connected them with skill development and self-employment schemes.

ment did not implement the Mandal Commission report. During a discussion in Parliament on reservation, Rahul baba's father Rajiv Gandhi spoke against it for two-and-a-half hours," he claimed.

Shah said Modi worked to give constitutional recognition to the backward commission.

POLL CAMPAIGN |

'Kerala CM compromised, attacks only Rahul Gandhi'

Press Trust of India

PATHANAMTHITTA : Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi on Saturday said that Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan is "compromised" as he "attacks" only the grand old party and Rahul Gandhi but not the BJP. The Congress leader said that Vijayan's name has come up in many scams, includ-

ing 'Life Mission' and gold smuggling through diplomatic bags, but the BJP-led Central government has neither taken up any case against him nor carried out raids or any kind of action against him. "Like in a football match, you cannot win with a compromised player, the same way you have a compromised CM. He only attacks my brother

State government of giving jobs only to its party workers and ignoring the common people.

Priyanka Gandhi Congress leader



(Rahul Gandhi) and the Congress party. He does not attack the BJP. "Have you thought about it? His name came up in so many scams -- Life Mission, gold smuggling, many other scams -- but how come the BJP government never put cases on him, never carried out raids on him and no action was taken against him?" Gandhi said.

The Day's NUMBERS

Countries with the biggest average and median wealth per capita (2022)

WHICH COUNTRIES ARE REALLY THE RICHEST

Switzerland	\$685,226
Luxembourg	\$585,950
United States	\$551,347
Hong Kong	\$551,194
Iceland	\$498,290

ANANTNAG-RAJOURI SEAT

'Unfortunate' that NC contesting against friend who turned 'greedy'

PULWAMA (J-K): National Conference (NC) vice president Omar Abdullah on Saturday said it was "unfortunate" that his party was contesting elections in the Anantnag-Rajouri parliamentary constituency against a friend who turned "greedy" for a Lok Sabha seat. Abdullah was apparently referring to PDP president Mehbooba Mufti contesting the polls from the seat in south Kashmir. The NC has fielded its senior Gujjar leader Mian Altaf from the seat. "The fight on the south Kashmir seat is not with the BJP. NC's contest there is unfortunately with one of our friends who was with us till some days ago. Unfortunately, they left us for the greed of a seat. Our contest at least in south Kashmir is not with the BJP or its 'B' or 'C' teams," Abdullah said here. He was speaking to reporters after addressing an election meeting in support of the party candidate from Srinagar Lok Sabha constituency Aga Syed Ruhullah Mehdi.

ELECTION CAMPAIGN

Lok Sabha polls about safeguarding J-K's identity: Mehbooba



ANANTNAG (J-K): The Lok Sabha elections are not about addressing the day-to-day development issues but safeguarding the identity of Jammu and Kashmir and saving its resources, PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti said on Saturday.

The former chief minister of the erstwhile Jammu and Kashmir state, who is contesting the general elections from the Anantnag-Rajouri constituency, took part in a roadshow in the Pahalgam area of south Kashmir as part of her campaign.

Congress LS candidate from Raipur LS seat reached Balodabazar and held public contact.

Vikas Upadhyay
LS candidate Raipur



Chhattisgarh



Illegal plotting of rural and urban land is being carried out indiscriminately in the district

Land mafia indulged in illegal plotting indiscriminately

The administrative proceedings to curb the land mafia in the entire issue are very slow and the efforts are meagre in stands of withholding the entire route of land grabbing

Central Chronicle News

KHAIRAGARH: Illegal plotting of rural and urban land is being carried out indiscriminately in the district including Khairagarh, Chhuikhadan, Gandai as well. Big names of the power gallery and their relatives are allegedly running the deal and there is convenience of undeclared political protection for the same adequately in and around the district periphery.

The administrative proceedings to curb the land mafia in the entire issue are very slow and the efforts are meagre in stands of withholding the entire route of land grabbing. The vacant lands bordering the music city Khairagarh are falling victim to the vulture vision of the land mafia as there are reports that the work of buying and selling of land is being done in a planned manner at very low prices, and these pieces of land interestingly are currently in the

HIGHLIGHT

● Land mafia preying urban and rural land via illegal plotting as administrative efforts to stop goes inadequate

● The work of buying and selling of land is being done in a planned manner

form of agricultural land where farming has been done earlier.

It is also reported

that in the Khamharia area adjacent to the Civil Line, near the under-construction bypass, new Tikrapara, Dauchaura, Lanji Marg, Kawardha State Highway including Rajnandgaon and Durg and in the area of Sonesrar, the work of buying and selling of land is going on in full swing and the land is being sold here and mafia is cutting silver here with provisions of Government colonizer rules being violated openly. Under the Colonizer Act, any organiza-

tion or person has to go through a long process for plotting, in which first a builder license is to be issued which is valid for 5 years and before its sale, the master plan and map of the colony, blue print of Khasra has to be approved by Gram Nagar Nivesh, in which as per the rules for the colony, 12 meter or 40 feet wide road, drain, electrical system, water tank, garden, open stage, commercial premises and boundary wall have to be constructed.

People resorting to indoor due to rise in temperature

FINGESHWAR: With mercury on the rise for last two days, people are facing lots of problems and preferring to stay indoors. Due to rise in mercury from 12:00 noon to 5:00 pm, the roads in city are wearing deserted looks. Set aside this the rise in mercury is leading to lot of discomfort among people and is having adverse affect on their health as well. Due to sudden change in weather after a week-long rainy season during summer, the people are finding it difficult to adjust to high maximum temperature. On April 18, the maximum temperature was at 40 Deg. Celsius. People were seen wearing scarf around their face and kept their forehead and legs fully covered, so as to avoid sun tanning.

Model polling station remain the centre of attraction

Central Chronicle News

Peaceful voting completed in Bijapur amid tight security

BIJAPUR: The first phase of voting under the Lok Sabha General Election 2024 was completed in Bastar parliamentary constituency on 19th April 2024, for which complete preparations were made in a planned manner in Bijapur, an assembly included in the parliamentary constituency of Bastar.

The entire procedure of voting was concluded under the able leadership of Collector and District Election Officer Anurag Pandey, with adequate security arrangements.

Central Reserve



first phase of voting under the Lok Sabha General Election 2024 was completed in Bijapur.

FACTFILE

● Voters used their franchise with enthusiasm and excitement

● 348 parties including the reserve party deployed for 245 polling stations

Force and Chhattisgarh Police were deployed and a total of 1392 poll-

ing personnel were appointed in 348 parties including the reserve party for 245 polling stations under Assembly Constituency No. 89. Voting work was completed by a total of 60 sector officers and 67 micro observers and in total, action was taken to send polling parties to the polling centres for 76 highly sensitive areas by helicopter

three days in advance. A total of 10 Sangwari polling stations have been made in the district for voting in the Lok Sabha general elections, which were operated only by women personnel, in which Ralapalli 29, Gotaiguda 32, Bhairamgarh-1 41, Bhairamgarh, Bhairamgarh-2 144, Bijapur 156, 158, 161, 165, 166 and 167 are included.

MARKET CONDITION |

Wedding season keeping markets abuzz

Central Chronicle News

RAJIM: The market is abuzz with wedding shoppers, and the markets are witnessing a big rush in all sectors from gold to electronics. In the month of April, before Ram Navami Dev Lagna, there is a rush in the markets for buying and selling of wedding items that people have to wait

for about 1 to 3 hours at every shop for shopping.

People from distances of more than a hundred kilometres are reaching Rajim city and particularly there is rush in the jewellery shops, and people are not much amused to the market rate of gold, which has seen a steep hike in the past few months. Women folks like Asabati, Binabai, Triveni,



Dulari Bai, Ramkali, who were in the market to buy gold, said that seeing the increase in gold prices, they are planning to buy artificial goods. Other than bullion shops, Maniyari shop, furniture, firecracker, vegetable market, grocery shop etc. have become buzzing and there is movement of people on the roads 24 hours.

Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

AWARENESS

Earthen lamp lighted to create voting awareness under SVEEP programme

FINGESHWAR: As per instructions by the Collector and DRO Gariyaband Deepak Kumar Agrawal, CEO District Panchayat Reeta Yadav under guidance of Nodal Officer Gariyaband Budhvilas Singh is carrying out variety of activities under SVEEP programme. In this context, on April 17, earthen lamps were lighted in the chowks and triangles and message of cent percent voting was created among the voters.

On this occasion Puralal Sahu (Block Nodal Officer, Fingeshwar) said that there is need to create awareness among the people about their voting rights and for ensuring cent percent polling, voter awareness programme is being organised. On April 16, variety of programme like Rangoli, Painting, 'Nukkad Natak', 'Slogan writing', cycle rally, bike rally and others was organised.

ILLEGALWORK

Illegal liquor sold in English liquor shops without the trademark



KURUD: Liquor is being sold illegally in the English liquor shop of Kurud Nagar, without the trademark hallmark. The government in order to prevent loss of revenue to the government due to sale of illegal and spurious liquor, a system has been created in which no stock will be sold without hologram." In the new system, distilleries and breweries will have unique serial numbers and batch numbers, generating printed barcodes containing information about date and expiry date.

From around the region

Two interstate drug peddlers arrested with ganja worth over Rs 3 lakh



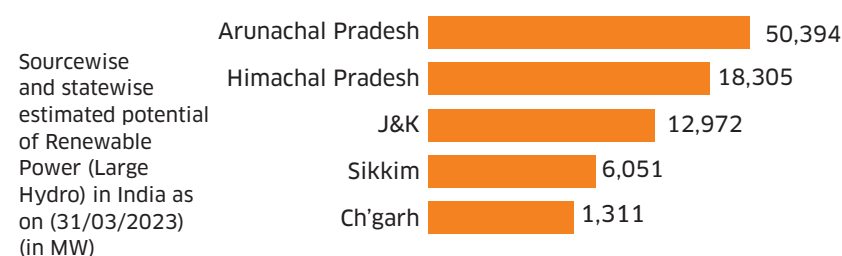
RAJNANDGAON: Rajnandgaon police have achieved great success in the campaign against drug peddlers. On Saturday, Kotwali police arrested two interstate peddlers with a huge quantity of ganja on the road on the city bypass. Of the two peddlers caught, one belongs to Orissa and the other hailed from Gujarat. The police caught both of them when they were standing near the road and waiting for the bus.

Police have recovered 40 kg 700 grams of ganja worth around Rs 3 lakh

20 thousand from their possession. Acting on a tip off from an informer on Friday police laid trap and caught two persons while they were waiting for the bus with ganja on the main road near Rajnandgaon bypass. When the police personnel searched the bags kept by both of them, a huge quantity of ganja was recovered from them. According to the information, the name of one of persons caught by the police is Ramesh Sethi and the other is Ruchita Kumar.

The Day's NUMBERS

WHAT IS STATEWISE ESTIMATED POTENTIAL OF RENEWABLE ENERGY?



Source: MoS&PI

DOCTOR

Doctor charged with exploiting woman on the pretext of marriage

KONDAGAON: Police have arrested a doctor for allegedly exploiting a woman physically as well as financially under the pretext of job and marriage. The victim in her written report at Vishrampuri police station alleged that Dr Surendra Kumar Sahu, posted as Rural Medical Assistant in CHC Salna, physically exploited her from 2019 to 2023 on the pretext of marriage and getting her a job. So much so that he cheated her by taking Rs 2 lakh 50 thousand and gold ornaments from her at different times.

He also used to threaten to kill her if she demanded money, victim told. Based on the report of the victim, the offence has been registered at Vishrampuri police station and it has been taken up for investigation. Taking serious note of the matter, Superintendent of Police Y Akshay Kumar directed to arrest him immediately and take legal action.

POLITICAL

Women will get Rs 1 lakh annually if Congress govt. is formed: Dr. Daharia



JANJGIR-CHAMPA: A Jan Ashirwad Yatra of Congress candidate from Lavan, Janjgir Champa Lok Sabha constituency, former cabinet minister Dr. Shivkumar Daharia, was held in villages Kohraud, Ahilda, Sarkhor of Lavan area. In the Jan Ashirwad program Dr. Daharia while addressing the program said that under Nari Nyaya Yojana, every woman will be given Rs1 lakh annually and employment opportunities will be provided to the unemployed and the amount of MNREGA wages will increase from Rs 243 to Rs 400 if Congress govt is formed.

'It is responsibility of all to conduct fair and peaceful poll'

General Observer Prem Singh Meena held meeting with officers and gave detailed information regarding the preparations being made to conduct the voting under Lok Sabha elections.

Central Chronicle News

CEO District Panchayat Sambit Mishra talked about human resources, training, voter awareness under SVEEP activity

KORBA: An official meeting regarding the preparations being made to conduct the voting under Lok Sabha elections, was organised in the presence of General Observer Premsingh Meena (IAS), Observer Kailash Sukhdev Pagare (IAS) and Collector and District Election Officer Ajit Vasant, appointed by the Election Commission of India for the Legislative Assemblies of Korba district, Lok Sabha election is the nodal under Korba district. In the meeting Election Officer Seema Patre and other nodal officers gave detailed information regarding the preparations being made to conduct the voting under Lok Sabha elections.

Observer Mr. Meena directed all the nodal officers that it is the responsibility of all of us to conduct the elections peacefully by being fair and transparent while following the guidelines issued by the Election Commission of India. Describing the partici-



General Observer Premsingh Meena (IAS) convened meeting with district-level officers.

tion of women officers and employees in voting in all the polling centres under Korba assembly constituency as a better initiative, the observers asked all the officers to coordinate among themselves and conduct the elections.

Collector and District Election Officer Ajit Vasant gave other information including the assembly wise preparations, training, distribution and return of voting material under Korba Lok Sabha elections and the status of the last elections.

DDRO informed about sensitive polling stations, home voting

Deputy District Returning Officer (DDRO) gave information regarding providing necessary basic facilities in polling stations, voters, additional polling stations and polling stations in the assembly falling under Korba district and Korba Lok Sabha constituency. He informed about sensitive polling stations, home voting for senior citizen voters,

HIGHLIGHT

• Nodal Officer about web casting, furniture material arrangement in polling stations.

availability of wheel chairs and ramps for PWD voters in polling stations and scout guides for necessary support and the training program for the officers involved in the elections.

Similarly, Nodal Officer Pratishta Mangai discussed about web casting, furniture material arrangement in polling stations, CEO District Panchayat Sambit Mishra talked about human resources, training, voter awareness under SVEEP activity, and Joint Collector Manoj Kumar Banjare talked on the topic for election expenditure monitoring.

Voter awareness rally organized in low voting area of Darri

Central Chronicle News

An appeal was made to the voters to exercise their franchise, the voters were given the opportunity to vote

KORBA: Today, a voter awareness rally was organized by the Municipal Corporation Kerba in the Darri Zone of the Municipal Corporation Korba in the area where the voting percentage was low in the last election, in which a large number of voters participated. Additional Commissioner of the Corporation Vinay Mishra appealed to the present voters to cast their vote compulsorily and administered the Voter's Oath.

Under the guidance of Collector and District Election Officer Ajit Vasant, a voter awareness campaign is being run in view of the Lok Sabha elections 2024. Campaigns are being conducted with a special focus on increasing the voting percentage in areas where the voting percentage has been low in the past elections. In this series, today, under the direction of District Panchayat Chief Executive Officer Sambit Mishra and Corporation Commissioner Pratishta Mangai, H.T.P.S. under Darri zone of Municipal Corporation Kerba.

A voter rally was organized in the residential complex and its surrounding areas and through the rally a message was given to the voters that they should compulsorily exercise their franchise. Additional Commissioner of the Corporation Vinay Mishra delivered pledge to the voters present to use their franchise compulsorily. While taking the oath, the people present said that 'with full faith in the civil democracy of

FASTFACTS

- Additional Commissioner of the Corporation Vinay Mishra delivered pledge to voters
- A voter rally was organized in the residential complex

India, we take this oath that we will maintain the dignity of the democratic traditions of our country and while keeping the dignity of free, fair and peaceful elections intact, we will vote fearlessly and will exercise their right to vote in all elections without being influenced by religion, class, caste, community, language or any other inducement'. On this occasion, Deputy Commissioner of the Corporation B.P. Trivedi, Zone Commissioner A.K. Sharma, a large number of voters were present.

NEWSLINE

CARELESSNESS

Buses not dropping passengers at the Bus Stand



PANDARIA: The passenger busses are not going to the Bus Stand and instead they are dropping them near Harrinullah and leave. Due to carelessness of the Transport department, the passenger bus owners are dictating their own terms. The bus from Pandaria to Raipur that of Mahajan Bus Service returns Pandaria at around 8:30 pm and the bus drops the passengers near Harrinullah. Due to this the passengers are made to travel 700 mts on foot in the dark. In addition to this from parcel also they charge exorbitantly. The fare from Raipur to Pandaria is Rs 130, but if one sends even a small envelope then Rs 150 is charged. In addition to this there are other buses which are charging heavy fare and due to which the passengers are facing lots of problems. The passengers are also not given any ticket and it is overloaded most of the time.

LS POLLS

Collector conducted inspection of polling centres

BIJAPUR: The polling in the Bijapur coming under the Parliamentary area No. 10 of Bastar for LS polls was held peacefully on April 19. Collector and DRO Anurag Pandey started his intensive touring from 6:00 am to all the polling centres in Bijapur, Bhairagarh and Bhopalpatnam tehsil and checked about the condition of the polling centre and basic facilities provided. During this he also exercised his franchise and made an appeal to all the residents of the district to exercise their franchise to strengthen the democracy. Collector Pandey first conducted inspection of Model Polling Centres No.163, 166 and Sangwari Polling Centre at Sanjay para Bijapur; and different polling centres of Bhopalpatnam.

INSPECTION

Collector takes stock of election preparations



KOREA: Collector and District Election Officer Vinay Kumar Langeh took stock of all the preparations and arrangements being done for the elections by visiting polling stations Chhindya, Kudeli, Targwan and Burhar. Under the guidance of the Collector voter awareness campaigns are being run continuously so that 100 percent voting can be done in all the polling stations in the general Lok Sabha elections. The Collector instructed the officers and employees present on the spot to make proper arrangements and cleanliness before the voting so that there is no problem of any kind, while he also instructed to write the voting date, time and other information on the walls of all the polling stations.

One dies, nine others injured as vehicle turns turtle



Central Chronicle News

In this accident all in the Scorpio vehicle got injured and the vehicle also got badly damaged.

KHAIRAGARH: Ten persons travelling in the Scorpio vehicle on way to an engagement ceremony fell victim of road accident and in this Sarpanch of Gram Panchayat Kumhi died on the spot and three others were seriously injured and other six got minor injuries.

As per information in this regard, seeing a tractor pulling electrical wire,

the Scorpio vehicle went out of control and turned turtle. The incident took place just 1 km on the main road from Gram Bundeli and in which the Sarpanch travelling in the Scorpio died and 9 others got injured

The injured are undergoing treatment in different hospitals in Raipur, Bhilai, Rajnandgaon and Khairagarh. About the incident one of the injured Bagwat Das informed that to go out for an engagement from Gram Kumhi to Tenubhata, 7 male and 3 females boarded a Scorpio vehicle and left at around 0:30 am.

Stickers used to promote message of polling

KOREA: The polling for the first phase of election in Chhattisgarh and other states was held on April 19 and in Korea district will be held on May 7. Prior to this Collector Vinay Kumar Langeh, District Panchayat CEO Dr Ashutosh Chaturvedi, and other district officers pasted stickers on their mobiles with slogans 'Aao chale vote kare and voter kare garv kare'; 'Mata-dan ka Intejar and Koriya Tayyar hein' and took a pledge to run the awareness campaign.

The other slogan in the sticker, 'Kadi Loktantra ki tutane na pai, ek bhi matadata chutane na pai' would also motivate the voters for the polling on May 7.

Under SVEEP programme, these stickers will be pasted on the mobiles, bikes, scooty as well, so that the voters take part in this massive festival of democracy known as elections.

'Congress is the backbone of Seva Dal, says Dr. Mahant

| CONGRESS MEETING |

Central Chronicle News

Dr. Mahant filled enthusiasm among the workers

KORBA: Leader of Opposition in Chhattisgarh Assembly, Dr. Charan Das Mahant held a meeting of district Congress Seva Dal, Mahila Congress Seva Dal rural and city managing executive and block presidents along with state officials. All the officials were guided. Addressing the people present, Dr. Mahant said that the Seva Dal organization is the backbone of the Congress. The role of Seva Dal has always been important in the service work of Congress and in taking the organization forward. Be it election time or opportunities to strengthen the Congress organizationally, Seva Dal officials and workers have been working one step ahead. Once again this



Dr. Charan Das Mahant held a meeting of district Congress Seva Dal, Mahila Congress Seva Dal rural.

FASTFACTS

- Seva Dal organization is the backbone of the Congress.
- Role of Seva Dal has always been important in the service work of Congress

opportunity has come in the Lok Sabha elections in which all the officers and workers of Seva Dal have to

gear up and get involved. Similarly, Dr. Mahant gave guidance while holding a meeting of District Tribal Congress Committee Korba and Youth Cell, Rural and City Management Executive, Block Presidents and State officials. He also held a meeting of rural and city officials of the District Congress Committee Backward Classes Department and went door-to-door among the people to highlight the 5 Nyayas and 25 Guarantees

of the Congress Nyaya Patra for the Congress candidate in the current Lok Sabha elections, Jyotsna Charandas Mahant. Appealed to. Similarly, Dr. Mahant met SISTA National President RP Khande and other officials.

Prominent people present during the meeting were Mayor Rajkishore Prasad, District Congress Committee Rural President Surendra Pratap Jaiswal, and other party workers and leaders.

ILLICIT SALE OF LIQUOR

Illicit sale of liquor going on unabated in urban & rural areas

Central Chronicle News

KHAIRAGARH: The illicit sale of liquor in Khairagarh is going on unabated and with lack of action on part of the local administration and excise officials, this illicit sale of liquor is flourishing. The way this illegal business is going on is raising eyebrows on the working of Excise and Police department as well and indirectly hinting

about their working in close nexus.

It is notable here that the illicit sale of liquor in the region is at its peak over the last few months. Set aside the rural areas, illicit liquor is easily available in many a nook and corner of urban areas in the city. Due to sale of illicit liquor in rural areas, the students are also falling victim of the same, especially in Khaira-



garh city, Pandadah, Mudhipar, Bazar Ataria and Jalbandha and despite this the Excise and Police staff is sitting hands-on-hand. It is not that the administration is not aware about it, but

instead of taking strict action against such persons, these so-called not so favourable persons of the society are indirectly being given 'undeclared protection' and officers are just acting on dictats of the political leaders.

'Undeclared protection' of local administration

Under the state government's Excise Policy, the consumption of alcohol in public places

is completely prohibited. But at few places in urban areas and in majority of the fields in rural areas, it appears as if the alcoholics have got full freedom to drink out in the open.

Sources informed that primarily it is due lackadaisical an attitude of local administration, including Excise and Police, that this very policy of Excise deptt is openly being violated and liquor is being con-



"Liquor mediators acting as medium to increase its sales in rural areas will face action"

Officer,
Excise Department

sumed openly at public places and general public remains mute spectators, with hopes for some action, some day by the concerned authorities.

The mediator or agents of liquor are throwing big question mark on the tall claims of the government to introduce ban on sale of liquor. There are reports that the liquor mafia is exhausting big quantity of illicit liquor.



QUOTE FROM THE QUOTABLE

Leadership and learning are indispensable to each other.

[John F. Kennedy]

Comment

Journalism Ethics and Data Privacy: A Vital Imperative

OUR VIEW |

Tensions in West Asia: Economic Stability Amid Complexity

The escalation of tensions between Israel and Iran underscores the volatile landscape of West Asia, with reverberations extending far beyond the region's borders. As Israel responds to Iranian attacks with retaliatory measures, the specter of a broader conflict looms ominously, casting a shadow over global peace and stability. At the heart of these tensions lies not only longstanding animosities between nations but also the intricate web of geopolitical interests and strategic alliances. Iran's aggressive posture, manifested through drone and missile attacks, challenges the status quo in the region, while Israel's swift response signals a determination to defend its sovereignty and security. For India, a nation heavily reliant on oil imports, the repercussions of this conflict are keenly felt. With over 85% of its crude oil needs sourced from abroad, any disruption in the global oil market sends ripples through the Indian economy. The recent spike in Brent crude prices, albeit temporary, serves as a stark reminder of India's vulnerability to external shocks. In response to such uncertainties, India is taking proactive steps to safeguard its energy security. The decision to accelerate the construction of its first commercial crude oil strategic reserve reflects a pragmatic approach to mitigate risks associated with supply disruptions. However, the completion of this project remains years away, leaving India exposed to the vagaries of the international oil market in the interim. Amidst these challenges, India assumes a pivotal role in advocating for dialogue and de-escalation in West Asia. As a neutral actor with a longstanding commitment to peace, India's diplomatic intervention can serve as a catalyst for easing tensions and fostering regional stability. By urging restraint and emphasizing the imperative of diplomatic solutions, India can help prevent the escalation of hostilities that threaten to engulf the region in turmoil. In navigating the complex dynamics of West Asia, India must draw upon its diplomatic acumen and strategic foresight to uphold the principles of peace, stability, and mutual respect among nations. The stakes are high, but with steadfast resolve and principled leadership, India can contribute meaningfully to the resolution of conflicts and the promotion of global harmony.

GUEST VIEW |

Ethical Neurotech Advancement: Finding Balance

The rapid advancement of neurotechnology heralds a new era where the realms of neuroscience and artificial intelligence converge, presenting both opportunities and challenges on a global scale. With wearable technology revolutionizing how individuals perceive and interact with the world, the impact of neurotech extends beyond personal spheres into professional domains. In the workplace, neurotechnology offers tantalizing prospects, from enhancing focus and productivity to assessing fatigue levels. However, as organizations harness the power of brain data, it is imperative to tread carefully, mindful of the inherent risks to mental privacy. Employers must prioritize building trust among their workforce by addressing key concerns surrounding brain data storage, usage conditions, privacy regulations, employee rights, and transparency. Protecting the fundamental human rights of workers in the face of technological advancement necessitates a collaborative effort from governments worldwide. By establishing common laws and regulations, governments can ensure that the deployment of neurotechnology in the workplace is guided by ethical principles and safeguards.



Arka Goswami

India introduced its first comprehensive data protection law, the Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Act 2023, which relies on user consent for personal data processing. The law provides fundamental rights such as data access and deletion, imposes duties on corporations, and establishes a complaint mechanism for dispute resolution. Nonetheless, this law could potentially have a subtle impact on journalistic freedom of expression. Journalism is the fourth asset of democracy, which plays an important role as the voice of the voiceless people. News media and institutions related to journalism play a major role in providing public information to citizens, gathering public opinion on an issue and as a powerful tool of debate.

A vibrant democracy cannot be imagined without a vibrant, independent and critical news media. Independent media not only disseminate news and views of public importance but also act as a watchdog. It monitors, examines and criticizes the functioning of the major

organs and institutions of the state. Ensures accountability of public office holders by evaluating their performance. Research often involves collecting and using people's personal information, sometimes without their permission. This may include phone calls and bank records. For example, it would be difficult for journalists to access data about MPs to publish a story because they would have to obtain the MP's consent.

Collecting unrestricted data can lead to threats, harassment, and damage to one's reputation. People deserve to be in charge of their data. The DPDP Act gives the government the power to seek information from any data processor in India, which may impact the confidentiality that journalists must maintain for their sources and research documents. Investigative journalism can be challenging due to strict data privacy regulations. Due to the possibility of legal consequences, journalists may be reluctant to pursue stories. Data protection laws should include provisions for a "public

interest" test, enabling journalists to use personal data when their reporting reveals misconduct or serves the public good.

Journalism organizations should have clear ethical standards for collecting and using data. It guarantees ethical behavior and protects sources. Whenever possible, journalists should obtain the informed consent of individuals before publishing personal information about them. This helps individuals to understand how their data will be used and to express any objections. Personal information should be collected and shared by journalists only when it directly relates to the narrative and is well balanced in terms of importance. Sensationalism and unnecessary peeping into people's personal lives should be avoided.

Ultimately, striking a balance between the protection of personal data and the public interest requires a careful assessment of ethical, legal and professional criteria. Journalists are essential to maintaining accountability and openness in government, but they have a responsibility to do so respon-

sibly while maintaining people's right to privacy while fulfilling their public informational mandate. Professional bodies like Editors Guild of India, NBA and statutory bodies like PCI can initiate debate and discussion on this issue and propose remedial measures. While demanding punitive power for the Press Council of India, the argument is being presented that no freedom can be absolute. All freedoms are subject to reasonable restrictions and are accompanied by necessary responsibilities. In a democracy, everyone is accountable to the public, hence the media is also accountable to the people. Indian media should now introspect and develop a sense of responsibility and maturity. Hopefully the Indian news media will remember Mahatma Gandhi's advice and warning. A thoughtful media community will recognize the demands of these reforms and work swiftly towards reestablishing news media and journalism as a profession by ensuring adherence to ethical norms. This will work to win the trust of citizens and strengthen the social contract with the public.



Dr. Satyavan Saurabh

Author is poet, freelance journalist and columnist, All India Radio and TV panelist.

If AI steals our jobs, who'll be left to buy stuff?

In a world where AI multiplies job functions daily, the implications for workers are profound, demanding proactive strategies to safeguard livelihoods. by *Manoj Pant*

The new capabilities offered by Generative AI will particularly affect white collars job, but "affect" does not mean "kill". Photo: AP

As Artificial Intelligence (AI) continues to advance, concerns about job displacement have become increasingly prevalent. However, economists offer a reassuring perspective: only labor consumes, and the value of consuming populations is on the rise. While AI may perform an increasing number of tasks, the demand for goods and services ultimately depends on consumer purchasing power.

Recognizing the importance of addressing potential job displacement, major tech companies have formed a consortium aimed at providing training programs for workers affected by AI automation. This initiative is expected to benefit over 95 million individuals globally over the next decade.

Despite fears of widespread job loss, the exponential growth of AI capabilities also presents opportunities for economic growth. Increased productivity driven by technology can potentially lead to unlimited production and income. However, for this potential to be realized, there must be a corresponding increase in consumer demand.

Economic theory emphasizes the crucial role of consumer demand in driving

economic growth. Without a market for goods and services, increased productivity becomes irrelevant. As such, the focus of global managers is shifting towards countries with large and growing consuming populations, such as India.

Since India has a large population where consumers are expected to grow for the next decade or so, the focus of global managers seems justified. Yet, the data is confusing. Even in a metropolis like Delhi, the minimum salary,

on average, is about Rs.17,500 (USD 210) per month. It is lower in smaller cities and towns.

While the population is large, economic theory cannot answer the quandary of where is India's purchasing power to drive global growth.

Since 2008, the world economy has been on a limited growth path despite massive "pump priming" to stimulate spending by the US, China and other governments in a typical Keynesian response. Yet, after the COVID-19

pandemic, global growth, according to the International Monetary Fund, slowed from an estimated 6.1 per cent in 2021 to 3.4 per cent in 2022 and 2.8 per cent in 2023.

The phone is now a communication device, a calendar, a supermarket, a travel agency etc. Thus, the demand growth in such economies depends on the extent to which technology could be time-saving. Yet, more than time-saving technology is needed to solve the problem. Two potential solutions are

proposed: shifting consumers to regions with higher income and advanced technology, or relocating production to regions with abundant consumer populations through foreign direct investment.

Emerging market economies, particularly India, play a crucial role in driving global growth.

The "young workforce", which consumes approximately three times as much as the older cohort, is rising in India, while it has been falling in developed markets for decades, and is falling even in China now. These trends are normally irreversible in the short to medium term.

Returning to the original question of what workers will do when technological miracles do all the work - Amazon suffered embarrassment in running "just walk out" stores with no employees when it emerged earlier this month that a thousand or so workers sitting in India were remotely doing much of the work ascribed to AI. Amazon may however eventually succeed in running such stores without so many humans being involved.

But what if there is no one to enter such stores and buy from them?

YOUR LETTERS

Pothole phenomenon

Government data reveals a staggering 1900 deaths attributed to potholes in 2022, highlighting the dire consequences of poor road conditions. Inadequate engineering and funding have perpetuated this "pothole phenomenon" on Indian roads, exacerbated by heavy traffic and rainfall. Insufficient drainage worsens the situation, causing surfaces to crack and expand, forming potholes. Patching efforts by authorities using subpar materials prove temporary, as original potholes resurface.

Dr Ganapathi Bhat, Akola

Dispelling Misinformation

Recent findings debunk the circulating disinformation regarding Muslim outnumbering Hindus, revealing a nuanced reality. A study highlights that fertility rate disparities are regional, not religious. Bihar and Uttar Pradesh report TFRs of 3.4 and 2.7 respectively, contrasting Tamil Nadu and Kerala's lower rates of 1.7 and 1.6. While Hindu fertility stabilizes at 2.1, Muslim rates decline to 2.6. These statistics underscore the need to understand demographic trends within the context of specific regions rather than oversimplifying based on religious affiliations.

Sujit De, Kolkata

Send your articles (550-600 words) and letters (70-80 words) for this page on: editorcentralchronicle@gmail.com. The letters can be edited or rewritten for clarity.

Business



Visit to India has been delayed due to the company's heavy obligations

Elon Musk
CEO, Tesla

BizBriefs

BEST OF THE REST

PREMIUM COLLECTION

LIC's total premium grows most among listed peers in March

RAIPUR: State-owned Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) reported a 26.41 per cent increase in the total premium collected in March 2024 to Rs 36,300.62 crore compared to Rs 28,716.23 crore in the same month a year ago. LIC was followed by SBI Life Insurance Company in premium collection growth at 24.76 per cent. ICICI Prudential Life Insurance Company reported a 12.58 per cent growth. Another major insurer HDFC Life Insurance Company, however, reported a decline in premium collection at 20.05 per cent.

As of March 2024, LIC commands a market share of 58.87 per cent based on premium collections, the state-owned insurer said quoting figures released by Life Insurance Council. Private insurers also experienced a surge in premium collection in March due to a last-minute rush by customers to avail of tax exemptions before the April 1 deadline for non-linked policies, it said. **PTI**

RURAL MARKETS

Hyundai Motor India rolls out 'Grameen Mahotsav' in 16 locations

CHENNAI: Auto-maker Hyundai Motor India has expanded its 'Grameen Mahotsav' initiative to 16 new locations across the country, after the success of its inaugural event held in Gujarat this month. The 'Grameen Mahotsav' initiative aims to further strengthen HMI's connection to rural India with specially curated events and product displays including live music, folk dance, and regional talent shows among others.

It also serves as a platform for Hyundai to delve into the vast potential of rural markets. By closely engaging with communities and discerning market trends, HMI aims to not only cater to evolving aspirations but also identify and welcome new customers, Hyundai Motor India said in a statement on Friday. The inaugural 'Grameen Mahotsav' event was held successfully in Mahemdavad, Gujarat. Now, Hyundai Motor India looks forward to extending its reach and impact across rural landscapes. **PTI**

Market Analysis

PE/VC investments decline marginally in March quarter: Report



MUMBAI: Investments by private equity and venture capital funds have declined by 1 per cent year-on-year to USD 13.5 billion in the March 2024 quarter, according to a report.

However, it was 41 per cent higher compared to the preceding December quarter, the report by consultancy firm EY and industry lobby grouping IVCA said. When looked at from a volume perspective, the number of deals was 33 per cent higher at 292 in January-March 2024 against 220 in the year-ago period, it added. "We believe the markets

and PE/VC investment activity will be range-bound till clarity emerges on election results and the risk of escalation in the geopolitical conflicts eases down," EY partner Vivek Soni said.

The infrastructure sector received the maximum PE/VC investments in the quarter at USD 6.5 billion across 23 deals, 138 per cent higher than the USD 2.7 billion across 14 deals in the year-ago period, it said, adding that the same was led by the USD 2 billion investment by Brookfield in ATC India Tower Corporation.

Forex kitty drops USD 5.40 bn

MUMBAI: India's forex reserves dropped by USD 5.401 billion to USD 643.162 billion for the week ended April 12, the Reserve Bank said on Friday. The overall reserves increased by USD 2.88 billion.



Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman during an interaction with GCCI members, in Ahmedabad on Saturday. | Photo: PTI

Centre has tailored policies to make India an attractive destination: FM

Policies have been made to attract investments. We want manufacturers and investors to come and produce not just for India but also for exports

Press Trust of India

AHMEDABAD: Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Saturday said the Centre has tailored policies to make India an attractive destination for manufacturing and services, and the aim was to produce not just for the domestic market but for exports as well. She was responding to a query on American tech billionaire Elon Musk postponing his meet-

ing with Prime Minister Narendra Modi. "Policies have been made to attract investments. We want manufacturers and investors to come and produce not just for India but also for exports. We will try to attract manufacturers and investors through policies," she told reporters.

Tesla CEO Musk on Saturday said his visit to India has been delayed due to the company's heavy obligations.

NUMBER

2014

● Inflation never crossed the tolerance band, except for one month, under Modi government.

● When big companies show interest to come to India, we will do everything to make it attractive for them.

"When big companies show interest to come to India, we will do everything to make it attractive for them to come and invest.

In that process, if there is anything to discuss, we will certainly discuss. But whatever we have done, we have done it through policy," Sitharaman added. Asserting the Union government's approach has helped especially after China plus one started being a

concern for many industry experts, she said policies have been tailored in such a way so as to make India an attractive destination for manufacturing and for services. Speaking about inflation, she said it never crossed the tolerance band, except for one month, under the Narendra Modi government, whereas before that (pre-2014) the economy was in a bad shape and inflation was in double digits.

QUARTERLY RESULT

Wipro's new CEO Srinivas flags uncertainty in macro environment

Press Trust of India

Pallia acknowledged that FY24 proved to be a challenging year for the industry

BENGALURU: IT service company Wipro on Friday reported a 7.8 per cent year-on-year decline in its consolidated net profit for the March quarter to about Rs 2834.6 crore, and cautioned that the macroeconomic environment remains "uncertain". The Bengaluru-headquartered company, which recently saw a change of guard with Srinivas Pallia taking over at the helm as the new Chief Executive Officer,



has given IT Services revenue growth guidance in the (-)1.5 per cent to +0.5 per cent band for June quarter on a constant currency basis. While the numbers were in line with the analysts' estimates, the guidance of the company was below industry expectations. It also green signalled re-appointment of Azim H. Premji as Non-Exec-

EASTFACT

● 7.8 per cent year-on-year decline in its consolidated net profit for the March quarter

● 2. Guidance of the company was below industry expectations

utive, Non Independent Director for a period of 5 years with effect from July 31, 2024 to July 30, 2029, according to a statutory filing. In the earnings briefing, Pallia acknowledged that FY24 proved to be a challenging year for the industry and added "the macroeconomic environment remains uncertain".

PRESIDENT-DESIGNATE

India growing when world is in stress: Puri

Press Trust of India

KOLKATA Sanjiv Puri, president-designate of leading industry body CII, said that India is growing when the world is going through a phase of stress.

Speaking at an event here on Friday night, Puri, also the chairman and managing director of ITC Limited, said that the present juncture is an interesting moment.

"CII has a rich legacy built over decades. We will certainly be looking forward to con-

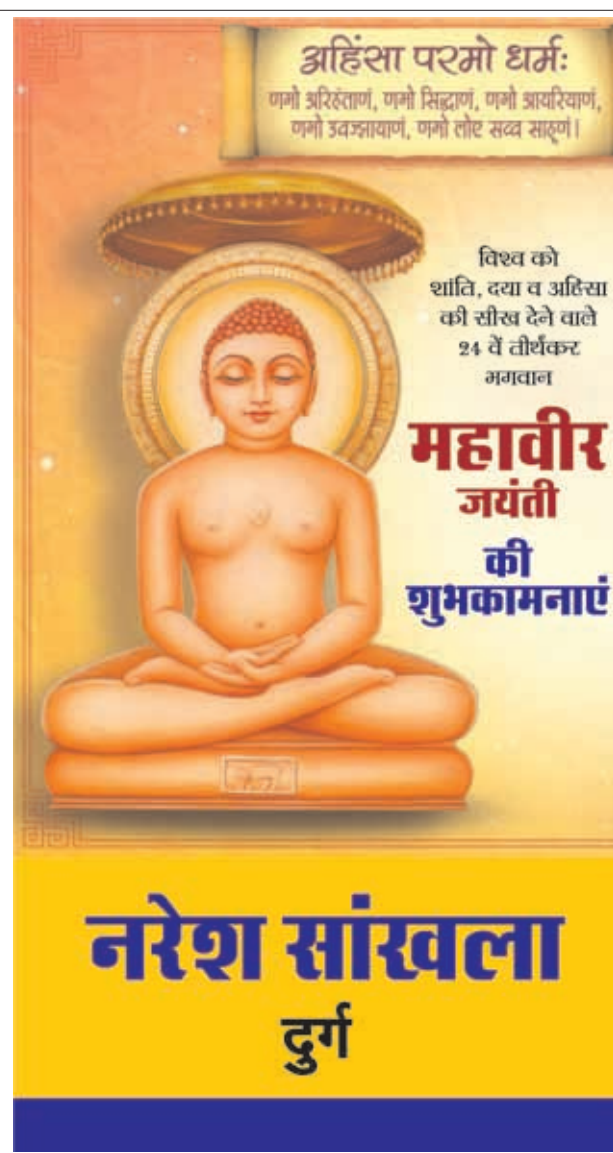


tributing to the growth of the economy and industry", Puri said.

He said "This is also an interesting moment because this is India's

moment. There has been numerous policy interventions made internally, and the global factors which give us the tailwinds. The country is growing at a time when the world is at stress." Puri said that there are lots of opportunities in India which has a huge talent pool.

"The world is looking at us so far as supply chain and digital transformation are concerned. India also has the advantage of the demographic dividend", he added.





People try to protect themselves from scorching sun in Mumbai. PTI PHOTO

Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

SUCCESS

Boys outshine girls in Class X board exams in Assam

GUWAHATI: Boys outshone girls in the class 10 board examinations in Assam, results of which were declared on Saturday. The overall pass percentage in the High School Leaving Certificate (HSLC) examination held in February-March this year was 75.7 per cent, the Board of Secondary Education, Assam, (SEBA) said.

The total percentage was an improvement over the last two years, with the pass percentages in 2022 and 2023 being 56.4 per cent and 72.6 per cent respectively.

ANTI-NATIONAL

TISS suspends PhD student for anti-national activities

MUMBAI: The Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) has suspended a PhD student for two years for indulging in activities which are "not in the interest of the nation" and referred to instances like him participating in a protest in Delhi under the PSF-TISS banner.

Ramadas Prinisivanandan (30), who is pursuing his doctorate in Development Studies, has also been debarred from entering the TISS campuses in Mumbai, Tuljapur, Hyderabad and Guwahati.

From around the web on India

Indian American businessman sentenced for bribery and tax evasion



NEW DELHI: An Indian American businessman has been sentenced to 18 months' probation and 200 hours of community service for bribery and tax evasion, the Department of Justice said. Arman Amirshahi, 46, was part of one of the several sophisticated and long-term bribery schemes helmed by co-conspirators Anthony Merritt, of Capitol Heights, Maryland, and Vincent Slater, former manager in the DC Office of Tax and Revenue (OTR). In furtherance of the

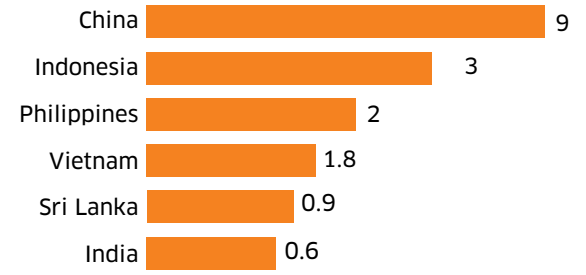
schemes, four business owners—including Amirshahi, Charles Zhou, Andre De Moya, and Davoud Jafari - paid cash bribes, through Merritt as a middleman, to Slater, to evade their business taxes.

A former employee of the DC Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs, Merritt held himself out as a permit and licensing expeditor and introduced the business owners to the scheme, an official release said on Friday.

The Day's NUMBERS

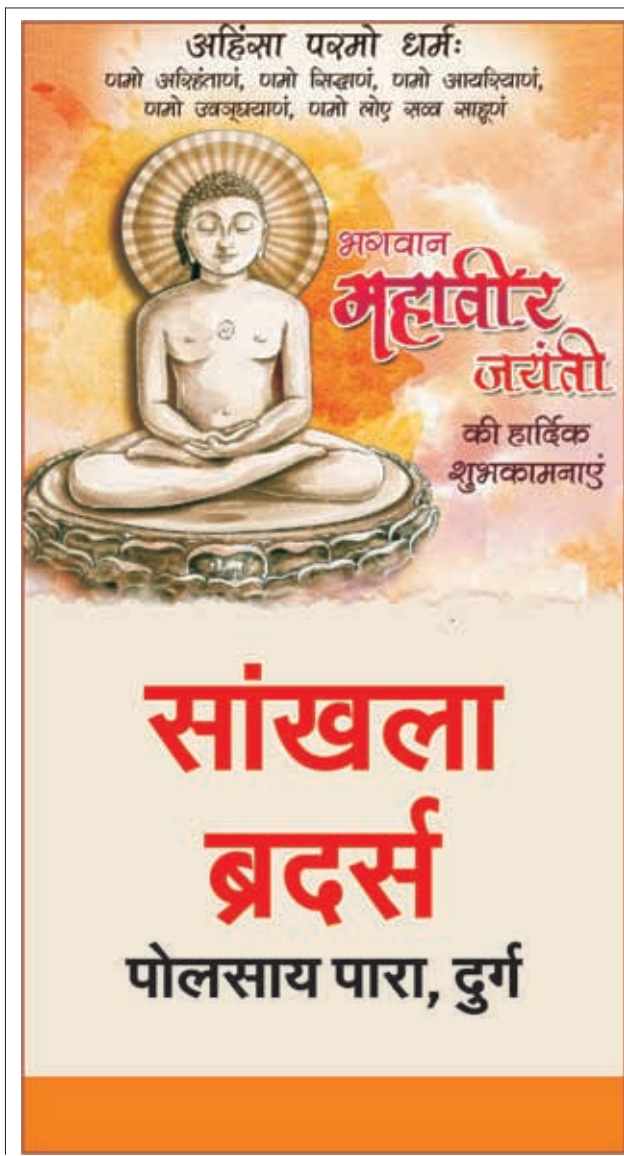
INFLATION FOR MARCH 2024

MILLION METRIC TONNES



54 trains on Ambala-Amritsar route cancelled

AMBALA: A total of 54 trains on the Ambala-Amritsar route were cancelled on Saturday as farmers squatted on tracks at the Shambhu railway station in Punjab's Patiala district for the fourth day, officials said. The protesters have been demanding the release of three farmers arrested by the Haryana Police during the ongoing stir. As many as 54 trains were cancelled on Saturday because of the farmers' protest, railway officials said. The protest has affected the movement of 380 trains in the last three days, causing inconvenience to passengers, they added.



Railways succeeds in mining tunnel in sandy soil below NH-10

Indian Railway has set a new deadline of Aug 2025 to finish the SRRP that will connect Sikkim with the rest of the country thru thru rail network for the first time.

HIGHLIGHT

- 20-m section of the tunnel runs under NH-10

- Of the 13 major bridges, 12 are ready with the substructure

(fine to coarse-grained), with alternate bands of pebble, cobble and boulders," an official from Ircon International, which is constructing the project,

said. "Mining for only that 20-metre distance, which is the width of NH-10 including the impact areas on both sides along the highway, has been the most challenging moment of the project so far. We completed it successfully, without causing a single millimetre of deformation to the highway," he added.

Railway officials said they used the secant-piling method, rarely used in tunnel mining. After

getting it proof-checked by the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Ircon officials prepared a case study, explaining the ingenuity of the mining work.

The study says, "To provide fool-proof safety to NH-10, it was suggested to prepare a secant pile wall. Secant piles are designed by constructing reinforced concrete piles that interlock with each other and are reinforced with steel rebar.

LEGAL BATTLE

Journalist Soumya's mother against bail to four life convicts

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: The mother of TV journalist Soumya Viswanathan has moved the Supreme Court against the bail granted to four convicts who were serving life imprisonment for her daughter's murder in 2008.

The Delhi High Court on February 12 suspended the sentence of Ravi Kapoor, Amit Shukla, Baljeet Singh Malik and Ajay Kumar and granted them bail till the pendency of their appeals challenging their conviction and sentence.

Vishwanathan, who worked with a leading English news channel, was shot dead in the early hours of September 30, 2008, on Nelson Mandela Marg in south Delhi while she was returning home from work in her car.

An apex court bench



Soumya's mother and late father outside the court. FILE PHOTO

FACTFILE

- SC justices Bela M Trivedi and Pankaj Mithal to hear the plea filed by Soumya's mother

of justices Bela M Trivedi and Pankaj Mithal is likely to hear the plea filed by Soumya's mother Madhavi Viswanathan.

While giving relief to the convicts, the high court

had noted that the convicts have been in custody for 14 years.

It had on January 23 asked the Delhi Police to respond to the appeals filed by the four convicts.

NEW STUDY

Plastic production threatens 1.5 degrees C limit

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: If the current rate of plastic production continues, it could use up the global carbon budget to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius by as early as 2060 or no later than 2083, according to a new study.



The study by the United States' Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (LBNL) comes ahead

World is expected to generate 220 MT of plastic waste this year

Scientist LBNL, US

of the fourth round of United Nations negotiations for an international treaty to end plastic pollution in Ottawa, Canada, during April 23-29.

It is estimated that global plastic production today accounts for around 12 per cent of total demand for oil and 8.5 per cent

of total demand for natural gas. Greenhouse gas emissions during primary plastic production come from burning fossil fuels for heat and electricity, and other processes that don't involve burning. About 75 per cent of these emissions happen before the plastic is even formed.

IRDAI removes age limits on health insurance, no age cap

Insurance companies are permitted to provide benefit-based policies, offering fixed costs

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India has removed the age cap on buying health insurance policies, effective from April 1, 2024. Earlier, individuals were restricted to purchasing new insurance policies only until the age

of 65. However, after the recent changes that have come into effect from April 01, 2024, anyone, regardless of age, is eligible to purchase a new health insurance. "Insurers shall ensure that they offer health insurance products to cater to all age groups. Insurers may design products specifically for senior citi-

zens, students, children, maternity, and any other group as specified by the Competent Authority" said a notification issued by the IRDAI. The move by the insurance regulatory body aims to create a more inclusive healthcare ecosystem in India and to encourage insurance provider companies to diversify their



Patients admitted in a ward of the hospital. PTI PHOTO
product offerings. IRDAI has also instructed health insurance providers to introduce tailored policies for specific demographics, such as senior citizens, and establish dedicated channels for handling their claims and grievances.

Woman attacked for declining marriage proposal

Press Trust of India

The accused reached her house in the night with a machete and attacked her

ALAPPUZZHA: A woman and four other members of her family were attacked with a machete by a man in this coastal district a day ago as she had declined his marriage proposal, police said on Saturday. The accused man has been arrested and a case of attempt to murder under section 307 of the IPC has been regis-

tered against him, it said. The woman, who works as a nurse in a Gulf country, had come on leave on Friday when the incident occurred. The accused reached her house in the night with a machete and attacked her and others in the family who tried to save her. Of the five persons injured, the woman's father is in critical condition with a cut to the neck, it added.

The woman was married earlier, but her husband had died and thereafter, she got acquainted with the accused who later proposed marriage to her.

About 180 prisoners pass board exam

SRINAGAR: PRAYAGRAJ: About 180 prisoners lodged in various jails in 30 districts of Uttar Pradesh, including Ghaziabad, Agra and Lucknow, passed the Class 10 and Class 12 board exams, results of which were announced on Saturday. The Uttar Pradesh State Board of High School and Intermediate Education today announced the board exam results, with the pass percentage for Class 10 at 89.55 and that for Class 12 at 82.60. According to the results, 89 of the 91 prisoners, who appeared for the Class 10 board exams, passed while 87 of the 105 inmates.

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National Office: 9th Floor, Techniplex-4, Off Veer Savarkar Flyover, Goregaon (West) Mumbai - 400062.
Symbolic Possession Notice (For Immovable Property) Rule 8(1)
Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of RBL BANK LTD. under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 8 & 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued a Demand Notice in the Loan Account & called upon the borrower/s to repay the amount mentioned in the notice total outstanding amount in the aforesaid Loan Account Nos. within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice (the details are mentioned in the below mentioned table). The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken the **Symbolic Possession** of the properties described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 9 of the said rules on the below mentioned date. The borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of RBL BANK LTD for an above-mentioned amount and interest thereon.

Table with 2 columns: Borrowers Name and Address, Loan Account No, Sanction Amount, Date of 13(4) Symbolic Possession and Description of Mortgaged properties and Details of the Owner of Mortgaged properties.

Your attention is invited to provisions of section 13(8) of SARFAESI Act for redemption of secured assets i.e. property mentioned hereinbefore by tendering the aforementioned outstanding dues together with all costs, charges and expenses incurred by our bank.

RBL Bank Ltd. Mr. Saurabh Sharma Authorized Officer

नाम सूचना

प्राप्तकर्ता द्वारा सर्वपत्र में सूचित किया जा रहा है कि मोरारजी देसाई (जन. 30) को पिन कोड, मोरारजी देसाई, निम्नलिखित सूची के अनुसार 3 नवंबर 2024 को नाम सूचना दी गई है। ...

संपर्क सूचना केन्द्र: 20/04/2024

STATE BANK OF INDIA Stressed Assets Recovery Branch, Raipur (10009) | SARB, Block B-1, Pujari Chambers, Pachpedi Naka, Raipur (C.G.) Ph : 0771-4919730

E-AUCTION NOTICE

E-Auction Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002. Includes details for Borrower - Mr. Jagdish Konark and Mrs. Neha Konark.

Interested bidders/buyers participating in e-auction process is required to register before the reasonable time of auction through Bank's recognized Service Providers M/s. MSTC Ltd.

DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL

Government of India, Ministry of Finance Department of Finance Services, (Banking Division) 797-II, Shanti Kunj, South Civil Lines, Jabalpur-482001 (M.P.)

Case No: RC/110/22 in O.A. No. OA/1820/19
IBBI BANK VERSUS SHRI DHAL SINGH PATEL E-Auction No. 95/2024

Under mentioned properties will be sold by "on line e-auction" through website: https://www.banksauctions.com for recovery of a Sum of Rs. 40,34,036.63 (Rupees Forty Lakh Thirty Four Thousand Thirty Six and Sixty Three Paise Only)

Specification of the Properties Put for Sale: (1) Agriculture Land bearing Khassa No.-323, 329, 338, 339, 340/3, 1483, 1533, 1534, PH. No. 26 situated at Village-Daniya, Tehsil-Dhamda, District-Durg (C.G.);

Conditions of Sale: 1. Intending bidders must hold a valid digital signature certificate. For details contact M/s. C-1 India Pvt. Ltd., website: https://www.banksauctions.com; Helpline No. 0124-4302020/21/22/23/24, for help a bidder in e-auction contact to Mr. Mithalesh Kumar on Mob. No. 7080804466, E-mail id: mpegc@c1india.com or E-mail ID: support@banksauctions.com

11. Properties shall be sold "As is Where is and No Complaint basis". 12. The properties can be inspected on 17-05-2024 between 12.00 hours and 16.00 hours. 13. Properties will not be sold below the upset price. 14. Recovery Officer has the absolute right to accept or reject the bid or postpone/cancel the sale without assigning any reason. 15. Intending bidders are advised to peruse copies of the title deed available with the ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER- SHRI SATYAJIT BANERJEE, Mob. No. 8435005007 and also check the identity and correctness of the property details and encumbrances etc. from their own sources also. DRT will not be responsible for correctness etc.

DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL

Government of India, Ministry of Finance Department of Finance Services, (Banking Division) 797-II, ShantiKunj, South Civil Lines, Jabalpur-482001 (M.P.)

Case No: RC/90/23 in O.A. No. OA/6/20
IBBI BANK VERSUS HEMCHAND SANHU E-Auction No. 92/2024

Under mentioned properties will be sold by "on line e-auction" through website: https://www.banksauctions.com for recovery of a Sum of Rs. 26,65,738.75 (Rupees Twenty Six Lakh Sixty Five Thousand Seven Hundred Thirty Eight and Seventy Five Paise Only)

Specification of the Properties Put for Sale: Agriculture Land bearing Khassa No.-65/2, 613, 631, 637, 655/2, 655/3, 735, 766 PH.No.10 situated at Village-Khapri, Tehsil-Dhamda, District-Durg (C.G.); Area admeasuring 2.70 hectare; Property in the name of Shri Hemchand s/o Late Shri Chintia Ram.

12. The properties can be inspected on 17-05-2024 between 12.00 hours and 16.00 hours. 13. Properties will not be sold below the upset price. 14. Recovery Officer has the absolute right to accept or reject the bid or postpone/cancel the sale without assigning any reason. 15. Intending bidders are advised to peruse copies of the title deed available with the ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER- SHRI SATYAJIT BANERJEE, Mob. No. 8435005007 and also check the identity and correctness of the property details and encumbrances etc. from their own sources also. DRT will not be responsible for correctness etc.

17. Further property details if any required shall be obtained from ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER- SHRI SATYAJIT BANERJEE, Mob. No. 8435005007. 18. The bidders may participate in the e-auction by quoting / bidding from their own offices / places of their choice. Internet connectivity shall have to be ensured by each bidder himself. DRT/ Bank / Service Provider shall not be held responsible for the internet connectivity, network problems, system crash down, Power failure etc.

Canara Bank E-Auction Sale Notice For Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002. E-Auction Date: 07.05.2024

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) & Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged / charged to the secured creditor, the constructive possession of which has been taken by the authorised officer the Canara Bank (secured creditor) will be sold on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS, AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" & "WHAT EVER THERE IS" on 07.05.2024 from 12.30 Noon to 2.30 pm for recovery of bank dues to the Canara Bank (secured creditor).

Table with 5 columns: Name and address of the Borrower & Guarantors, Description of Properties & Name of Property Owner, Demand Notice Dt., Reserve Price, Branch Name. Includes details for M/s Deepjyoti Agency Prop. Late Prashant Gupta and M/s. Freshica Multitrade & Infra Pvt. Ltd.

Table with 4 columns: Name and address of the Borrower & Guarantors, Description of Properties & Name of Property Owner, Reserve Price, Branch Name. Includes details for M/s Maheshwari Technocast Limited and M/s Sri Sai Tea Sales.

Terms and Conditions: A. Auction / bidding shall be only through "Online Electronic Bidding" through the website www.indianbankseuction.com. Bidders are advised to go through the website for detailed terms before taking part in the e-auction sale proceedings.



US is committed to strengthening global nonproliferation regime
Matthew Miller
 Spokesperson US State Department



Visitors filter through the rotunda of the State Capitol in Denver.

Israeli airstrike in southern Gaza city of Rafah kills nine

Israel's war against the Islamic militant group Hamas has led to a dramatic escalation of tensions in an already volatile Middle East

Press Trust of India

RAFAH (GAZA STRIP): An Israeli airstrike on a house in Gaza's southern-most city killed at least nine people, six of them children, hospital authorities said Saturday, as Israel pursued its nearly seven-month offensive in the besieged Palestinian territory. Israel's war against the Islamic militant group Hamas has led to a dramatic escalation of tensions in an already volatile Middle East. The strike late Friday hit a residential building in

the western Tel Sultan neighborhood of the city of Rafah, according to Gaza's civil defense. The bodies of the six children, two women and a man were taken to Rafah's Abu Yousef al-Najjar hospital, the hospital's records showed. At the hospital, relatives cried and hugged the bodies of the children, wrapped in white shrouds, as others comforted them.

The fatalities included Abdel-Fattah Sobhi Radwan, his wife Najlaa Ahmed Aweidah and their three children, his

HIGHLIGHT

- Bodies of the six children, two women and a man were taken to Rafah's Abu Yousef al-Najjar hospital
- Relatives cried and hugged the bodies of the children, wrapped in white shrouds, as others comforted them

brother-in-law Ahmed Barhoum said. Barhoum also lost his wife, Rawan Radwan, and their 5-year-old daughter Alaa.

"This is a world devoid of all human values and morals," Barhoum told The Associated Press Saturday morning, crying as he cradled and gently rocked the body of Alaa in his arms. "They bombed a house full of displaced people, women and children. There were no martyrs but women and children." No victims were registered from a second overnight strike in the city. Rafah, which lies on the border with Egypt, currently hosts more than half of Gaza's

2.3 million people, the vast majority of whom have been displaced by fighting further north in the territory.

Despite calls for restraint from the international community, including Israel's staunchest ally, the United States, the Israeli government has insisted for months that it intends to push a ground offensive into the city, where it says many of the remaining Hamas militants are holed up. Such a ground operation has not materialized so far.

Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

ANTISEMITISM

London Police apologise after threatening to arrest 'openly Jewish' man

LONDON: London's police force has been forced to issue two apologies after officers threatened to arrest an "openly Jewish" man if he refused to leave the area around a pro-Palestinian march because his presence risked provoking the demonstrators. Gideon Falter, chief executive of the Campaign Against Antisemitism, was wearing a traditional Jewish skullcap when he was stopped by police while trying to cross a street in central London as demonstrators filed past on April 13.

One officer told Falter he was worried that the man's "quite openly Jewish" appearance could provoke a reaction from the protesters, according to video posted by the campaign group. A second officer then told Falter he would be arrested if he refused to be escorted out of the area because he was "causing a breach of the peace". **PTI**

AID

The House is on the brink of approving aid for Ukraine and Israel



WASHINGTON: The House is preparing in a rare Saturday session to approve USD 95 billion in foreign aid for Ukraine, Israel and other US allies, Democrats and Republicans joining together behind the legislation after a gruelling monthlong fight over renewed American support for repelling Russia's invasion into Ukraine. Republican House Speaker Mike Johnson, putting his job on the line, relied on Democratic support this week to set up a series of votes on three aid bills, as well as a fourth that contains several other foreign policy proposals. **PTI**

From around the music world

Taylor Swift drops 15 new songs on double album, 'The Tortured Poets Department: The Anthology'



NEW YORK: Could there be a Taylor Swift new album rollout without a few additional surprises? No. On Friday, the pop star released her 11th album, "The Tortured Poets Department", an amalgamation of her previous work and reflecting the artist who – at the peak of her powers – has spent the last few years re-recording her life's work and touring its material, filtered through synth-pop anthems, breakup ballads, provocative and matured considerations. But that was midnight. At 2 am Eastern, she

released "The Tortured Poets Department: The Anthology", featuring 15 additional songs. "I'd written so much tortured poetry in the past 2 years and wanted to share it all with you, so here's the second installment," Swift wrote in an Instagram caption. "And now the story isn't mine anymore... it's all yours." The songs are a natural continuation of the first half of the album; many return to her "evermore" and "folklore" sound, with an assist from her collaborator Aaron Dessner.

| RUSSIA-UKRAINE-WAR |

'Russia shot down 50 Ukrainian drones'

Press Trust of India

Fifty drones were shot down by air defences over eight Russian regions

KYIV: Ukraine launched a barrage of drones across Russia overnight, the Defence Ministry in Moscow said Saturday, in attacks that appeared to target the country's energy infrastructure. Fifty drones were shot down by air defences over eight Russian regions, including 26 over the country's western Belgorod region close to the Ukrainian border.

Two people – a woman with a broken leg and the man caring for her – died during the barrage, after explosions sparked a blaze that set their home alight, Bel-



A view of the damage after Russia's attack on residential building in Dnipro, Ukraine

gorod Gov. Vyacheslav Gladkov wrote on social media. Drones were also reportedly destroyed over the Bryansk, Kursk, Tula, Smolensk, Ryazan, Kaluga regions across Russia's west and south, as well as in the Moscow region. Ukrainian officials normally decline comment about attacks on Russian soil. How-

HIGHLIGHT

- Two people – a woman with a broken leg and the man caring for her – died during the barrage
- Many drone strikes appeared to be directed to Russia's energy infrastructure

ever, many of the drone strikes appeared to be directed toward Russia's energy infrastructure.

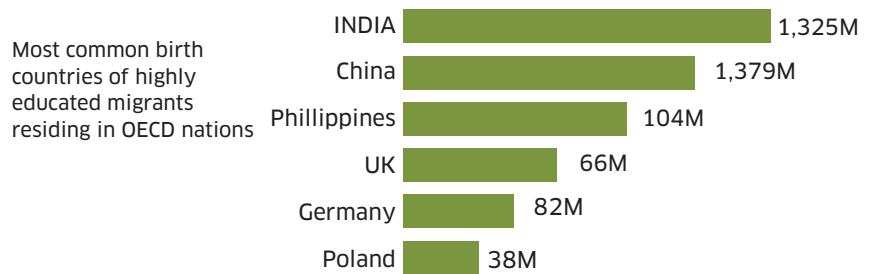
The head of the Kaluga region, Vladislav Shapsha, said Saturday that a drone strike had sparked a blaze at an electrical substation, while Bryansk Gov. Alexander Bogomaz and Smolensk Gov.

Vasily Anokhin also reported fires at fuel and energy complexes. In recent months, Russian refineries and oil terminals have become priority targets of Ukrainian drone attacks, part of stepped-up assaults on Russian territory. Ukrainian drone developers have been extending the weapons' range for months, as Kyiv attempts to compensate for its battlefield disadvantage in weapons and troops.

The unmanned aerial vehicles are also an affordable option while Ukraine waits for more US military aid. Meanwhile, Russia attacked Ukraine overnight with seven missiles, and air defences downed two missiles and three reconnaissance drones, the Ukrainian air force said Saturday.

The Day's NUMBERS

WHERE HIGHLY EDUCATED MIGRANTS COME FROM



TERRORISM

Indonesian police arrest 8 suspected militants with al-Qaida links

PALU: Indonesia's elite counter-terrorism police arrested eight suspected militants in recent days believed to be part of a new cell linked to Jemaah Islamiyah, an al-Qaida-linked group, authorities said Saturday.

Police conducted raids in Central Sulawesi province between Tuesday and Thursday, said Agus Nugroho, the provincial police chief, adding that five suspects were arrested in the city of Palu, two in Sigi, and one in Poso which is a known extremist hotbed. Two laptops, several cellular phones and documents, including jihadist books were seized and suspects were being interrogated, Nugroho said. National Police spokesperson Trunoyudo Wisnu Andiko said the arrests were the result of information obtained from 59 suspected militants detained in October 2023. **PTI**

PROBE

Sri Lanka church reiterates Easter Sunday probe doubts



COLOMBO: The Catholic church here on Saturday reiterated its dissatisfaction over the nature of the investigations conducted by the Sri Lankan government in connection with the 2019 Easter Sunday bombings that killed 270 people, including Indians. Fr Cyril Gamini Fernando, the spokesman for the church, told reporters that he had presented a questionnaire to the police that had provided important information about the investigation. **PTI**

| ENTERTAINMENT |

USC cancels graduation keynote by filmmaker

Press Trust of India

LOS ANGELES: The University of Southern California further shook up its commencement plans, announcing the cancellation of a keynote speech by filmmaker Jon M Chu just days after making the controversial choice to disallow the student valedictorian from speaking. The private university in

Los Angeles on Monday said it was cancelling valedictorian Asna Tabassum's speech at the May 10 ceremony because of safety concerns.

Tabassum, who is Muslim, has expressed support for Palestinians in the ongoing Israel-Hamas war, and university officials said the response to her selection as valedictorian had "taken on



an alarming tenor". They did not cite any specific threats. The university's decision was met with praise from pro-Israel organisations but condemnation from free speech groups and the Council on American-Islamic Relations. Students and faculty marched across campus Thursday in silent protest of the university's decision.

One should have full confidence in self and should work hard and try to give ones best in it.

Tanvi Bagora
Winner Director Gold Medal-IIM(R)



Scholar

CAMPUS CALLING

ChatGPT and Education: Indian Universities at Cross-roads?

Prof. (Dr.) Piyush Kant Pandey
Vice Chancellor, Amity University Chhattisgarh, Raipur

Campus Calling
THE FIRST LECTURE



campus of Amity University in Raipur, Chhattisgarh

Indian universities are facing challenges due to the progress of digitization and Artificial Intelligence. Several Indian colleges are facing challenges in keeping pace with the rapid advancements in technology, particularly in the areas of artificial intelligence, due to the ongoing need for financial resources. This is likely to undermine the quality of education and training in the emerging fields of technical advancements. Conversely, the enrollment of students in certain degree programs, particularly those related to business and finance, may decline in the coming years due to the increasing prevalence of AI in various industries. Consequently, there will

be a decline in both the student population and the revenue they generate. Furthermore, there is a notable deficiency in skilled individuals in the field of Artificial Intelligence, which poses difficulties for academic institutions in recruiting and retaining faculty members who possess competence in this area. Consequently, the absence of access to the latest academic discoveries has resulted in a deterioration in the standard of teaching and learning. The swift advancements in the field of artificial intelligence (AI) have the capacity to substantially alleviate the burden on professors and teachers by automating formerly labor-intensive tasks such as grading and



AI may have difficulties in tasks that necessitate emotional intelligence, creativity, or critical thinking

delivering feedback. This could potentially result in a decrease in the number of faculty positions available,

hence adversely affecting the job market for recent graduates of educational institutions in India. The usage of AI is raising different ethical concerns from an operational standpoint. Plagiarism and the legitimacy of academic output, as well as user privacy and digital security, are particular areas of concern. Additionally, AI solutions are prone to being influenced by the inherent biases and preconceptions of the developers. Due to the ongoing challenges faced by universities in India in adapting to the rapid development of ethical frameworks and regulations in the sector, the use of AI technology may potentially have a detrimental effect on the quality of research

and education. In order to address these challenges, academic institutions must collaborate closely with companies and technology organizations. In order to address the ethical difficulties, it is necessary to establish an ethical code of conduct for the implementation of AI and establish a lawful use method. However, in my perspective, the collective positive results will be unparalleled in both India and the rest of the world. In nutshell the Indian institutions should not be too worried. By anticipating and preparing for challenges, the need of quality education will remain abundant, even in the face of AI-assisted tools such as ChatGPT.

MATS University hold Int’nl Conf



An International Conference on Transformative Trends in Psychology and Education was organized by the Faculty of Arts and Humanities- Psychology, MATS University on April 18-19. Gajraj Pagaria, Chancellor, MATS University, Prof.K.P. Yadav, Vice Chancellor, MATS University. Priyesh Pagaria is the Director General, University.

The dignitaries present on the stage inaugurated the seminar by lighting the lamp. After lighting the lamp, Dr. Shaista Ansari officially declared the program inaugurated. All the dignitaries addressed the audience with inspiring words. A souvenir containing more than 50 summaries of students and scholars was released.

College Gossip: ArthNiti, Club of IIM Raipur, was established with the aim to cultivate enthusiasm

Central Chronicle News

ArthNiti, the Economics and Public Policy Club of IIM Raipur, was established with the aim to cultivate enthusiasm in economics and public policy among students. It is formed with the vision to provide students with opportunities to discuss and deepen their understanding of economic and business issues, preparing them for critical thinking and independent analysis to lead a life of responsibility and leadership. Driven by determi-

nation towards enriching the existing knowledge of Economics among students, the members of ArthNiti provide a platform to students where they can grow their knowledge about Economics with the help of Guest lectures, Quizzes, Workshops, Games, Group Discussions, Debates and Peer learning. Along with two weekly initiatives Hulchul and E-shots where we share the current happenings in the world and economics related terminology with the students of IIM Raipur.

| STUDENT'S VIEW |

Be patient, never lose hope, and be quiet, as good things take time, says Abhinit

Aryan Sharma | Agricultural Journalism and Behavioral Skills, student from Chhattisgarh Agriculture College Risalli, Bhillai

Ram Kiran Krishi Farm, Kandarka, which was started by Abhinit Upadhayay in the year 2019 before COVID with the aim of protecting the old family land farming is being performed on a total land area of 18 acres. The farm currently has the maximum land area covered by tomatoes, along with other vegetable and fruit crops like jackfruit, guava, anwla, blackberry, sapodilla, lemon, etc., which have been performing well for the last 2 years, and profits in the agribusiness were surprisingly good.



Abhinit Upadhayay, after the competition of his B.com, LL.B. from Kusum Tai Dabke Law College, Raipur, Chhattisgarh (Durga College),



HIGHLIGHT
He has the power to change time with his hard work

ness. With lots of ambition and knowing the risk, he started his first business in 2006, which was brick making. In the beginning, he faced high

losses, due to which the people around him also started talking, but leaving this all behind, he was very passionate about the work. He also keeps in mind that he has the power to change time with his hard work, high determination, and complete focus. During the time of his failures, he learned many things that helped grow the business. Help from family and strong support from his father throughout the bad times played a major role. Today, he has completed 18 years in the business successfully.

ZeroPeriod

THE WORLD OF SCHOOL EDUCATION

EDUCATION RESULT

CGBSC Class 10, 12 Result expected in the second week of May 2024

Chhattisgarh Board Result 2024 is anticipated to be out in the second week of May 2024, as per media sources, though no official date is confirmed yet. Candidates can download their marksheets from cgbse.nic.in or results.cg.nic.in using their exam details. The CGBSE exams for both Class 10 and 12 were held from March 1 to 23, with the 10th exams from March 2 to 21 and the 12th exams throughout the period. However, the CG Board has not announced any official date of release. Once it is out, candidates will be able to download their marksheets for Chhattisgarh board result 2024 from the official results portals.

Result

Results of Sunrise English Medium School declared

The annual results of Sunrise English Medium School, Kharora have been declared and in this students have shown good performance. In the Class-Nursery-Kavyansh Sahu secured 98.66% marks and came first; Bhiyan Kumar and Ruhi Banjare with 98.33% came second and Kayara Markande with 98% marks came third. In the Class- PP-1, Lavanya Yadav and Lokita Sahu secured 98.66% marks and came first; Vansh Sahu with 98.33% came second and Jaiprakash with 98% came third. In CClass PP-2 - Harshi Sahu with 99% came first; Suyash Dewangan and Umang Dheewar with 98.66% came second and Nihal Verma with 98.33% came third.

Event of the week

Felicitation ceremony with cultural fest organized in DAV MPS School



Annual felicitation ceremony and Cultural Fest-2024 was organized in DAV Mukhyamantri Public School

Annual felicitation ceremony and Cultural Fest-2024 was organized in DAV Mukhyamantri Public School, Sarbahara on Apr 15. On this occasion prizes and merit certificates were distributed to the top 5 rank holders of Class LKG to 12 in accordance to the Annual Anecdotal Records. Gold medals & Merit certificates were distributed to 120 gold medalists in IEO, IMO, NSO, ICKO, NSSO and ICO organized by SOF at the International Level. Spe-

cial appreciation gifts and certificates were given to the students of DAV Sarbahara who cracked the competitive exams like JEE,NDA and CA (Foundation) to get selected in reputed Central Universities. Special awards and certificates were also given to the students who participated and performed their best in DAV National Sports-2023. All these prizes and certificates were distributed by the distinguished Guests invited on the occasion.

Shortake: Allons Public School

Anish and Sakshi excel at district-level competition

Allons Public School, also known as New Sainik School, recently participated in the district-level competition PRERNA and secured remarkable achievements. Under the dedicated guidance of the school's Principal, Neetu Singh, the students showcased their exceptional talents and skills. The gold medal winners were Anish Chandrakar and Sakshi Singh, both students of the school. The success of the students can also be attributed to the efforts of their teachers, Pushpalata Patle and Balbir Singh.



SchoolBuzz

ITI XI wins 'Chunai Cricket' matches

As per instructions by the Election Commission, under SVEEP variety of activities are being organised in the district. In this series, Chunai Cricket match was organised under SVEEP in Bilha College ground and in this Collector Avneesh Sharan and CEO District Panchayat RP Chouhan took part.



Various programs conducted among villagers for voter awareness

As per instructions by the Collector and DEO Ajeet Vasant and under guidance of SVEEP Nodal Officer Sambit Mishra-CEO District Panchayat, awareness is being created among the villagers about polling through variety of activities. In this series, Rangoli making, poster-making, Mehandi competition was organised.

Students facing drinking water problem due to lack of electricity

In Gram Kharhatta of Pandaria block, there is no electricity in the Primary and Middle School and due to which the students are facing problem of drinking water during this peak of summer season. It is worthwhile to mention here that there is an electrical pole in just about 200 mts from the School.





At this stage in my life, it would be the greatest feeling for me to represent India. I'm very, very keen to do so.

Dinesh Karthik
RCB player

Gukesh to clash with Firouza Alireza on a photo finish



Indian GM D Gukesh (R) and Azerbaijani GM Nijat Abasov during their round 12 match. | Photo: PTI

With 7.5 points in his bag, Gukesh shares the lead with Nakamura of the United States and Ian of Russia. Just two rounds are remaining in the biggest event of the year.

Press Trust Of India

TORONTO: Teenaged Indian Grandmaster D Gukesh will have his task cut out against Firouza Alireza of France in the penultimate round of the Candidates' chess tournament, on what promises to be a photo-finish here. Gukesh, with his last white game, will improve his chances greatly in

the tournament if he can get past Alireza, who has clearly been struggling. With 7.5 points in his bag, Gukesh shares the lead with Hikaru Nakamura of the United States and Ian Nepomniachtchi of Russia. Just two rounds are remaining in the biggest event of the year. The most important clash of the penultimate round

HIGHLIGHT

- Gukesh has a tough opponent to deal with in Nakamura in the final round and much will depend on how he does.
- In the women's section, Zhongyi Tan is in the front on eight points.

will be between Nepomniachtchi and Nakamura. The latter has been displaying top form having won three in a row while Nepomniachtchi is the only player in the tournament who has remained undefeated after 12 grueling games. Apart from these three, Fabiano Caruana is the only player who has a chance to win the event.

With seven points, thus far, the American will have to tackle a tough opposition in R Praggnanandhaa of India and finally Nepomniachtchi in the last round. Even Gukesh has a tough opponent to deal with in Nakamura in the final round and much will depend on how he does against the world number three.

Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

SPANISH LEAGUE

Bilbao and Granada left wanting more in tight-fought draw

MADRID: Athletic Bilbao drew with Granada 1-1 in a Spanish league match that won't satisfy either club for different reasons. Bilbao need points to secure a Champions League place but the draw on Friday left it three behind Atletico Madrid, which has a game in hand. Atletico has fourth place, with the top four guaranteed places in next year's Champions League. "The Champions League spot is the dream," Bilbao's Nico Williams said. "It's frustrating when the ball won't go in, but we have to keep plugging away." At the other end of the table, Granada is in serious relegation danger. With six matches remaining, it is seven points behind third-to-last Cadiz. Almeria is in last place. Granada's hopes of a fourth win of the season were raised early in the first half when a Gerard Gumbau corner kick took the slightest of touches off Bilbao's Iñaki Williams and flew in. **PTI**

T20 MATCH

His mind is staying up to date, but body might give way: Uthappa on Dhoni



LUCKNOW: Amazed at Mahendra Singh Dhoni's longevity, former India batter Robin Uthappa says the Chennai Super Kings talisman's "mind is staying up to date" and the only thing that could end his prolonged run in competitive cricket is his body. Dhoni has showed tremendous form this IPL season, powering CSK with his blistering cameos, the latest coming in the match against Lucknow Super Giants in which he slammed a nine-ball 28 here on Friday. Speaking on JioCinema, Uthappa said, "The only thing stopping him is his health." **PTI**

IPL battle

Rahul, Ruturaj fined Rs 12 lakh each for slow over rate as LSG versus CSK IPL match



LUCKNOW: Lucknow Super Giants skipper KL Rahul and his Chennai Super Kings counterpart Ruturaj Gaikwad have been fined Rs 12 lakh each as their teams maintained a slow over rate in their Indian Premier League match here. Playing at home, LSG beat defending champions CSK by eight wickets in the match at the Bharat Ratna Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Ekana Cricket Stadium on Friday. As it was the teams first offence of the season

under the IPL's Code of Conduct relating to minimum over-rate offences, both Rahul and Ruturaj were fined 12 lakh, an IPL statement read. "Mr KL Rahul, Captain, Lucknow Super Giants has been fined after his team maintained a slow over-rate during Match 34 of the TATA Indian Premier League (IPL) 2024 against Chennai Super Kings at the Bharat Ratna Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Ekana Cricket Stadium, Lucknow," the IPL said.

Ruud and Tsitsipas reach Barcelona semifinal

BARCELONA: Casper Ruud and Stefanos Tsitsipas won to advance to the Barcelona Open semifinals, keeping them on course to meet in a second straight final. Ruud beat Matteo Arnaldi 6-4 6-3 to notch his season-leading 27th win on Friday. The sixth-ranked Norwegian has two more wins than Jannik Sinner. Tsitsipas saved two match points to rally past Facundo Diaz 4-6 6-3, 7-6(8). Tsitsipas struggled with his serve and double-faulted seven times. One of them cost him a break while the Greek player was trying to serve out the match up 5-4 in the third set. He then had to save a match point while serving again before facing the brink again in the tiebreaker.

INDIAN PREMIER LEAGUE | 'World-class batsmanship from Rahul and de Kock'

Press Trust of India

In pursuit of CSK's 177 on Friday, Rahul (82) and de Kock (54) made classy fifties to produce a chasing masterclass.

LUCKNOW: Lucknow Super Giants pacer Matt Henry was in awe of the "world-class batsmanship" of skipper KL Rahul and Quinton de Kock, saying the century-plus opening stand between the duo helped them outclass a "very good" Chennai Super Kings bowling attack in the IPL here. In pursuit of CSK's 177 on Friday, Rahul (82) and de Kock (54) made classy fifties on a slow pitch to produce a chasing masterclass and power LSG to a



Lucknow Super Giants pacer Matt Henry speaking to media | Photo: PTI

FACTFILE

- "The partnership between KL and Quinton really changed the game for us. The batsmanship overall was world-class."

comfortable eight-wicket. "In terms of our batting, the opening partnership was incredible. The partnership between KL and Quinton really changed the game for us. The batsmanship overall was world-class and

that what was the difference at the end of the day," Henry said at the post-match press conference. The duo stitched 134 runs in 15 overs to chase down the target. "It was always going to be a competitive total."

ENCOURAGE GIRL FOOTBALL |

Encourage girls to sports, they will bring smile: Sachin

Press Trust of India

RANCHI: Cricket icon Sachin Tendulkar on Saturday urged parents to encourage and support their girls in sports and said that they will bring smiles on their faces.

Tendulkar and his wife Anjali were in Ranchi to encourage girl football players of Yuva Foundation at Ormanjhi block of

the district. Yuva and the Sachin Tendulkar Foundation work together here to train and promote girl footballers.

Tendulkar and his wife interacted with girl football players of Yuva Foundation at their school located near Rukka Dam of the state capital and termed the day as remarkable. "Children's energy is infectious. I saw them

Children's energy is infectious. I saw them working hard and enjoying themselves.

Sachin Tendulkar
Former cricketer



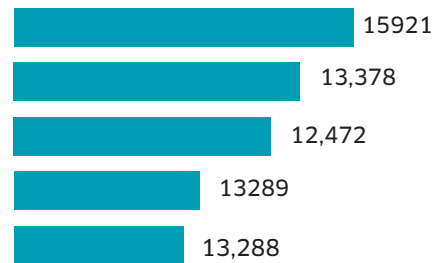
working hard and enjoying themselves. I recalled my childhood," Tendulkar said while speaking to media persons.

"I got inspiration from many children because this journey is not easy for them. There are several difficulties in their lives even from home. They go to play football, which sometimes is not liked by parents."

The Day's NUMBERS

- Sachin Tendulkar (India)
- Ricky Ponting (Australia)
- Alastair Cook (England)
- JH Kallis (South Africa)
- Rahul Dravid (India)

TOP RUN GETTERS OF TEST MATCHES



SERIE A

Juventus rescues late point in draw with Cagliari in Serie A

GENOA (ITALY): Cagliari scored two first-half penalties but gave up a late own goal for Juventus to draw 2-2 in a thrilling Serie A game. Gianluca Gaetano opened the scoring for the home side after half an hour and Yerry Mina got a second with an almost identical spot kick six minutes later. Juventus had a first-half goal from Dušan Vlahovic disallowed after a video review but the Serbian forward got one back in the 61st minute with a swerving free kick. Just when it looked like Cagliari would get the win and distance itself from the relegation zone, Alberto Dossena put the ball into his own net with three minutes left. Juventus was five points behind second-placed AC Milan and 19 behind champion-elect Inter Milan. Juve has won only one of its last seven league games. Cagliari was five points above the relegation zone but still in a dogfight. **PTI**

IPL T20

Fleming: Dhoni's limited batting role due to knee Recovery



LUCKNOW: His brilliant form notwithstanding, Mahendra Singh Dhoni cannot be promoted in the batting order as his recovery from a knee injury has restricted his ability to wield the willow for long periods, Chennai Super Kings coach Stephen Fleming has said. Called CSK's "heartbeat" by Fleming, Dhoni, 42, gave his team the much-needed impetus with a nine-ball 28 against Lucknow Super Giants here on Friday, one of the few entertaining cameos he has played this season. The few balls that Dhoni is getting to face in this IPL season, Fleming said he is simply "owing that space". **PTI**

Sports News



Kolkata Knight Riders cricketer Varun Chakravarthy takes a catch during a training session | Photo: PTI



Royal Challengers Bengaluru player Virat Kohli during a match. Photo PTI

Little room for error as RCB face KKR

Press Trust of India
RCB faces a daunting challenge against KKR as they strive to revive their IPL campaign amid bowling and batting woes.

KOLKATA: Aware that they cannot afford any more slip-ups, Royal Challengers Bengaluru will have their task cut out when they face dominant hosts Kolkata Knight Riders in a tricky Indian Premier League match here on Sunday. RCB's pursuit of a maiden IPL title has once again hit

a roadblock following six losses in seven matches. With five consecutive defeats, the bottom-ranked RCB now confront the daunting task of winning their remaining seven games to keep their playoff prospects alive. "From a bowling perspective, we don't have as many weapons. So, unfortunately, it comes down to the batters to make sure that we use our form and our confidence. The scores that we put on the board are probably going to be the only way we are going to get into the competition," their skipper Du Plessis has admitted ear-

Teams
Kolkata Knight Riders
Shreyas Iyer (c), KS Bharat, Rahmanullah Gurbaz, Rinku Singh, Angkrish Raghuvanshi, Sherfane Rutherford, Manish Pandey, Andre Russell, Nitish Rana, Venkatesh Iyer, Anukul Roy, Ramandeep Singh, Varun Chakravarthy, Sunil Narine, Vaibhav Arora, Chetan Sakariya, Harshit Rana, Suyash Sharma, Mitchell Starc, Dushmantha Chameera, Sakib Hussain and Mujeeb Ur Rahman.
Royal Challengers Bengaluru
Faf du Plessis (c), Glenn Maxwell, Virat Kohli, Rajat Patidar, Anuj Rawat, Dinesh Karthik, Suyash Prabhudessai, Will Jacks, Mahipal Lomror, Karn Sharma, Manoj Bhandage, Mayank Dagar, Vijaykumar Vyshak, Akash Deep, Mohammed Siraj, Reece Topley, Himanshu Sharma, Rajan Kumar, Cameron Green, Alzarri Joseph, Yash Dayal, Tom Curran, Lockie Ferguson, Swapnil Singh and Sourav Chauhan.

lier. The fact that they are coming after conceding the IPL's record total of 287/3 by Sunrisers Hyderabad in their last match will undoubtedly linger in the minds of their bowlers. Glenn Maxwell's spin also could have been a nice

option, but the struggling Australian all-rounder, who pulled out of the game against SRH citing "mental fatigue", is also battling a hip strain that may keep him out of action for some more time. Their batting has centred around the two openers -- Kohli and Du Plessis -- and Karthik, while the rest of the players have failed miserably. So KKR, who have played one match less than RCB, will also eye a return to winning ways and inch closer to playoffs by taking their tally to 10 points at the midway stage. The biggest threat for RCB will be Narine, not just with the ball but also with the bat at the top of the order. Narine, who scored his maiden T20 century in their last match against RR, is KKR's leading run-getter this season with 276 runs at an incredible strike rate of over 187.

Punjab Kings and Gujarat Titans look to resurrect campaigns

MULLANPUR: Their campaigns wobbling after a string of defeats, bottom-rung teams Punjab Kings and Gujarat Titans will be desperate to arrest the slide and get back to winning ways in their Indian Premier League match here on Sunday. Former champions GT have slipped to eighth position in the pecking order after an embarrassing loss to Delhi Capitals at home, where they were bowled out for



89 to suffer their third defeat in four matches. PBKS are struggling in the ninth place following a nine-run loss to Mumbai Indians away on Thursday night, the margin of

defeat made respectable by an incredible rearguard act by the in-form young duo of Ashutosh Sharma and Shashank Singh after the team was tottering at 14/4 in a chase of 193.

OLYMPICS SELECTION TRIALS

Manu soars high

Press Trust of India
Manu Bhaker and Anish Bhanwala shine in shooting trials, showcasing remarkable performances in their respective events.

NEW DELHI: Manu Bhaker dished out an excellent performance to dominate the women's 25m pistol qualification, eclipsing the world record score by a good six points while Anish Bhanwala won the men's 25m rapid-fire pistol Olympics Selection (OST) Trials 1 here on Saturday. Olympian Manu topped the women's 25m pistol qualification at the Dr Karni Singh Shooting Range. Manu was all class in the women's final, her scores in the 10 series of five rapid-fire shots read 4,4,5,5,5,5,4,5,5 and 5.



HIGHLIGHT
Manu was all class in the women's final, her scores in the 10 series of five rapid-fire shots read 4,4,5,5,5,5,4,5,5 and 5.

Esha, however, will still lead the women's 25m pistol OST at the end of it, thanks to her 585 in qualifying, which helped her top the five-woman field on Friday.

Manu will be just behind her in second with Simranpreet, Abhidnya and Rhythm completing the order. Anish also stamped his class in the men's RFP by finishing with 33 hits, a clear six ahead of Vijayveer Sidhu, who was second. Adarsh Singh took the third spot with 23 hits. Bhavesh Shekhawat, after topping the qualifications, finished fourth with 18 while Ankur Goel was first to exit with 10 hits to his name at the stage.

David, Pollard fined for helping Suryakumar

NEW DELHI: Mumbai Indians batter Tim David and batting coach Kieron Pollard have been fined 20 percent of their respective match fees for breaching the IPL's Code of Conduct during the game against Punjab Kings in Mullanpur on April 18. The fine was imposed after a viral video of the match sparked controversy where members in the squad and support staff in the dugout of five-time champions were seen allegedly providing illegal assistance to batter Suryakumar Yadav in asking for a review. "David and Pollard committed a Level 1 offence under Article 2.20 of the IPL's Code of Conduct. David and Pollard were each fined 20 percent of their respective match fees," an IPL release said on Saturday. "Both admitted to the offence and accepted the match referee's sanction."

'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.

Verstappen takes pole for Chinese GP

Press Trust of India
SHANGHAI: Max Verstappen of Red Bull has completed a Formula 1 double, taking the pole Saturday for the Chinese Grand Prix just hours after winning the first F1 sprint of the season. Teammate Sergio Perez will start alongside Verstappen on Sunday on the front row with Fernando Alonso of Aston Martin and Lando Norris of McLaren



on the second row. Superlatives fail. The three-time defending F1 champion is unassailable -- the sport's best driver in the quickest car. The Dutchman has

won 22 of the last 26 GPs and three of the first four this season. Only a brake failure in Australia probably kept him from sweeping all four races. This sea-

HIGHLIGHT
Verstappen's dominance continues with pole position at the Chinese Grand Prix, setting the stage for another thrilling race.

son he's won every pole, and his start from that spot on Sunday will be the 37th of his career -- it's the 100th pole for Red Bull as he chases his 58th victory.

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I've not gone under the knife, only had touch up done with fillers years ago

Rajkumar Rao
Bollywood Actor



Weekend



SUNDAY
Raipur, April 21, 2024

CELEB TALK

Richa Chadha Pays Homage: Immersing in Meena Kumari's Iconic Roles

I worked on the voice and diction, while studying Meena Jis work, to the point of imitation sometimes. I felt like I was walking in the footsteps of a cinematic legend.



Richa Chadha immersing herself in the legendary actress's iconic roles for inspiration.



Actress Richa Chadha delves into the iconic performances of Meena Kumari for her role as Lajjo in the upcoming series "Heeramandi - The Diamond Bazaar," directed by Sanjay Leela Bhansali. Drawing inspiration from Kumari's portrayal of Shahibjaan in "Pakeezah," Chadha immerses herself in studying the legendary actress's character, finding parallels between Sahibjaan and Lajjo. Chadha expresses her deep transformation through the experience of observing and learning from Meena Kumari's work, particularly in "Pakeezah," where she discovered similarities with her

Studying Meena Kumari's roles for 'Heeramandi' felt like walking in the footsteps of a legend.

character in "Heeramandi." She meticulously works on her voice, diction, and mannerisms, feeling honored to pay tribute to the cinematic legend. Recognizing Chadha's dedication, a source from the production praises her commitment to embodying Lajjo's character authentically. Chadha's portrayal,

inspired by Meena Kumari, adds layers of authenticity to the series.

Richa Chadha not only studies Meena Kumari's iconic roles but also delves into her interviews and biographies to understand her craft better for "Heeramandi - The Diamond Bazaar." With over 50 hours of footage and extensive research, Chadha meticulously prepares for her role, infusing depth into Lajjo's character.

PixelView

WHAT TO WATCH AT HOME



Spirit Rangers S3

Starring: Esther Mbire, Talon Proc Alford, Kimberly Guerrero

Where to watch: Netflix. Spirit Rangers S3" marks the third season of the action-packed animated series. Centered around the adventures of the Skycedar siblings—Kodiak, Summer, and Eddy—the show unveils their hidden identities as Spirit Rangers. Led by

their determination and unique abilities, they embark on thrilling missions to protect their world from various threats. Esther Mbire, Talon Proc Alford, and Kimberly Guerrero headline the cast, bringing depth and energy to their respective roles. With its engaging storyline and dynamic characters, the series captivates audiences of all ages.



Baby Reindeer

Starring: Richard Gadd, Jessica Gunning, Danny Kirrane.

Where: Netflix. "Baby Reindeer" on Netflix is a captivating biographical drama featuring Richard Gadd, Jessica Gunning, and Danny Kirrane. The film delves into Gadd's

life as a writer and performer, exploring his complex relationship with a female stalker. As the narrative unfolds, viewers witness the profound impact this unsettling dynamic has on Gadd, compelling him to confront a deeply buried trauma from his past. Through raw emotion and gripping storytelling, "Baby Reindeer" navigates themes of obsession, identity, and resilience. Gadd's journey serves as a powerful exploration of human vulnerability and the strength required to confront one's inner demons.

| ROMANCE |

Selena Sets Record Straight: Addressing Romance Rumors with JFK's Grandson

Central Chronicle News

Gomez confronts unfounded rumors of romance with John "Jack" Schlossberg, affirming her devotion to partner Benny Blanco amid media scrutiny.



Embracing love's glow with Benny Blanco, amidst the noise of swirling rumors.

I'm happily in love with Benny Blanco, shutting down baseless rumors.

Selena Gomez
Actress

media offer a glimpse into their affectionate bond. Notably, Gomez proudly walked the red carpet with Blanco by her side at the Golden Globe Awards in January. Despite not clinching an award that evening, Gomez commemorated the occasion with a heartwarming Instagram post capturing a tender moment between the couple, captioned with a cheeky "I won," signifying the victory of love over speculation.

Gomez the White House, a detail Gomez swiftly debunked.

However, amidst the noise of unfounded rumors, Gomez has been quietly but happily immersed in a genuine romance with boyfriend Benny Blanco since mid-2023. Although their relationship was kept under

wraps initially, the couple officially confirmed their romantic involvement in December of the same year. Blanco, a record producer with whom Gomez has collaborated on music projects over the years, has become an integral part of her life. Their public outings and shared moments on social

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