

Central Chronicle



Policeman on poll duty dies

Press Trust of India

GARIABAND (CG): A jawan of the Madhya Pradesh Special Armed Force deployed on poll duty died allegedly by suicide by shooting himself with his service rifle in Chhattisgarh’s Gariaband district on Friday, police said.

Gariaband falls in the

Mahasamund Lok Sabha constituency where polling is underway in the second phase of the general elections. The incident took place around 9.30 am at a government school in Kudedadar village under Piparchedi police station limits where security personnel on poll duty have been stationed, a police

official here said. Head Constable Jiyalal Pawar allegedly shot himself with his service rifle in a room at the school, he said. He was in the reserve team and was not deployed for active poll work, the official said. Pawar belonged to Battalion no. 34 of the MP Special Armed Force, he said.

Over 72.13 pc turnout in three LS seats in CG

Of the eight assembly segments in the Kanker Lok Sabha constituency, polling ended at 3 pm in Antagarh, Bhanupratappur, Keshkal and Kanker assembly segments.

Press Trust of India

RAIPUR: More than 72 per cent of voters exercised their franchise till 5 pm in three Lok Sabha constituencies, all having Naxalite presence, in Chhattisgarh, where the second phase of the general elections was held on Friday, officials said

Polling began in Kanker, Rajnandgaon and Mahasamund Lok Sabha constituencies at 7 am and was held in different time slots. A turnout of 72.13 per cent was registered till 5 pm, an election official said.

Of the eight assembly segments in the Kanker Lok Sabha constituency, polling ended at 3 pm in Antagarh, Bhanupratappur, Keshkal and Kanker assembly segments, while in Sihawa, Sanjari-Balod, Daundilohara and Gunderdehi it concluded at 6 pm, he said.

In the Rajnandgaon



Deputy CM Vijay Sharma shows his finger marked with indelible ink after casting his vote. Photo: PTI

FACTFILE

● The tribal-dominated Kanker seat recorded a 73.50 per cent turnout.

Lok Sabha constituency, polling in the Manpur-Mohla assembly segment ended at 3 pm, and in the seven other assembly segments, it concluded at 6 pm.

The polling was held in the Mahasamund



constituency till 6 pm, except in nine sensitive polling booths under the Bindranawagarh assembly segment,

I have received complaints that my photos on EVMs are smaller and unclear as compared to those of rivals.

Bhupesh Baghel
Former CG CM

where it ended at 3 pm.

The tribal-dominated Kanker seat recorded a 73.50 per cent turnout, Mahasamund 71.13 per cent and Rajnandgaon 71.87 per cent till 5 pm, the official said.

The voting figure may go up as they are yet to receive the final data from several booths, he said.

Among the early voters, state assembly speaker and former chief minister Raman Singh, Deputy Chief Minister Vijay Sharma, former MP Abhishek Singh cast their votes in Kawardha town (Rajnandgaon seat), BJP candidate Santosh Pandey and his wife at Sahaspur-Lohara in Rajnandgaon, BJP candidate Rupkumari Chaudhary in Harratar village in Mahasamund, BJP candidate Bhojraj Nag and his wife at Antagarh in Kanker.

Google Doodle marks general elections with voting symbol

NEW DELHI: Google marked the second phase of the Lok Sabha elections with a colourful doodle on its homepage celebrating the inked index finger, which signals that a person has voted. The Google Doodle shows an index finger marked with indelible ink replacing the ‘O’ in the logo.

SC dismisses pleas on 100% verification

Press Trust of India

The bench suggested the poll panel can examine whether electronic machines can be used for counting VVPAT slips and also whether bar codes can be used for parties along with their symbols.

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Friday rejected pleas seeking complete cross-verification of votes cast using EVMs with a Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) and said “blindly distrusting” any aspect of the system can breed unwarranted scepticism.

Maintaining that “democracy is all about striving to build harmony

FACTFILE

● The petitions had claimed the polling devices can be tinkered with to manipulate the results.

and trust between all institutions”, a bench of Justices Sanjiv Khanna and Dipankar Datta delivered two concurring verdicts and dismissed all

the pleas in the matter, including those seeking to go back to ballot papers in elections. The court issued two directives. Pronouncing his verdict, Justice Khanna directed the Election Commission to seal and store units used to load symbols for 45 days after the symbols have been loaded to electronic voting machines in strong rooms.

exposure to high altitude environment can reduce appetite, and limit oxygen and nutrient absorption, even as, they said, a direct causal link was not established in the observational study.

The team also said that food insecurity in hilly and mountainous regions tends to be more, arising out of lower crop yields and harsher climate. Pro-

viding access to healthcare in these regions, including implementing nutritional programmes, is challenging, they said.

The overall prevalence of stunting among these children was found to be 36 per cent. Prevalence was higher among children aged 1.5-5 years (41 per cent) than among those under 1.5 years of age (27 per cent).

New opportunities for youths

THIS IS MODI'S GUARANTEE

Will double the amount of Mudra Yojana to ₹20 lakh

Will create millions of employment opportunities in high-value services, start-ups, tourism and sports through manufacturing, infrastructure and investment

Will ensure scholarships to meritorious students from deprived sections and expand employment opportunities

Will make government recruitment transparent, and will implement law to prevent paper leaks

Will promote start-ups in Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities

Right Intent, Right Results

Phir Ek Baar Modi Sarkar

Press the lotus button Make BJP win

Congress has Muslim League’s agenda: Shah

Press Trust of India

Congress have said they will make a separate law for minorities. Tell me, should the country function on the basis of Sharia? .



BEMETARA (CG): Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday claimed that Congress has said it would make a separate law for minorities, and asked whether the country should “function on the basis of Sharia.”

Speaking at an election rally in Bemetara district of Chhattisgarh, he also said those who refused invitation for the consecration of Ram Mandir in Ayodhya for their vote bank politics did not have the right to rule the country.

Bemetara falls in Durg Lok Sabha constituency which will go to polls on May 7.

“..they (Congress) have said they will make a separate law for minorities. Tell me, should the country function on the basis of Sharia? Should triple talaq be reintroduced? Congress has been heading forward with the agenda of Muslim league,” the senior BJP leader alleged.

“Rahul baba, neither

the people will elect you, nor will triple talaq be reintroduced. I am saying today that we will not allow anyone to touch CAA (Citizenship Amendment) Act, triple talaq (prohibition act) and (scrapping of) Article 370,” he said.

Highlighting the achievements of the Narendra Modi government, Shah said the prime minister has ended terrorism and safeguarded the country.

Give a third term to PM Modi, and Naxalism will be eliminated from Chhattisgarh in two years, he averred.

Nobody can accomplish in 1,000 years what Modi has done in ten years, Shah said.

The Union minister also accused Congress of being anti-Other Backward Class, and said it was Modi’s guarantee that no one can touch the reservations for Scheduled Tribes, Scheduled Castes and OBCs.

NEWSLINE

CHHATTISGARH

Polling in five VS of 3 LS recorded at 63.92%

For the second leg of polling in three Lok Sabha seats of Rajnandgaon, Mahasamund and Kanker and the polling in 5 Vidhan Sabhas of the 3 Lok Sabha got completed at 3:00 pm..

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QUOTE

Democracy all about striving to build harmony, trust among all its pillars through open dialogue.

Justice Dipankar Datta
Supreme Court

NATION

SC to consider listing plea of Delhi govt against central law

The Supreme Court on Friday told the Delhi government that it would consider listing its plea challenging the central government’s law establishing pre-eminence of the lieutenant governor over the elected dispensation in controlling services in the national capital.

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Raipur



Congress is getting swept on all 11 Lok Sabha seats in the state

Arun Sao

Deputy CM, Chhattisgarh Govt

Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

TRAGIC ACCIDENT

Couple dies after being hit by a speeding vehicle

A tragic accident took place near Tekari village of the assembly constituency Raipur.

A couple riding a bike died on the spot after being hit by a speeding cement mixture capsule vehicle, while their six-month-old daughter and 16-year-old brother-in-law were seriously injured. Both have been admitted to Ambekar Hospital. On receiving information about the accident, the Vidhan Sabha police reached the spot, seized the capsule and arrested the driver.

According to the information received from the Vidhan Sabha police station, Danesh Sahu (26), a resident of Jarad village of Arang police station area, was traveling with his wife Hina Sahu (23), daughter Jagriti Sahu (six months) and brother-in-law Deendayal Sahu (16) on bike number CG 04 NT 6697 on Thursday. He was going from Farhad village to Birgaon.

CRIME

Five accused nabbed, 20 stolen bikes seized



On taking the complaint of vehicle thefts in Tikrapara thana on regular basis, the senior officers were informed about it and seeing seriousness of the matter, all the CCTV cameras in the region were searched and information about the prisoners already put behind bars was cross-checked and keeping close watch on them, their whereabouts were checked through informers.

Failing to find any clues in this, the police went to the site of incidents from where vehicles were stolen and checked on the style of theft and with likely chances of their next theft kept an eye on them wearing civil clothes.

BJP does development while Congress works to cheat: Sai

Modi ji and BJP developed tribal and scheduled caste dominated areas. Top leaders of Congress are making objectionable comments on Prime Minister in frustration

Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR/MASTURI: 'Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the BJP government have always been concerned about the interests of tribal and scheduled dominated areas. Scheduled caste dominated areas have developed rapidly under the BJP government. Today, the construction and development work of the grand Jaitkham in Girodpuri has been done by our BJP government', Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai said while addressing a huge public meeting in Chilahati, Masturi of Bilaspur on Friday. He said that the previous Raman government had sanctioned Rs 123

crore for the development of roads in Masturi area and BJP government itself had sanctioned Rs 34 crore under the Pradhan Mantri Adarsh Gram Yojana. It is clear that BJP cares about roads, water and electricity while Congress only works to cheat, he said. He said that today big leaders of Congress were making objectionable comments on Prime Minister in frustration after seeing their certain defeat. 'When Leader of Opposition Charandas Mahant is talking about hitting Modi ji with sticks, then Kawasi Lakhma is saying that Modi ji should die which is very shameful', said Sai adding that public will give a befitting reply to

HIGHLIGHT

● **Modi ji has to be made Prime Minister for the third time by electing BJP candidate as MP from Bilaspur**

● **Previous Raman government had sanctioned Rs 123 crore for the development of roads in Masturi area.**

such people and will dismiss them at zero. The Chief Minister appealed to the public to make Modi ji the Prime Minister for the third time by making BJP candidate Tokhan Sahu win with a huge majority. Attacking Congress and Bhupesh

Baghel, Sai said that out of 36 promises made by the Congress government, not a single promise was properly fulfilled. Under the leadership of Bhupesh Baghel, Chhattisgarh had become a den of crime and corruption, he said, maintaining that Congress committed scam in liquor, coal, sand, government land, DMF amount etc. The state was made poor by looting, he said and added that due to such irregularities people of Chhattisgarh voted Congress out of the government in 2023.

He alleged that Bhupesh Baghel's government made the youth addicted to gambling. Baghel was accused of taking protection money

of Rs 508 crore for uninterrupted running of Mahadev Satta app and FIR was also registered which is a matter of shame for Chhattisgarh, Sai said, adding that the accused of the scams that took place during the Congress rule are facing jail today.

Highlighting the achievements of his government, the Chief Minister said that his government fulfilled the big promises of Modi's guarantee. On the very second day of taking oath, he gave approval for Rs 18 lakh PM Awas, 2 years outstanding bonus given to 12 lakh farmers and procured paddy at 21 quintals per acre besides giving a price of Rs 3100 per quintal.

Food at 20 pc discount in Babylon Hotel

RAIPUR: Under the leadership of Collector and District Election Officer Dr. Gaurav Singh, a unique initiative has been launched as part of the sweep activities. The Babylon Hotel has declared a 20 percent discount for voters to promote voter awareness. Additionally, for every three buffets ordered, the fourth person will receive a complimentary meal. This promotion will run from May 7th to May 12th, 2024. The hotel management has formally submitted a letter to the Collector regarding this initiative, which was also praised by the Collector. Dr. Gaurav Singh expressed that these sweep activities are crucial in raising voter awareness and are expected to contribute towards an increase in voter turnout.

Six suffer burn injuries after blast in Ambuja-Adani mines

Central Chronicle News

At least six persons sustained severe burn injuries after a blast that took place in mines of Ambuja Adani cement.

RAIPUR/BALODABAZAR: A blast occurred while filling cylinders in the mines at Ambuja Adani Cement Plant located in Baloda Bazar district on Friday. Six people have suffered burn injuries in the accident and have been admitted to the hospital.

The condition of two of the injured is said to be critical. They have been referred to Raipur after first aid considering their condition. The remaining four are undergoing



At least six persons were burnt in a major mishap in mines of Ambuja Cement Plant on Friday.

FACTFILE

● **The condition of two of the injured is said to be critical. They have been referred to Raipur**

treatment at Ambuja Adani Hospital. The matter belongs to Kotwali police station area.

It is being told that this accident happened while filling nitrogen gas. A few months ago, a similar accident had taken place

at UltraTech Cement Plant located in Hirni, in which three people were injured. Even before this, many accidents have happened in Ambuja Adani Cement Plant, in which people have also lost their lives.

| **VOTERS SUPPORT** |

First time voters gave support to Brijmohan

Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: In the city-rural area of Tilda Nevra, more than 100 first-time voters, led by former municipal president Mahesh Aggarwal, met the BJP candidate for the Raipur Lok Sabha seat, Brijmohan Agarwal, and expressed their support by pledging to vote for the BJP. This meeting indicates a sig-

nificant show of support from this group of new voters towards the BJP candidate in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections. Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India has seen significant progress, particularly impacting the youth. Through initiatives like skill development programs, over one lakh startups

Under the leadership of PM, India has seen significant progress, particularly impacting the youth.

Brijmohan Agrawal
MLA, Raipur South

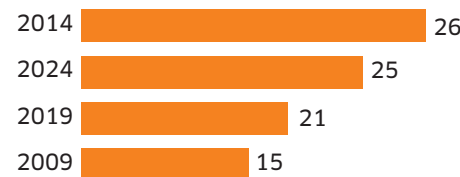


have emerged, creating numerous job opportunities for the youth. Additionally, Modi's focus on policies to expand their businesses in India, further increasing employment prospects across various sectors. This growth trend indicates a positive trajectory and showcases the transformative impact of Modi's leadership.

The Day's NUMBERS

Loksabha elections yearwise

NUMBER OF CANDIDATES CONTESTING FROM DURG CONSTITUENCY



SPORTS

Match between Raipur and Kawardha ends in a draw

The 1st semi-final match of the Under-19 Plate Group Inter District Tournament between Raipur and Kawardha has ended in a draw.

The match took place from 22nd-24th April at Raipur's RDCA Ground where Kawardha won the toss and elected to field first.

During their 1st innings, Raipur scored 325 in 73.2 overs in which Daksh Kumar and Faiz Khan shone with the bat by scoring 84 and 66 runs respectively. Meanwhile, Shizan Ali was the pick of the bowlers for Kawardha as he scalped three wickets.

However, things went downhill for Kawardha in their first innings as they could muster only 172 runs in just 60 overs. The top scorers for Kawardha were Gagan Gupta and Shree Chandravanshi who scored 64 and 43 runs respectively. On the other hand, Aryaman Singh and Faiz Khan took 4 and 2 wickets each to put Raipur in a strong position.

EARTH DAY

World Earth Day celebrated in Durga College



The Geography department of Durga College jointly under the aegis of Eco Club observed World Earth Day. On this occasion under Mission Life, in order to keep the earth balanced, it is by bringing changes in our behavior, the conservation of water, electricity, fuel can be done and discussions on all these issues was held. Dr Poornima Shukla HoD Geography Department and President Eco Club informed that if we do not save water, then days are not far off the condition of our city too would be like that of Chennai of South or Capetown of Africa and we may have to pass through same phase.



“Initiative of traders and hospitals to offer discounts would incentivise voting”,
Richa Prakash Chaudhary
District Election Officer, Durg

Show inked finger to get discounts at shops, hospitals

Initiative by businessmen to encourage people to participate in festival of democracy

Central Chronicle News

BHILAI: Voting will be held in the district on May 07 in the third phase of Lok Sabha General Election-2024. It is the duty of every citizen to exercise their franchise. Besides, it is everyone's collective responsibility to make people aware and encourage them to vote. Various business organizations have announced discounts to those who purchase from shops after casting their votes.

SDM Mukesh Raote convened a meeting of the traders' organizations at Durg Municipal Corporation. In order to promote voting and encourage voters, the traders have announced attractive discounts. On the day of polling on May 7, the voters will get a discount at the shops of Indira Market on showing the indelible ink mark on the finger. Bullion Traders Association has announced 50% discount on gold making charges, Readymade Garments Association announced 15% discount, TMT Bar traders will give Rs 50 per quintal discount; furni-



Shopkeepers taking oath to cast their votes.

ture traders will give 20 percent discount, wholesale stationery shops will offer 20 percent discount while 15% discount will be available on cosmetics, dry fruits and puja items. SDM Mukesh Raote, Deputy Commissioner Mohendra Sahu, Chandan Manhare and the office bearers of the traders' organisations will urge the traders and customers to cast their votes. The office bearers of the traders' organization pledged to cast their votes.

Private hospitals participate for voter awareness

Sparsh Hospital will provide free OPD consultation on May 07 to the patients who reach the hospital after casting their vote. They will also get a 25% discount on the tests prescribed at OPD. From May 08 to 12, the hospital will provide a 50% discount on OPD consultation. If a person is admitted to the hospital after vot-

HIGHLIGHT

- Avail discount on apparel, jewellery, furniture, stationery and cosmetics

ing on 07 May 2024, the hospital will exempt the room rent for that day. SR Hospital, Chikhli will also provide free OPD consultation on May

07 to the patients who show their inked finger. They will also get a 30% discount on the tests prescribed at OPD. From May 08 to 12, the hospital will provide a 60 % discount on OPD consultation. If a person is admitted to the hospital after voting on 07 May 2024, the hospital will exempt the room rent for that day.

Star Campaigner's expenses to be recorded in the party's account

Central Chronicle News

District Election Officer clears doubts of candidates regarding expenses of star campaigners

BHILAI: Some candidates contesting the elections in Durg had certain doubts regarding the expenses on star campaigners. District Election Office has made it clear that as per the provisions of I (1 & II) of Rule 77 of the Representation of the People Act 1951, on Advertisement in Print and Electronic Media, if the advertisement for general party campaign with photo of star campaigner or appeal is published in print and electronic media without reference to any candidate, the expenditure on such general advertisement will be credited to the account of the political party. If such a leader is a candidate in any constituency, the expenditure on such a general party campaign, even if his photograph is in the print and electronic media, shall not be credited to the account of such leader, because it is a general party campaign, without reference to its constituency. If posters, banners, flags, stickers etc bearing the photo or appeal

of a star campaigner are used during the election without reference to any particular candidate, the expenditure will be credited to the account of the political party. If the leader is a candidate in a constituency, the proportionate expenditure on such items actually used in his constituency shall be included in his election expenses. If any atten-

FASTFACTS

- Candidate has to bear 50% expense on sharing vehicle with star campaigner

- Candidate has to bear entire expense of public meeting on sharing stage with star campaigner

dant including security guard, medical attendant or any other person or member of the party, who is not a candidate in the concerned constituency, travels with the star campaigner of the political party in his own vehicle, aircraft, helicopter, etc., the travel expenditure will be recorded in the account of the political party. As a result, no part of the travel expenses of the political star campaigner will be booked in the candidate's account.

JEE MAINS

Utkarsh Bhardwaj of SSV-X tops JEE Mains in twin city



BHILAI: Result of JEE Mains which was conducted in the month of April was declared on Thursday. Following students of Sri Sankara Vidyalaya, Sector 10 have qualified for JEE ADVANCE (2024). Utkarsh Bhardwaj (99.77), Armaan Khan(97.1), Ishaan Singh (95), Akshat Pandey (94.98), Hemank Sahu (91.91), Lokendra Sahu (91.06), Anushree Sahu (84.92), Mehul Sahu (82), Dhawal kumar Uike (65.74), Priyanshu Suryavanshi (60.98). Bipin Deshmukh (Principal, Sri Sankara Vidyalaya) and staff congratulated the students on their success. S Swaminathan (Secretary, SSES) and management members of Sri Sankara Education Society wished the students good luck for their future endeavours.

HEALTH

Malaria cannot be eradicated without public participation: Dhruv

BHILAI: Municipal Corporation organised a workshop on the occasion of World Malaria Day. BMC Commissioner Devesh Kumar Dhruv said that without public participation, the vector -borne and water-borne diseases cannot be controlled or eradicated. On World Malaria Day, the Health Department of BMC took out a rally in the labour dominated areas of Zone 1 and 3. Women self-help groups and health workers participated in the rally and pledged to make Chhattisgarh a malaria-free state by the year 2030.

CRIME

Instagram friend held for raping girl



BHILAI: Police arrested a 22-year-old youth on charges of threatening and raping a girl. After befriending her on Instagram, he lured her into a love trap and raped her. When the victim refused, he threatened to kill the girl and her brother as well as make her obscene photo / videos viral. The victim lodged a complaint at Supela Police Station against Rajnandgaon resident Pratham Hariharno. The victim complained that the accused befriended her on Instagram and lured her into a love trap. He has been sexually assaulting her since 2023.

Brainstorming session between IIT Bhilai & CG MFP

Central Chronicle News

ECOBRIKCS made from single use plastic items and creative crafts work was displayed to encourage students for utilisation of plastic items

BHILAI: A brainstorming session and discussion between the Indian Institute of Technology Bhilai and Chhattisgarh State Minor Forest Produce (Trading and Development) Co-operative Federation Limited was held the other day.

The meeting was jointly chaired by Prof Rajiv Prakash, Director, IIT Bhilai and Anil Rai (IFS), MD, CG MFP Federation. Faculty members from departments of Liberal Arts, Biotechnology, Material Science, and Chemistry participated in the discussion, wherein prob-

lem statements pertinent to the work of the MFP Federation with tribal communities were identified and a roadmap prepared for future collaborative work. IIT Bhilai is a premier academic and research institution established by the Ministry of Education, GoI, and has the expertise and facilities to carry out R&D in the area of Chhattisgarh. MFP Federation is the apex organization in the state of Chhattisgarh, responsible for all aspects relating to the management, development, and trade of the minor forest produce sector in the state.

Both organizations will jointly develop research projects on identified problem statements and develop accessible and responsive technologies in the domain, which will also help in the preservation of indigenous tribal knowledge.

Fine imposed for causing dust pollution

BHILAI: Bhilai Municipal Corporation is continuously taking action against the people involved in illegal work or construction. The team of Zone 2 and 4 took action on people responsible for dust pollution and spreading litter. On the instructions of BMC Commissioner Devesh Kumar Dhruv, various teams are monitoring the illegal activities taking place in the area. The revenue team of Zone 4 visited the Industrial Area Chhawani and found that in Ward 41, Baljit Singh Kurre was causing dust polling by dumping and negligently handing the cement dust. Locals complained of respiratory problems due to cement dust. The BMC team instructed Kurre to relocate his cement work from the densely populated area. Fine of Rs 10000 was imposed on him. On the other hand, the health staff of Zone 2 collected a fine of Rs 1000 from Sagar Jaiswal, who threw garbage in the open.

Sangwari polling stations to have attractive decoration

Central Chronicle News

Officials conduct visit to finalise plans for tents, decoration, selfie booths, etc.

BHILAI: The Model and Sangwari polling stations will be beautifully decorated with innovative ideas and will have various facilities also. Durg Municipal Corporation Commissioner Lokesh Chandrakar informed that Model / Sangwari polling stations are being established at Borsi Government School, Potiyakala Government School, Surana College, JRD School, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel School, Gayabai School and other places. Pink Both Nodal Officer Shubham Goir conducted inspection of such polling stations the other day. Arrangements are being



Awareness programmes are being conducted under SVEEP.

FASTFACTS

- Efforts to achieve cent percent voting
- Polling process to be webcasted from selected booths
- Wheelchairs and volunteers to be deployed for disabled voters

done to ensure that voters do not face any kind of problem in the voting process. Efforts are being made to achieve the target of cent percent voting.

For voter awareness, hoardings have been installed at various places. Nodal Officer Shubham Goir said that selfie booths with different themes are

being made in the polling centres. The focus is on activities like taking photos of the voters after voting and motivating everyone to vote. They are especially targeting the women voters and are encouraging them to leave all the household work and give priority to voting. Awareness programmes are being conducted under SVEEP.

| EARTH DAY |

World Earth Day celebrations at Kendriya Vidyalaya CISF

Central Chronicle News

BHILAI: The World Earth Day was celebrated in Kendriya Vidyalaya CISF, Bhilai under Yuva Tourism Club. The celebration of earth day began with the special morning assembly program. The students under guidance of Reena Sahu, Librarian presented information on origin, aims and theme of earth day 2024. In order to emphasise the theme of Earth Day

-2024 'Planet Vs Plastic' Suneeta Gawande, PGT Chemistry suggested ways to minimise use of plastic and eliminate single use plastic from school and home. An innovative idea of ' ECO-BRICKS 'made from single use plastic items and creative crafts work was displayed to encourage students for utilisation of plastic items in environment friendly way and protect earth from plastic pollution.



Geetu PGT, Biology guided students of senior classes in making creative craft items from single use plastic boxes, disposable water bottles and collage making from old newspapers on theme. Club Incharge of Yuva Tourism Club Dr Pankaj Kumar Shukla encouraged students to participate in various environment-related activities such as poster making, painting, slogan writing, poem recitation etc. To

“Celebration of Earth Day prompts us to see ourselves not separate from nature but intricately connected”

Bhubneshwari
Principal, Kendriya Vidyalaya CISF, Bhilai

make the day special, Bhubneshwari, Principal KV CISF appreciated the efforts of students and motivated all students and staff members of Vidyalaya to pledge to avoid using plastics in Vidyalaya and home, go on nature walks, make lifestyle changes that reduce carbon footprint, educate family and friends on ways to save the environment and also adopt 3Rs of reduce, reuse and recycle in lifestyle.

Battle-2024



“You have heard about maneater tigers, but have you heard about the job-eater BJP?”

Mamata Banerjee
WB Chief Minister

Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

INPATIENTS VOTE

41 inpatients cast vote, thanks to city hospital and civic body

BENGALURU: Manipal Hospitals Group assisted 41 inpatients cast their vote in the Lok Sabha polls on Friday, with the help of city civic body Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP). The hospital administration put their ambulance service into action to help them exercise their democratic right. Green corridors were created across constituencies to ensure easy, hassle-free voting, they said. Chief Operating Officer of Manipal Hospitals Karthik Rajagopal said that the patients were escorted to the polling stations in hospital-designated vehicles, after a comprehensive health assessment and receiving clearance from their attending physicians. According to the hospital administration, all 41 medically-fit inpatients transported to the respective constituencies were accompanied by medical staff including nurses and a doctor. **PTI**

SHIFTING PARTY

Another BJD MLA joins BJP ahead of polls in Odisha

BHUBANESWAR: Weeks after resigning from the ruling BJD, Soro MLA Parshuram Dhada on Friday returned to the BJP ahead of the Lok Sabha and assembly polls in Odisha. Dhada joined the saffron party at an event organised at the BJP’s headquarters here in the presence of its state president Manmohan Samal, former president Samir Mohanty and other leaders. The legislator quit the BJD on April 3 after being denied a ticket to contest the upcoming polls. He had successfully contested the assembly polls in 2014 and 2019 from Soro constituency on a BJD ticket. The BJP has already fielded Raju Das as its candidate from the Soro assembly segment, but the party has yet to announce candidates from Nilagiri, Balasore Sadar, Jaleswar and Basta under the Balasore Lok Sabha seat. **PTI**

LS voting in Bengal

Polling for 3 LS seats peaceful, over 72 pc voter turnout recorded till 5 pm



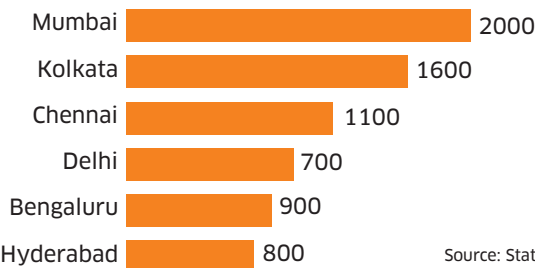
KOLKATA: Polling for three Lok Sabha constituencies in West Bengal in the second phase of parliamentary elections was peaceful with a voter turnout of over 72 per cent registered till 5 pm on Friday, an EC official said. Voting for Darjeeling, Balurghat and Raiganj constituencies started at 7 AM and continued till 6 PM, he said. Till 5 PM, Balurghat recorded the highest polling percentage at 72.30, followed by Raiganj at 71.87 and Darjeeling at 71.41, the Election Commission official said. “Today’s polling was peaceful. There is no report of any untoward incident in the three parliamentary

constituencies,” he said. Forty-seven candidates, including state BJP president Sukanta Majumdar, are in the fray in this phase, with 51.17 lakh people eligible to exercise their franchise. Altogether 5,298 polling stations have been set up across the three constituencies.

There are 1,999 polling stations in Darjeeling, 1,730 in Raiganj and 1,569 in Balurghat, he said. A total of 272 companies, comprising 27,200 personnel of Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs), along with 12,983 state policemen have been deployed for the polls, the official added.

The Day's NUMBERS

KEY CITIES AND ANNUAL RAINFALL (IN MILLIMETERS)



Source: Statista

PADYATRA-OFFENCE

Shiv Sena (UBT) candidate booked for holding ‘padayatra’ sans permission in Sangli

PUNE: The police have registered an offence against Shiv Sena (UBT) Lok Sabha candidate Chandrahar Patil for holding a ‘padayatra’ (foot march) allegedly without permission in Maharashtra’s Sangli district, an official said on Friday. A case under section 188 (disobedience to order duly promulgated by a public servant) of the Indian Penal Code and provisions of the Maharashtra Police Act has been registered against Patil and three organisers, the official said. Patil and his party workers held a ‘padayatra’ and paid door-to-door visits in Khatao and Bedag villages in Miraj on April 25, without obtaining permission from the assistant returning officer (ARO), thus violating the model code of conduct, he said. Patil, a wrestler and two-time winner of Maharashtra Kesari, is pitted against the BJP’s sitting MP, Sanjay Kaka Patil, in the Sangli Lok Sabha seat.

NOMINATION FILING

Filing of nomination for 5 Odisha Lok Sabha seats, 35 Assembly segments begins

BHUBANESWAR: The process of filing nomination papers for five Lok Sabha constituencies and 35 Odisha Assembly segments to be held on May 20 started on Friday with the Election Commission of India and Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) issuing the notification in this regard. The five Lok Sabha constituencies are Bargarh, Sundergarh (ST), Bolangir, Kandhamal and Aska Lok Sabha constituencies along with 35 assembly segments under the Lok Sabha constituencies. As per the notifications, May 3 is the last date for making nominations while scrutiny of nominations will be done on the next day. Candidates can withdraw their nominations on or before May 6. The Election Commission has made different schedule for voting in the 35 Assembly constituencies that come under the five Lok Sabha constituencies. **PTI**



Dhalai: Voters display their identity cards as they come on boats after casting their votes.

Congress allies want to lay foundation of India’s division on religious lines: Adityanath

Congress manifesto is harmful for the country and it was necessary that the opposition be thwarted by the people in the ongoing elections

Press Trust Of India

LUCKNOW: Citing the controversy around the inheritance tax and wealth redistribution, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Friday said the INDIA bloc and its constituent Congress want to lay the foundation of the country’s division on religious lines. Adityanath accused opposition parties of trying to rob the hard-earned wealth of people, “reintroduce personal laws” and “resurrect the Maoist insurgency”.

Addressing the media at his official residence here, the chief minister termed the Congress manifesto as harmful for the country and said it was necessary that the opposition be thwarted by the people in the ongoing elections. Adityanath said the BJP began its campaign with the slogan of ‘Modi Ki Guarantee’, and highlighted the development works, good governance and improved security under the government. “But just before the first phase (of polls), the man-

HIGHLIGHT

● **Opposition parties are trying to rob the hard-earned wealth of people, “reintroduce personal laws” and “resurrect the Maoist insurgency”**

ifesto of Congress, the most important constituent of the INDI alliance, was announced. The contents of the manifesto bode danger for India which is the world’s largest democracy,” he said.

While the BJP was initially campaigning on welfare and development issues, the Congress manifesto drew the attention of the BJP, the chief minister said. Adityanath cited the recent remarks by Sam Pitroda, the Ranganath Misra Commission, the Sachar Committee report and the Muslim reservation in Karnataka as he targeted the Congress over the recent controversies on inheritance tax and redistribution of wealth. “Congress’ com-

ments on inheritance tax is also a dangerous indication,” he said. Adityanath said Congress has claimed that it will conduct a survey of people’s wealth. “The party’s manifesto mentions this,” he said. “Firstly, they want to lay the foundation of dividing the country along religious lines. Secondly, those who have accumulated some wealth, built a property... and mothers and sisters who purchase jewellery, they (Congress) will take them under their control.

| FILING NOMINATION |

Nomination filing for 3 LS seats in Jharkhand begins

Press Trust Of India

Scrutiny of nomination papers will be held on May 4 and the last date for withdrawing such documents is May 6.

RANCHI: The filling of nomination papers for three Lok Sabha seats - Chatra, Koderma and Hazaribag - in Jharkhand commenced on Friday with the issuance of notification for the fifth phase of parliamentary polls, an official said. BJP candidate Kalicharan Singh filed his nomination papers for the Chatra Lok Sabha constituency on the first day of submitting the document. The three constituencies will go to



Kalicharan Singh files nomination papers for Chatra Lok Sabha.

FACTFILE

● **Scrutiny of nomination papers will be held on May 4 and the last date for withdrawal is May 6.**

polls on May 20. Before filing his nomination, Singh said, “I am thankful to the party for reposing faith in me. I am sure that people would cast votes in favour of the BJP, as they want development of the country under the

leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.” The BJP has fielded Singh, replacing its sitting MP Sunil Kumar Singh, who had defeated Congress’ Manoj Kumar Yadav by a margin of over 3.77 lakh votes in 2019.

| LS ELECTION |

Sibal slams EC for not sending notice to Modi

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Rajya Sabha MP Kapil Sibal on Friday said the Election Commission seeking a response from the BJP instead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the opposition charge that he gave a divisive speech in Rajasthan showed that it is a “helpless puppet”. Taking cognisance for

the first time of a model code violation complaint against a prime minister, the EC on Thursday issued the notice to BJP president JP Nadda seeking his response to complaints filed by Congress, CPI, CPI (ML) and civil society groups regarding the remarks made by Modi on April 21 in Ban-swara. These complaints had referred to Modi’s

Election Commission seeks BJP’s response for Modi’s openly communal utterances.


Kapil Sibal
MP Rajya Sabha



allegations that the Congress wanted to redistribute the wealth of the people to Muslims and that the opposition party won’t even spare the ‘mangalsutra’ of women. In a post on X, Sibal said, “Election Commission(EC): No ‘lal ank’ to Modi. Seeks BJP’s response for Modi’s openly communal utterances.

Villagers of Gangaloor under Bijapur informed about their problems and sought early solution.

Anurag Pandey
Collector



Chhattisgarh



second leg of polling in three Lok Sabha seats of Rajnandgaon, Mahasamund and Kanker held.

Polling in five VS of 3 Lok Sabha recorded at 63.92%

Here the polling had concluded at 3:00 pm; Polling in other places continued till 6:00 pm; This include Mohala-Manpur of Rajnandgaon LS seat and Bhanupratappur

Central Chronicle News

RAJNANDGAON, KAWARDHA, KANKER: For the second leg of polling in three Lok Sabha seats of Rajnandgaon, Mahasamund and Kanker and the polling in 5 Vidhan Sabhas of the 3 Lok Sabha got completed at 3:00 pm. This include Mohala-Manpur of Rajnandgaon LS seat and Bhanupratappur, Kanker, Keshkal of Kanker LS and 9 booths of Brindanagarh of Mahasamund Lok Sabha seat. In rest of the places the polling would continue till 6:00 pm. By 1:00 pm the polling in above three constituency was 53% and by afternoon hours in

3 Vidhan Sabha seats, a total of 63.92 % of polling was recorded. In Rajnandgaon LS seat, former CM and Speaker State Assembly Raman Singh and Dy. CM Vijay Sharma in Kawardha and MLA Pandaria Bhavana Bohra exercised their franchise for the second phase of polling here on Friday. In the Model Polling centre at Lohara- 339 (Odiyakala), a newly married couple Rameshwar Markam and wife exercised their franchise. In a minor incident in Kawardha, there was verbal duet between a BJP party workers and ASP Vikas Kumar. In one booth of Kawardha

HIGHLIGHT

● **CM and Speaker State Assembly Raman Singh and Dy. CM Vijay Sharma in Kawardha and MLA Pandaria Bhavana Bohra exercised their franchise**

city, ASP asked the BJP worker not to go inside wearing saffron coloured stole and on this the BJP worker Saurabh Singh along with other workers entered into verbal dialogue with ASP and somehow it was settled. As per reports in Polling Centre No. 94 in Rajim developed a fault and

on hearing about which the officer in-charge rushed to the place. On hearing about this Congress LS candidate Tamradhwaj Sahu also reached the place. Similarly from Vishrampur block of Keshkal Vidhan Sabha , there are reports of heavy rains and hail-storm in the morning hours and it affected the polling and by 2:00 in the afternoon, there was 62% polling and it ended at 3:00 pm.

Cong worker got badly singed

In Kawardha district of Rajnandgaon Lok Sabha area, a major incident took place at Chiyadad

and in this while distributing voter's slip a Congress worker came into contact of high tension wire and got badly singed. The youth is reported to be critical and referred to Distric Hospital for treatment.

As per reports, Congress had erected its 'pandal' below HT line, about 100 mt away from the polling centre in Baiga tribe dominated Chiyadad polling centre and from where the voters were being distributed slip. During this the 'pandal' came into contact with the HT line and the Congress worker sitting inside it also got badly singed.

Congress and BJP workers clash over controversial posters

KHAIRAGARH: Congress and BJP workers clashed over a controversial poster and demanded action in Jalbandha village of the district. As per information, Congressmen allegedly caught five youths who were putting up posters defaming Lok Sabha candidate from INC Bhupesh Baghel as belonging to a special sect which led to the alteration, and a complaint was filed by Block President Akashdeep Singh. While on the other hand, BJP leaders Prakash Singh Thakur, Sarpanch Deendayal Sinha, Bharat Verma, Anuplal Verma and others filed an application accusing the Congressmen of assaulting the youths who pasted the posters.

Collector inspires 100% voting in Baiga dominated villages

Central Chronicle News

Collector and District Election Officer Leena Kamlesh Mandavi motivated the Baiga voters

GAURELA-PENDRA-MARWAHI: As part of the Voter Awareness Program, Collector and District Election Officer Leena Kamlesh Mandavi motivated the Baiga voters to cast their votes in the Baiga dominated village Amadob in the remote Vananchal area of Gaurela development block. She said that voter awareness programs are being run in the entire district and on completing 18 years of age, one gets the right to vote. The number of voters



As part of the Voter Awareness Program, Collector LK Mandavi motivated the Baiga voters to cast their votes.

FACTFILE

● **The Collector honoured veteran voter Soni Bai Baiga (83 years), Jamunia Baiga (77 years) and Bhanwar Singh Agaria (74 years) and young voter Panchu Baiga, who is going to vote for the first time**

in Amadob Panchayat is 792 and the Collector asked all the voters to go to the polling centre at Government Primary School Amadob on coming 7th May between 7 am to 6 pm without any restrictions.

The Collector honoured veteran voter Soni Bai Baiga (83 years), Jamunia Baiga (77 years), Bhanwar Singh Agaria (74 years) and young voter Panchu Baiga, who is going to vote for the first time.

| ENVIRONMENT |

Water hyacinth choking Sontirtha Ghat

Central Chronicle News

RAJIM: The condition of Prayagraj of Chhattisgarh and Triveni Sangam of Kumbh Nagri Rajim is in a bad condition, owing to over growth of water hyacinth in and along the banks. In all the Ghats, prominently the Atal Ghat, Sangam Ghat, Belahi Ghat, Nehru Ghat and Sontirtha Ghat par-

ticularly invasion by the water weed has become a major problem, as devotees coming from entire 33 districts of Chhattisgarh, other states and abroad performing religious rituals are broadly affected as Ghats are choking due to the vast growth of the killer weed. Though all the Ghats are used for rituals, Sontirtha Ghat is majorly

Many devotees in line to take holy dip have opined that at least the periphery of the Ghat.
Devotees visiting Triveni Sangam



used for post cremation rituals and to ease public access to the Ghat the Chhattisgarh government has built a cemented staircase here, but due to lack of maintenance and cleanliness, dirt dominates the pathway, leading to both sanitation and environmental concerns. First timers to the Ghat, after facing the situation abstain from more visits.

Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

HEALTHCARE

Sonography machine inaugurated in MCH hospital in Pandaria

PANDRIA: Taking an important step towards strengthening the healthcare facilities in Pandariya-Block, a new sonography machine has been inaugurated at MCH Hospital and with this 3,35,916 people of the entire area will be benefited. Due to lack of sonography facility in the city, the patients had to go out of the city, to private hospitals and this much awaited facility will now provide a big relief to the local people.

Officials of the block have appreciated this initiative and said that this step will help in increasing the reach of health services in rural areas and more facilities will be added in future, so that better health services can be provided to the people. Installation of sonography machine in Pandaria development block is an important step towards improving health services.

OATH

NSS unit administered oath of voting keep the voters aware



KORBA: Under the direction of Collector and District Election Officer Ajit Vasant and guidance of SVEEP Nodal Officer Sambit Mishra is continuously, working to keep the voters aware of their franchise right. In the same series, through the National Service Scheme (NSS) unit of Government Higher Secondary School Lafa of District Panchayat Pali, the villagers were administered an oath of 100 percent voting in the Lok Sabha elections.

From around the region

WR-II IRSM Badminton tourney inaugurated



BILASPUR: Akhilesh Singh, HOP (Lara) kicked off the WR-II IRSM (Badminton) at Lara on 25th April 2024. WR-II (IRSM) is being played at Lara from April 25 to 27. Players from all stations of WR-II are participating in this tournament. At the inaugural programme, Singh administered a sports oath to all players to play with true sports spirit.

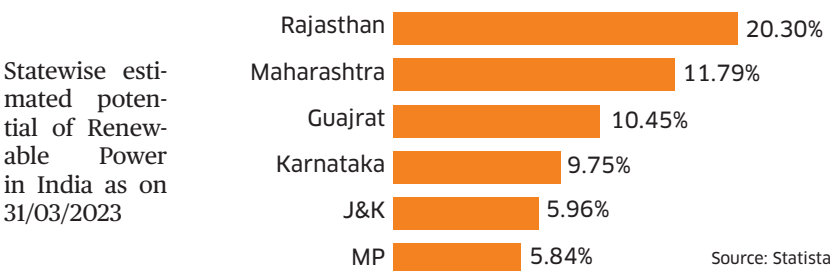
Addressing the gathering he underlined the importance of sports for a healthy life. Singh, along with all GMs, and captains of all partici-

pating teams unveiled the trophy of this tournament. Total 66 employees from , NTPC's Korba, Sipat, Khar-gone, Gadarwara, Lara and Western Region Head quarters are participating in 4 categories, i.e. singles, doubles, mixed doubles and team event.

Among others Smt Sangeeta Singh, President, Prerita Mahila Samiti and office bearers of PMS, Shri Rajeev Ranjan, GM (O&M) Shri Ravi Shankar, GM (Project), Shri Jakir Khan, HOHR, HODs, players and employees were present.

The Day's NUMBERS

WHAT IS THE STATEWISE ESTIMATED POTENTIAL OF RENEWABLE POWER IN INDIA?



FAREWELL

Farewell given to RK Nishad with fanfare on selection in Agniveer

NAWAPARA-RAJIM: Ramesh Kumar Nishad, resident of Somwari Bazar, former NCC student of the prestigious Harihar Government Excellent School of the region and his father Shankar Nishad were bid farewell with much fanfare on Thursday after his selection in Agniveer. It is noteworthy that on the selection of Ramesh Nishad from a very poor family in Agniveer, former councilor Annapurna Devangan, Harihar Shala's exercise teacher SN Devangan and Harihar Shala's NCC cadets, Ratiram, Ghanshyam Sonkar, Amar, Suraj, Kishan, played musical instruments with great fanfare. A large number of local residents including Squirrel, Sagar Yadav bid farewell. Shrinishad was the CHM of NCC while teaching in Harihar School. Srinishad will leave for Hyderabad after his presence in Raipur. Harihar School Principal Mrs. Sandhya Sharma, while congratulating Ramesh Nishad on his selection in Agniveer.

AWARENESS

SVEEP program being run for voter awareness ends with oath



DONGARGAON: The SVEEP program being run for voter awareness in the city was formally concluded here under the direction of District Election Officer and Collector Sanjay Aggarwal and District Panchayat CEO Suruchi Singh. The program was concluded at the local Atmanand School premises, during which a question and answer session was conducted with the officers, employees, BLOs, Anganwadi workers etc. In the program, a dance was presented by Yusuf Yadav on the theme of 'Main Bharat Hoon' which was highly appreciated.

‘Congress planning to take property thru inheritance tax’

Cong specified that by imposing the inheritance tax, they plan to take our forefather’s wealth

Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR/TAMNAR: Recently, Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh, Vishnu Deo Sai organized a huge rally at Raigarh’s Tamnar where he severely criticized Congress’ manifesto and stated that they have clearly specified that by imposing the inheritance tax, they plan to give our forefather’s hard-earned wealth.

India’s former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh had stated that Muslims shall have the first right over all the government resources. Now, the Congress government is bringing the same to life in their manifesto in which they are going to charge a heavy inheritance tax from the people.

This tax states that people will have a 45 per cent share over their ancestors’ property while the remaining 55 per cent will belong to the government. CM Sai has therefore appealed to the public to be wary of such schemes of the Congress.

Furthermore, he also stated that PM Modi has shut down all threats from Pakistan by doing surgical strikes and air strikes that has put Pakistan in its place.



CM Vishnu Deo Sai addressing a gathering in Tamnar of Raigarh district here on Friday.

Adding further, he also stated that the previous Congress government started the PSC scam but now BJP has taken strict actions against this and sent the case to the CBI for further investigation. At first, they requested the CBI to take an active interest in this case and now finally PM Modi has assented to the investigation which is a huge accomplishment for Chhattisgarh. Now no one will be able to play with the futures of the youth.

Society condemns civilian casualties from Maoist IEDs

The All Tribal Society (ATS) has vehemently denounced the spurious arrests being conducted under the guise of the ongoing anti-Naxal operations in the district, demanding an immediate halt to such egregious practices.

Jaggu Ram Telami, the District President, stated that the community has been inundated with

HIGHLIGHT

● These detainees are then subjected to unlawful detention

● ATS demands an immediate halt to such egregious practices

grievances of individuals being apprehended from rural locales, markets,

fairs, and jungles, only to be falsely labeled as Maoists. These detainees are then subjected to unlawful detention spanning 10 to 15 days under the pretense of interrogation at undisclosed locations. Disturbingly, even students returning from residential schools have not been spared, branded as Maoists upon reaching their homes.

Participate in election work with due sincerity: Meena

Central Chronicle News

Observer P S Meena said that the objective of the Election Commission of India is to conduct the election process in a fair, transparent and peaceful manner.

IKORBA: To conduct the Lok Sabha Elections 2024 safely and transparently, the micro observers appointed for the election work were trained by Master Trainer Dr. M. Joshi in the presence of General Observer Prem Singh Meena and Collector and District Election Officer Ajit Vasant. In the training, micro observers were given detailed information about the elections and they were instructed to discharge their responsibilities sincerely for the smooth conduct of the election work. Chief Executive Officer, District Panchayat Sambit Mishra, Municipal Commissioner Pratishtha Mamgai along with other officers, employees and micro observers were present.

On this occasion, Observer P S Meena said that the objective of the Election Commission of India is to conduct the election process in a fair, transparent and peaceful manner. Collector Mr Vasant said that it is a matter of great pride

to participate in election work and under the Lok Sabha elections 2024; the entire responsibility of conducting the elections in Korba Assembly of the district has been handed over to the women polling personnel. Micro observer duty has been imposed for more than 70 sensitive polling booths identified in the district, which includes 61 polling stations of Korba Assembly. Only female micro observers

FASTFACTS

● During the training, district level master trainer Dr. M.M. Joshi gave detailed information about the work done by micro observers

● The centre has to observe how many voters voted from the Voter ID card and how many voters voted from the ASD list

have been appointed in these polling stations and encouraging the female micro observer, the Collector said that your job is to micro monitor the voting process and on the day of voting, the entire process of voting including the mock poll to be conducted in the polling booth in the morning has to be closely observed.

NEWSLINE

SCHOOL RESULTS

100% result for Elysium School’s annual exams



KHAIRAGRH: The annual examination result of Elysium School was declared in the chief hospitality of GIMP Chairman Viplav Sahu, which has come to a 100 percent. The program was presided over by Dr. Arun Bhardwaj, Director of the institution, and throwing light on education, Chief Guest Viplav Sahu said that education is the mantra which helps in erasing all our doubts and fears about all the challenges and joys of our life and is the device which makes us happy and peaceful and also makes us a better social human being. Program Chairman Dr. Arun Bhardwaj said that there is no need to be disappointed that not everyone’s marks are equal; it is a lesson in better preparation which ensures further success.

VOTER SLIPS

Voter slips being distributed from door-to-door

KOREA: Door-to-door distribution of voter slips and guide books is being done rapidly by the BLOs of the polling centres set up in Baikunthpur and Sonhat (partial) development blocks so that voters can reach their nearest polling center and vote on May 7. Apart from EPIC card, there will be facility to vote with 12 other identity cards and as per the instructions of the Election Commission of India, under the Lok Sabha Elections 2024, by issuing guidelines to help the voters in voting, any voter can vote by presenting these 12 types of identity cards at their respective polling stations, which includes Aadhar Card, MNREGA Job Card, Passbook with photo issued by Bank or Post Office.

BIKE RALLY

SVEEP Bike Rally on April 27

KORBA: In order to create awareness among the voters for the Lok Sabha polls 2024, a district-level SVEEP Bike rally will be organised on April 27. In this rally, the employees of all the departments will be present and in this helmet is compulsory. In the same way on April 28, Cycle rally, ‘Divyang’ rally, ‘nav-vadhu sammelan’ awareness programme’, and ‘nukkad natak’, ‘rally’ and messages and flagship programmes will be organised to create awareness programme among school/college students, NCC/NSS and Scouts & Guide. The Cycle Rally on April 28 will be taken out from Collectorate gate to CSEB ground from 5:00 pm and all participants will have to bring their cycles. Divyang Rally will be organised from 5:30 pm and it will be from CSEB football ground to CSEB Chowk and back to the ground.

Victim of road accident on duty receive compensation

Central Chronicle News

Collector and DRO Verma on reaching the house of the deceased in Gram Pendarwani, handed over the cheque of this amount to wife of the deceased.

KHAIRAGARH: Under guidance of Chief Election Officer (CEO) Chhattisgarh Reena Baba Saheb Kangale and Addl. CEO Nilesh Kumar Mahadev Kshirsagar and promptness on part of Collector and DRO Chandrakant Verma, the LB lecturer Vijay Lal Rajak who met with an accident on his return after training on election duty and died has received a compensation amount of Rs 15 lakh. Collector and DRO Verma on reaching the house of the deceased in Gram Pendarwani, handed over the cheque

of this amount to wife of the deceased Poornima Rajak. It is notable here that a LB lecturer Vijay Lal Rajak, R/o Gram Pendarwani, was handed over the job of Presiding officer (POs) for LS polls 2024.

For this a training for PO’s was organised on April 14 at Govt Girl’s HS School Khairagarh and after obtaining training he was returning home. Mid-way anear Garm Chaknar, at around 6:30 pm, he was hit by an unknown vehicle and he died on the spot.

In this regard, Tehsildar Gandai, made a detailed report of payment of ‘Anurgrah Rashi’ as compensation amount of Rs 15 lakh to his family members. It was on submission of all the documents and verifying about the incident that his compensation amount was paid to him.

Convenience centre formed for postal ballot

KORBA: All the officers and employees who have been deployed for general election under Korba Lok Sabha area No 04, the convenience centre have been formed so that they can cast their votes and for the absence category, essential services voters also convenience voters have been established. Under this the members of Security Force and Home Guards can cast their votes on April 29 and 30 at District Panchayat Resource Centre premises Korba and polling team officials and the applicants from other districts with postal ballot, vehicle drivers can cast their votes at the convenience centre from May 1 to 6; absence category essential services voters cast their votes from May 1-3 from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. In the same way the security force and Home Guards can cast their votes at Govt Mukutdhar Pandey College Katghora.

Central Chronicle News

As part of this drive, awareness programs are being conducted across various regions of the state to stop child marriages.

BIJAPUR: Under the directives of Collector Anurag Pandey and guidance of the District Program Officer of the Women and Child Development Department, a fortnight-long campaign is being organized in the district from April 25 to May 10, coinciding with the Akshaya Tritiya festival, to prevent child marriages and safeguard children’s rights. As part of this drive, awareness programs are being conducted across various regions of the state to stop child marriages. With the same objective, the

AWARENESS FORTNIGHT

Child marriage prevention awareness prog till May 10



Women and Child Development Department, a fortnight-long campaign is being organized.

FASTFACTS

● The efforts to make Bijapur district child marriage-free are being supported as a positive message

● Any information related to child marriage can be immediately reported to W&CDD

Akshaya Tritiya Hindu festival, which has been celebrated for centuries and on this day, there is a high likelihood of child marriages taking place, the efforts to make Bijapur district child marriage-free are being supported as a positive message. During the fortnight, rallies, wall painting, awareness drives by volunteers at crowded places like markets will be carried

out to educate people about the ill-effects of child marriage. Child marriage is a major issue for society as it not only violates children’s rights but also disrupts the collective development of the community.

On the first day of the fortnight, efforts are being made through wall writings so that child marriage can be completely eliminated

CONFERENCE

Ch’garh’s Culture: A flag bearer of continuous devp: Prof Chakrawal

Central Chronicle News

BILASPUR: The inauguration of a two-day National Conference organized under the joint auspices of the Hindi Department and the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR), New Delhi, under the auspices of the School of Arts of Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya (a Central University), took place at 10.00 a.m. on April 25, 2024, at 10 a.m. in the Rajat Jayanti Sabhagar.

During the inaugural program, the Chief Patron of the Conference and the Honorable Vice-Chancellor of the University, Professor Alok Kumar Chakrawal, stated that art is the essence of living. Those who recognize this fact attain self-awareness and liberation. Art plays a vital role in expressing an individual’s perspective. He said that art is the best investment in the world. He mentioned that Chhattisgarh’s culture conveys



a message of continuous development to the world. Professor Chakrawal stated that while being ancient, Chhattisgarh’s

art and culture have also witnessed and responded to the developments of changing times. Bastar’s art, culinary diversity, folk

art, and literature, along with the simplicity of life, establish it as a distinct entity in the entire nation. He emphasized that the youth should know and understand Chhattisgarh’s forest beauty, architecture, and joyous atmosphere. Professor Chakrawal also stressed upon the inclusivity aspect of education ingrained in the National Education Policy-2020.

Prof. Pawan Sudhir from NCERT, New Delhi, addressed the program,

Youth should know and understand Ch’garh’s forest beauty, architecture, and joyous atmosphere

Prof. AK Chakawal
V-C- GGU, Bilaspur

stating that this university established in the name of Baba Guru Ghasidas Ji is like an ashram where education is being spread in a holistic manner. Describing the topic of the workshop, she said that this workshop is not only for participants associated with arts and social sciences but also useful for youth associated with information, technology, and science to understand the internal relationship of art and culture.



QUOTE FROM THE QUOTABLE

Take risks in your life. If you win, you can lead; if you lose, you can guide.

[Swami Vivekananda]

| OUR VIEW |

Supreme Court’s Key Edicts on EVM Protocol and Oversight

In a pivotal juncture coinciding with the second phase of the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, the Supreme Court has bolstered the credibility of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) while deliberating on petitions advocating comprehensive verification processes through Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT). Emphasizing meticulous scrutiny of protocols and technical facets, Justices Dipankar Datta and Sanjiv Khanna dismissed pleas advocating 100% verification via VVPAT, cautioning against unfounded skepticism that could breed unnecessary doubts. The bench rebuffed proposals to revert to paper ballots, reaffirming trust in the existing electoral framework. Despite rejecting the plea for universal VVPAT scrutiny, the apex court issued two notable directives to the Election Commission. Firstly, it mandated the sealing and preservation of Symbol Loading Units (SLUs) for a minimum of 45 days following the symbol loading process. This stringent measure aims to safeguard the integrity of the electoral process by ensuring the traceability of symbols loaded into EVMs. Furthermore, the court stipulated a post-declaration verification protocol for EVM microcontroller memory, contingent upon candidate requests within seven days of results. Candidates assuming second and third positions in the election can avail themselves of this option, albeit bearing the associated expenses, with reimbursement contingent upon evidence of tampering. Additionally, the Supreme Court recommended exploring the feasibility of employing dedicated machines for VVPAT slip tabulation, augmenting the existing validation mechanism. Currently, random sampling of VVPAT slips from five EVMs per Assembly segment serves as a supplementary validation measure, bolstering electoral transparency. During proceedings, the Election Commission elucidated the technical intricacies of VVPAT systems, elucidating the immutable nature of one-time programmable microchips and the standalone nature of EVMs devoid of external connectivity.

| GUEST VIEW |

Safeguarding Public Health from Ethylene Oxide Threat

The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)’s decision to conduct thorough investigations into spice brands following a complaint from Hong Kong’s food regulator is a commendable step towards ensuring public health and safety. Ethylene oxide, the pesticide under scrutiny, poses significant health risks, being classified as a Group 1 carcinogen by the International Agency for Research on Cancer. This colorless, combustible, and reactive gas is not only carcinogenic but also has the potential to destroy bacteria, fungi, and viruses. Exposure to ethylene oxide can lead to various health issues, including shortness of breath, headache, nausea, diarrhea, and respiratory disorders. The European Union’s ban on the use of ethylene oxide for food and animal feed fumigation underscores the seriousness of this issue. While it is still permitted for medical device disinfection, its use in food products is highly regulated due to its hazardous nature. Consumers rightfully expect assurances regarding the quality and safety of the products they purchase. Therefore, it is imperative that thorough investigations are carried out to detect any traces of ethylene oxide in spices before they are launched into the market.



Arka Goswami

Comment

Testing time for Election Commission to prove its neutrality

In the throes of India’s democratic process, where every election is a testament to the nation’s commitment to its foundational principles, the neutrality of the Election Commission stands as a bedrock of integrity. Yet, as the 2024 Lok Sabha Polls unfold, it’s becoming increasingly evident that this neutrality is under scrutiny. The current electoral climate is rife with divisive rhetoric, veering away from substantive issues towards polarizing narratives aimed at garnering votes. In such a pivotal moment, it’s imperative for the Election Commission to assert its impartiality and uphold the sanctity of the democratic process. The essence of democracy lies in fair and free elections, where every citizen’s voice holds equal weight. However, the recent trajectory of political discourse has strayed far from this ideal. Rather than engaging in meaningful dialogue on development and governance, parties have resorted to exploiting religious sentiments and identity politics to sway voters.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s recent remarks, laden with divisive undertones, serve as a stark reminder of the dangers posed by such rhetoric. By targeting specific communities and employing fear-mongering tactics, these statements not only undermine the spirit of democracy but also sow seeds of discord within society. The Election Commission’s response to such transgressions will be a litmus test of its commitment to neutrality. The principles enshrined in Section 123 of the Representation of People’s Act, 1951, explicitly prohibit electoral appeals based on religion, caste, or community. In light of this, the Commission must demonstrate its resolve to uphold these principles by taking swift and decisive action against any violations. Failure to do so would not only erode public trust in the electoral process but also embolden further attempts to subvert it for narrow political gains. Moreover, the Commission must rise above partisan



Yash Pal Ralhan

The author is an icon for PwD nominated by election commission Chandigarh.

pressures and ensure a level playing field for all parties. The recent shift in campaign agendas, from development to emotive issues, underscores the need for a vigilant watchdog that remains steadfast in its commitment to fairness. Whether it’s addressing inflammatory speeches or curbing the spread of misinformation, the Commission must act as a bulwark against any attempts to derail the electoral process. At the heart of this debate lies the question of inclusivity and social cohesion. In a diverse nation like India, where pluralism is not just a virtue but a way of life, the role of the Election Commission becomes even more critical. By upholding the principles of secularism and equality, the Commission can ensure that every citizen, regardless of their background, feels valued and represented in the democratic process. In this regard, the recent controversy surrounding Sam Pitroda’s comments on inheritance tax serves as a reminder of the need to focus on sub-

stantive issues rather than tangential debates. While discussions on policy matters are essential for informed decision-making, they should not detract from the larger goal of strengthening democracy. The Commission must therefore prioritize issues that have a direct bearing on the welfare of the electorate, steering clear of distractions that serve no constructive purpose. As the nation prepares for the remaining phases of the Lok Sabha Polls, the eyes of the world are on the Election Commission. Its ability to navigate through the turbulent waters of electoral politics while staying true to its mandate will define the credibility of India’s democratic institutions. Now more than ever, it is incumbent upon the Commission to rise above partisan interests and uphold the principles of democracy with unwavering resolve. In conclusion, the forthcoming decisions of the Election Commission will shape the course of India’s democratic journey for years to come.

Heavy Dubai Rain Linked to Climate Change

Circumstantial evidence suggests climate change worsened recent deadly downpours in Dubai. 10-40% more rain fell due to 1.2°C warming. By Seth Borensteinap



Dubai’s floods were made worse by climate change. | Photo: AP

Circumstantial evidence points to climate change as worsening the deadly deluge that just flooded Dubai and other parts of the Persian Gulf, but scientists didn’t discover the definitive fingerprints of greenhouse gas-triggered warming they have seen in other extreme weather events, a new report found. Between 10 per cent and 40 per cent more rain fell in just one day last week – killing at least two dozen people in the United Arab Emirates, Oman and parts of Saudi Arabia – than it would have in a world without the 1.2 degrees Celsius (2.2 degrees Fahrenheit) warming that has come from the burning of coal, oil and natural gas since the mid-19th century, scientists at World Weather Attribution said Thursday in a flash study that is too new to be peer-reviewed. In at least one spot, a record 11 inches (28.6 centimeters) of rain fell in just 24 hours, more than twice the yearly average, paralysing the usually bustling city of skyscrapers in a desert. One of the key tools in WWA’s more than 60 past reports has been creating computer simulations that compare an actual weather event to a fictional world without climate change, but in the Dubai

case there wasn’t enough data for those simulations to make such a calculation. But analysis of decades of past observations, the other main tool they use, showed the 10 per cent to 40 per cent bump in rainfall amounts. Even without computer simulations, the clues kept pointing at climate change, scientists said. “It’s not such a clear fingerprint, but we have lots of other circumstantial evidence, other lines of evidence that tell us that we see this increase,” said Imperial College of London climate scientist Friederike Otto, who coordinates the attribution study team. “It’s what we expect from physics. It’s what we expect from other studies that have been done in the area, from other studies around the world, and there’s nothing else that’s going on that could explain this increase.” There is a long-known effect in physics that finds the air holds 7 per cent more moisture with every degree Celsius (4 per cent for every degree Fahr-

enheit). Otto said she has confidence in the conclusion, but said this was one of the harder attribution studies the team has undertaken. El Nino, which is a natural occasional warming of the central Pacific that changes weather systems worldwide, was a big factor, the report said. These heavy Gulf downpours have happened in the past but only during an El Nino. And the researchers said those past deluges seem to be trending heavier – something scientists have long said would

happen in many parts of the world as the world warms. This flooding, which came from two separate and near simultaneous storm systems, would not have happened without El Nino, said study co-author Mansour Almazroui of the Centre of Excellence for Climate Change Research (CECCR), King Abdulaziz University in Saudi Arabia. Nor would it have been like this without human-caused climate change, Otto added. Because rainfall amounts varied over the region and the lack of data, the report couldn’t put a figure on if climate change had increased the likelihood of downpours like this in Dubai, but Otto estimated that it’s probably about three times more likely to happen now than in pre-industrial times. The report and its authors threw cold water on speculation that UAE cloud seeding had anything to do with the amount of rain or its likelihood. Many scientists dispute cloud seeding’s effectiveness in general. Even so, the clouds in the storm system were not seeded, the report said. And the results of cloud seeding, if any, in general are more immediate, Otto said. And this storm was forecast days in advance.

YOUR LETTERS

Deceptive Ads exploit consumers

Misleading advertisements deceive consumers into purchasing substandard products, often endorsed by celebrities, while regulatory oversight remains inadequate. Despite scrutiny, offenders face minimal penalties. The Supreme Court’s call for accountability extends to the Indian Medical Association, urging caution in endorsing expensive brand-name medications. To protect consumers, stringent regulations and responsible advertising practices are imperative. Manufacturers must be held accountable for misleading promotions.

Rakesh Gupta, Korba

EVM confidence boost

The Supreme Court, while hearing a plea for 100% matching of EVM votes with VVPAT slips, assured consideration of strengthening the EVM system. Rejecting a return to paper ballots, the Court dismissed hacking concerns as mere suspicion. With no hacking incidents, trust in the machines is crucial. Hopefully, SC directions will resolve EVM controversies. Whether parties will refrain from blaming EVMs in defeat remains uncertain. Trust in EVMs is paramount for democratic integrity.

MK Nair, Raipur

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



Radisson Hotel Group
strengthens footprint in
Delhi

ONIKHIIL SHARMA,
Radisson Hotel Group MD and
Area Senior VP, South Asia,

BizBriefs
BEST OF THE REST

ENTRANCE EXAMINATION

VITEEE begins in
125 cities in India and
6 cities abroad

VELLORE: The VIT Engineering Entrance Exam (VITEEE), the entrance examination conducted by Vellore Institute of Technology (VIT) for admission to B.Tech. programmes of VIT Group of Institutions–VIT-Vellore, VIT-Chennai, VIT-AP (Amaravati) and VIT-Bhopal, is scheduled from April 19th to 30th, 2024 as Proctored Computer Based Test at 125 cities in India and six cities abroad - Dubai, Muscat, Qatar, Kuwait, Singapore and Kuala Lumpur.

The results will be available tentatively on May 3rd, 2024 in www.vit.ac.in and on the same day online counselling process will begin. Applicants within 1 lakh ranks are eligible to participate in the counselling for admission to B. Tech. programmes of all campuses of VIT–Vellore, Chennai, VIT-AP and VIT-Bhopal. Applicants of ranks above 1 lakh are eligible only for VIT-AP and VIT-Bhopal. **PTI**

INDICATORS

Share MARKETS

Market	Close	%chg
Sensex:	73,730.16	-0.82
Nifty:	22,419.95	-0.67
Nifty Midcap:	50,624.10	+0.79
Nifty Smallcap:	16,981.30	+0.56
Nifty Bank:	48,201.05	-0.61

Closing rates as on Apr 26, 2024 at 5:30p.m. (IST)

Forex RATES

Foreign currency Vs Rupee

US Dollar	83.33	
Euro	89.28	
Chinese Yuan	11.50	
UAE Dirham	22.69	
Pakistan Rupee	0.30	
Sri Lanka Rupee	0.28	

On Apr 26, 2024

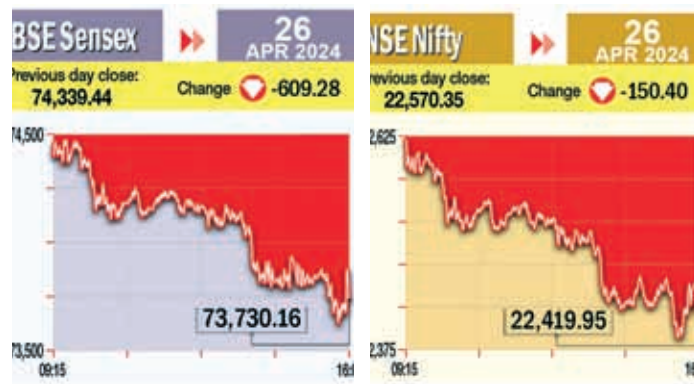
World INDICES

Stock	Value	% chg
Dow Jones:	38,248.95	+0.43%
FTSE 100 Index:	8,129.94	+0.63%
Nikkei 225:	37,934.76	+0.81%
CSI 300:	3,584.27	+1.53%

Index at 05:30 p.m. (IST, Apr 26, 2024)

How markets behaved today

Markets snap five-day rally;
Sensex tumbles over 600 pts



MUMBAI: Market benchmarks Sensex and Nifty wilted under selling pressure on Friday after a five-day rally as investors pared exposure to banking, financial and consumer durable stocks amid mixed trends in global markets. Rising global crude prices, a depreciating rupee and persistent foreign fund outflows further weighed on sentiment, traders said.

Profit-taking also came into play as the 30-share BSE Sensex tanked 609.28 points or 0.82 per cent to settle at 73,730.16. During the day, it lost 722.79 points or 0.97 per cent

to 73,616.65. The NSE Nifty declined 150.40 points or 0.67 per cent to 22,419.95. Bajaj Finance was the biggest drag on the Sensex chart, skidding nearly 8 per cent after the company's March quarter earnings failed to cheer investors. European markets were trading in the green. Wall Street ended lower on Thursday.

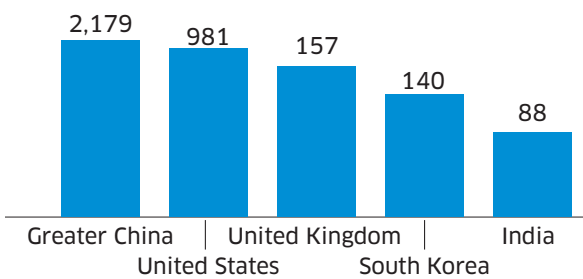
Major Gainers: Wipro, ITC, UltraTech Cement, Titan and Axis Bank
Major Losers: Bajaj Finserv, IndusInd Bank, Nestle, Kotak Mahindra Bank and M&M **PTI**

The Day's
NUMBERS

Revenues in the
e-commerce segment
by the country 2023
(in billion US dollars)

Source: Statista

GLOBAL E-COMMERCE
MARKET



CORPORATE
KTM CUP Season 2
ignites with North Zone
qualifiers in Delhi

NEW DELHI: Following an exhilarating debut in Coimbatore with 240+ participants in KTM CUP S2, KTM India celebrated another success in Delhi on Sunday, April 14, 2024. Renowned as the world's leading sports motorcycle brand, KTM concluded the KTM CUP S2 selection round, India's largest racing championship, in the heart of India's motorsport scene. The North Zone qualifiers were held at Kartomania, Gurgaon over a period of two days. A high-adrenaline event, the North Zone qualifier of KTM CUP Season 2 witnessed outstanding riders engaging in intense competitive high-speed battles across the Pro, Amateur, and Women's divisions embodying the 'Ready to Race' philosophy of the KTM. Speaking on occasion, Mr. Sumeet Narang, President (Pro-biking) at Bajaj Auto Ltd., said, "Following the roaring success in Coimbatore, we add another feather to our caps. Season 2 of the KTM CUP witnesses participants demonstrating competitive spirit and adrenaline-fueled sportsmanship. **PTI**

NIFTY LEVEL
Nifty likely to reach
25, 810 by 2024-end:
Prabhudas Lilladher



NEW DELHI: The NSE benchmark Nifty is likely to reach the 25,800 level by December 2024 as stable economic policies and normal monsoon will boost demand growth, Prabhudas Lilladher said in a report on Thursday. The index is currently trading at 22,570.35 level. Going by the prediction of Prabhudas Lilladher, the Nifty is expected to climb another 3,239.65 points or 14.35 per cent from its current level by December-end this year. Amnish Agarwal, Head of Institutional Research, Prabhudas Lilladher, said the Nifty is expected to scale up to 25,810 levels by December 2024. **PTI**



Dish TV India Limited CEO Manoj Dobhal during the launch of 'Dish TV Smart+' services, in Kolkata, Wednesday, April 24. | Photo: PTI

Deloitte projects India's FY25
GDP growth at 6.6 per cent

Deloitte said the rapid growth of the middle-income class has led to rising purchasing power and even created demand for premium luxury products and services.

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Deloitte India on Friday said it estimates India's GDP growth at 6.6 per cent in the current fiscal helped by consumption expenditure, exports rebound and capital flows. In its India's economic outlook report, Deloitte said the rapid growth of the middle-income class has led to rising purchasing power and even created

demand for premium luxury products and services. With the expectation that the number of middle-to-high-income segments will be one in two households by 2030/31, up from one in four currently, we believe this trend will likely become further amplified, driving overall private consumer expenditure growth, it said. Deloitte has revised India's economic growth

NUMBER

7.6%

● Deloitte has revised India's economic growth prediction for last fiscal to a range of 7.6 to 7.8 per cent

● we believe this trend will likely become further amplified, driving overall private

prediction for last fiscal to a range of 7.6 to 7.8 per cent. In January, the firm had projected growth for 2023-24 fiscal in the range of 6.9-7.2 per cent. The country's GDP growth is estimated to reach around 6.6 per cent in FY 2024-25 and 6.75 per cent in the year after, as markets learn to factor in geopolitical uncertainties in their investment and consumption decisions, Deloitte said in its quar-

terly update to its economic outlook. "The global economy is expected to witness a synchronous rebound in 2025 as major election uncertainties get sorted out and the central banks of the West may announce a couple of rate cuts later in 2024. India will likely see improved capital flows and a rebound in exports" said Deloitte India Economist Rumki Majumdar.

AKSHAYA TRITIYA CELEBRATIONS

Reliance Jewels unveils
Vindhya Collection

Agencies

Ninth in its iconic 'Jewels of India' collection series, Vindhya is inspired by the rich artistic traditions of Madhya Pradesh.

MUMBAI: Reliance Jewels, India's leading jewellery brand, continues its tradition of celebrating festivals with unique and exquisite collections, by introducing the Vindhya collection on Akshaya Tritiya this year. Ninth in its iconic 'Jewels of India' collection series, Vindhya is inspired by the rich artistic traditions of Madhya Pradesh. Fashion icon and Bollywood diva Disha Patani unveiled the exclusive festive collection at a special event at the Reliance Jewels' store in Varanasi. Akshaya Tritiya, an auspicious festival signifying prosperity and abundance



Bollywood diva Disha Patani unveiled the new jewellery collection | Photo: PTI

FACTFILE

● Crafted with precision, the Vindhya collection offers a diverse range of jewellery pieces

● 2. Vindhya collection marks the latest addition to Reliance Jewels' extraordinary series 'Jewels of India'

ein the Hindu culture, is considered to be the perfect occasion for buying jewellery. Celebrating the occasion, the Reliance Jewels Vindhya Collection offers a stunning array of jewellery pieces that pay tribute to the rich cultural heritage and architectural splendour of Madhya Pradesh. Commenting on the launch, Mr. Sunil Nayak, CEO,

Reliance Jewels, said, "The launch of the Vindhya Collection this Akshaya Tritiya marks our commitment to celebrating India's diverse cultural heritage. Inspired by the rich traditions of Madhya Pradesh, this collection is the ninth in our 'Jewels of India' series and stands as our testament to showcasing Indian art and craftsmanship."

NEW LAUNCH

Realme announced launch of NARZO 70 Series 5G

Agencies

NEW DELHI: Realme, the most reliable smartphone service provider, announced the launch of realme NARZO 70 Series 5G, the newest addition to the realme NARZO lineup. The series unveiled two breakthrough smartphones: realme NARZO 70x 5G & realme NARZO 70 5G.

realme NARZO series is a stylish line of smartphones that delivers a comprehensive user experience.

The realme NARZO 70x 5G houses a massive 5000mAh Battery and supports a 45W SUPERVOOC Charge, allowing for quick charging and long-lasting battery life. The phone's aesthetic appeal is heightened by



the Segment's Thinnest 7.69mm Ultra-slim Horizon Design and a light body weighing just 188g.

The realme NARZO 70x 5G is available in two stunning colors: Misty Forest Green and Snow Mountain Blue and two storage variants: 4GB+128GB, priced at Rs 11,999, and 6GB + 128GB, priced at Rs 13,499.



Supreme Court judgment on Electronic Voting Machines was a “tight slap” to the Congress-led opposition.

Narendra Modi
Prime Minister

Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

CRIME

Four get life imprisonment for murder of cable operator

THANE: A court in Maharashtra's Thane district has sentenced four persons, including two women, to life imprisonment for the murder of a local cable operator over money more than a decade ago.

In his order, Additional Sessions Judge (Kalyan) RG Waghmare also fined three of the four convicts Rs 25,000 each and one Rs 30,000. A copy of the operative order dated April 23 was made available on Thursday. During the trial, Additional Public Prosecutor Sanjay Gosavi told the court that a cable operator named Raja, alias Bhagwan Ochani, had lent Rs 10 lakh to two women and was demanding his money back.

In 2013, the two women hired two men and got Ochani killed after calling him to their place under the pretext of discussing the money matter.

J-K'S BARAMULLA

2 terrorists dead, 2 Army personnel injured as gunbattle resumes



SRINAGAR: Two terrorists were killed while as many Army personnel got injured on Friday as a gunbattle between the militants and security forces continued for the second day in Jammu and Kashmir's Baramulla district, officials said. The encounter began on Thursday at Check Mohalla Nowpora in the Sopore area of north Kashmir. After the night's lull, a fresh exchange of firing took place on Friday morning, they said.

From around the web on India

Churches in Kerala urge people to vote for those supporting secularism and democracy



THIRUVANANTHAPURAM/KOCHI: Various church factions in Kerala on Friday urged the people to go and vote for those supporting secularism and democracy in the general elections in the southern state.

Archbishop Raphael Thattil of the influential Syro-Malabar Church, after casting his vote, said the church wants everyone to live peacefully in the country. Malankara Orthodox Syrian church head Baselios Marthoma Mathews III said the elections will help elect a new government for the betterment of the country.

Thrissur Archbishop and CBCI president Archbishop Andrews Thazhath

said he was devastated after witnessing the situation in Manipur and said people will vote for those who support secularism and democracy.

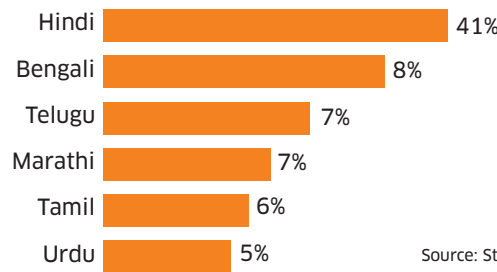
“We are hurt when we see others get hurt. I saw the situation in Manipur. I saw the situation faced by the people there. I have personally asked the government and the union home minister to intervene in the matter,” Thazhath told the media.

He urged the people to vote for those who support secularism and democracy in the country.

The influential Latin church said people were excited to exercise their right to vote in Kerala.

The Day's NUMBERS

KEY LANGUAGES AND PERCENTAGE OF SPEAKERS IN INDIA



Source: Statista

HARYANA

Man hit by a jeep, dragged for 50 meters in Rewari

REWARI: A man trying to stop his friend from being thrashed by a group of men was allegedly hit by a jeep driven by them and dragged for 50 meters, police said on Friday.

The incident occurred around 2.30 pm on Thursday when Shubham along with his friend Vedpal and Dharmender was sitting at a car service station in Kund, police said.

According to the complaint filed by Dharmender, around 10 people, in a Bolero Camper Jeep came and thrashed Shubham with sticks. When he and his friend Vedant intervened, they beat them up as well.

“After this, the main accused Harendar, a resident of Ateli Begpur village drove his vehicle and hit us, intending to kill us,” Dharmender alleged in his complaint. During the incident, Vedpal was allegedly dragged for about 50 meters by the vehicle. The crowd nearby tried to chase the accused, but they managed to flee, he said.

EXCISE POLICY CASE

Court extends judicial custody of Manish Sisodia, others till May 8



NEW DELHI: A court here on Friday extended the judicial custody of AAP leader Manish Sisodia, co-accused Vijay Nair and others till May 8 in a money laundering case related to the alleged Delhi excise policy scam.

The accused persons were produced before Special Judge Kaveri Baweja through video conferencing on the expiry of their judicial custody granted earlier. The judge also directed the Enforcement Directorate (ED) to submit a report on how much time it was likely to take to digitize the documents related to the charge sheet.



A student takes part in a voters' awareness campaign in Thane, Friday.

SC to consider listing plea of Delhi govt against central law

A bench was urged by advocate Abhishek Singhvi, appearing for AAP government, that the whole administration has come to a standstill and the matter needed to be heard.

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Friday told the Delhi government that it would consider listing its plea challenging the central government's law establishing pre-eminence of the lieutenant governor over the elected dispensation in controlling services in the national capital.

The CJI said presently a nine-judge bench matter is going on and he will consider the submission.

Presently, the nine-judge bench headed by the CJI is hearing petitions raising a vexed legal question whether private properties can be consid-

ered “material resources of the community” under Article 39(b) of the Constitution, which is a part of the Directive Principles of State Policy.

Amending the petition became necessary after the ordinance was replaced by a law.

It had taken note of the submissions of Singhvi that earlier the challenge was directed against the ordinance which later became a law after it was cleared by the two Houses of Parliament and got presidential assent.

Parliament cleared the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Bill 2023, also known as the

HIGHLIGHT

● **CJI-led bench had permitted the Delhi government to amend its petition challenging the central government's ordinance establishing pre-eminence of the lieutenant governor over the elected dispensation in controlling services.**

Delhi Services Bill, that gave the lieutenant governor sweeping control over service matters. After the president gave her assent, the bill became a law.

The top court had

earlier referred to a five-judge Constitution bench the Delhi government's plea challenging the Centre's May 19 ordinance which took away the control over services from the city dispensation and set off a fresh tussle between the two power centres.

The Centre had on May 19 last year promulgated the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Ordinance, 2023 to create an authority for transfer and posting of Group-A officers in Delhi.

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government termed it a “deception” with the Supreme Court

verdict on control of services. The matter is still pending in the Supreme Court.

Before the ordinance was promulgated, a five-judge Constitution bench headed by the Chief Justice, in a unanimous verdict, had sought to put an end to the eight-year-old dispute between the Centre and the Delhi government triggered by a 2015 home ministry notification asserting its control over services, holding the National Capital Territory administration is unlike other union territories and has been accorded a ‘sui generis’ (unique) status by the Constitution.

| FIRING OUTSIDE SALMAN'S RESIDENCE |

2 men nabbed from Punjab sent to police custody

Press Trust Of India

The crime branch on Thursday arrested the duo, who had allegedly provided weapons and cartridges to the shooters, from Punjab.

MUMBAI: A Mumbai court on Friday remanded to police custody till April 30 two men arrested from Punjab in connection with the firing outside Bollywood superstar Salman Khan's residence in Bandra.

The police informed the court that the accused were key persons in the crime and were arrested based on technical evidence. They need to be interrogated to find out who supplied them with weapons and



Subhash Chander (37) and Anuj Thapan (32) were produced before a magistrate's court.

FACTFILE

● **Gupta and Pal allegedly fired outside 58-year-old Khan's house at the Galaxy Apartment in Bandra in the early hours of April 14**

asked them to give the same to the two shooters arrested earlier, police said.

The police have alleged that Chander and Thapan had come to Panvel (in Raigad district near Mumbai) on

March 15 to hand over two country-made pistols and 38 live rounds to the shooters Sagar Pal and Vicky Gupta. The court on Thursday remanded Pal (21) and Gupta (24) to police custody till April 29.

| COASTAL ROAD |

Girder connecting coastal road and sea link installed

Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI: The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) successfully launched a massive 25,000-ton girder connecting the south-bound corridor of the coastal road to the Bandra Worli Sea Link in the early hours of Friday, the civic body said.

In a release, the BMC

said that the process to launch the bow-string-arch-type girder, spanning 136 metres, at Worli, started at 2 am and was completed at 3.25 am.

According to the civic body, the engineering feat is the first in India to involve such installation in the sea.

The girder, which is 18 to 21 metres wide, will connect the 10.5-kilome-

Another 143-meter long, 26-29 meter wide girder of the coastal road's northbound corridor has also reached Nhava Sheva port and its launch is planned for May-end.



tre stretch of the coastal road to the Bandra-Worli sea link.

The southbound corridor of the coastal road between Worli and Marine Lines was opened for traffic but had not been connected with the sea link. “Another 143-meter long, 26-29 meter wide girder of the coastal road's northbound corridor has also reached.

People are so harsh towards women over 40. They don't know anything about women over 40. They don't know what happens to our bodies, they don't know much about menopause.

Kalki Koechlin
Actress



& Finally

CLOSE UP

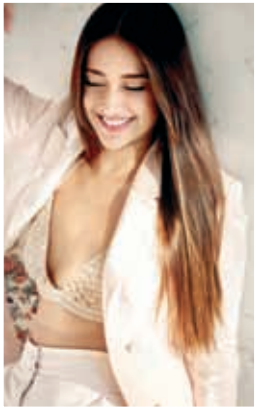
Selective choices: Ileana D'Cruz on returning to work amidst personal challenges

Actress Ileana D'Cruz, known for her role in "Do Aur Do Pyaar," recently shared her experience of returning to work after welcoming her baby.

Central Chronicle News

Ileana D'Cruz, made a successful comeback after a hiatus for motherhood with recent releases like "Do Aur Do Pyaar."

Fans rejoiced when Ileana D'Cruz returned to the silver screen after a hiatus following her 2019 film "Pagalpanti." With her recent releases "Tera Kya Hoga Lovely" and "Do Aur Do Pyaar," she's once again captivating audiences with her talent and charm. In a recent interview, Ileana shared the reasons behind her break from cinema, citing a combination of lockdowns and the joyous arrival of her baby. Despite her absence from the big screen, she stayed active in the entertainment world, starring in "The Big Bull" and filming a web series, until her pregnancy in 2023 temporarily paused her career plans. Returning to films wasn't without its challenges, especially for her role in "Do Aur Do Pyaar," where she wasn't in the best physical shape.



Ileana shines in her portrayal of a relatable character balancing motherhood and her career, reflects her dedication to both aspects of her life



Ileana embraced her role wholeheartedly. Ileana made her return with multi starter project: Released on April 19, 2024, "Do Aur Do Pyaar" is a delightful romantic comedy that not only showcases Ileana's talent but also explores the complexities of married life. Alongside Vidya Balan,

Pratik Gandhi, and Sendhil Ramamurthy, Ileana shines in her portrayal of a relatable character. Her journey, balancing motherhood and her career, reflects her dedication to both aspects of her life. Ileana is proving that motherhood is just another exciting chapter, not the end of a career.

| HOLLYWOOD |

Zendaya's \$10 million deal: the making of 'challengers' and her hollywood power

Central Chronicle News

Zendaya, the epitome of Hollywood's star power, has just bagged a jaw-dropping \$10 million for her role in and production of the upcoming film "Challengers." This move solidifies her status as one of the industry's top talents. But it's not just about the paycheck - "Challengers" is set to be a box office sensation, with projections of \$12-15 million in North America alone on its opening weekend. Originally slated for a glamorous premiere at the 2023 Venice Film Festival, "Challengers" was pushed back due to unforeseen



circumstances. Despite setbacks, Zendaya, along with co-stars Mike Faist and Josh O'Connor, has remained committed to promoting the film, which is now set to hit screens on April 26. In this steamy, R-rated drama, Zendaya takes on the role of Tashi Dun-

can, a former tennis prodigy entangled in a captivating love triangle. Her character's journey is more than just about tennis; it's a powerful exploration of love, power, and communication. What's even more intriguing is Zendaya's transition into produc-

HIGHLIGHT

● Zendaya, a highly coveted Hollywood actress, commands a substantial fee for her role in Challengers. Her recent appearance was in Dune: Part Two.

ing. With "Challengers," Zendaya proves she's not just a leading lady - she's a force to be reckoned with, both in front of and behind the camera. Her involvement in the project highlights her commitment to storytelling that pushes boundaries and captivates audiences worldwide.

CineBriefs

BEST OF THE REST

BOLLYWOOD

Amitabh Bachchan pays tribute to Lata Mangeshkar with marathi poem

Amitabh Bachchan paid a heartfelt tribute to the late Lata Mangeshkar by reciting a Marathi poem titled "Aakasha Chi Sawri" or "Shadow of the Sky" at an event in Mumbai. Bachchan, who co-wrote the poem, described Mangeshkar as "Goddess Saraswati personified," sitting under the shadow of Lord Brahma. He highlighted her immense contribution to music and her eternal presence in the hearts of millions, emphasizing her unmatched talent and unparalleled legacy. Bachchan's poignant recitation left the audience deeply moved, reflecting the profound impact of Mangeshkar's artistry.

WEB SERIES

Prime Video announces June 27 release for "My Lady Jane"

Prime Video announces June 27 release for romantic fantasy series "My Lady Jane," starring Emily Bader, Edward Bluemel, and Jordan Peters. Set in an alt-fantasy Tudor world, it's inspired by the book of the same name by Brodi Ashton, Jodi Meadows, and Cynthia Hand, offering a radical retelling of English royal history. The series promises a whimsical blend of romance, fantasy, and intrigue, with captivating first look images shared by the streaming platform.!

THE BOLLYWOOD HOT PAIR

Karisma Kapoor, Madhuri Dixit reunite and performed face-off After 26 years



Karisma Kapoor and Madhuri Dixit, who starred as Nisha and Pooja in Dil Toh Pagal Hai 26 years ago, recently reunited on the sets of Dance Deewane. The nostalgic moment had fans gushing over their reunion. As two of the leading ladies from the iconic film came together, they recreated their

dance routine from the movie, sparking a delightful face-off on stage. This reunion highlights the enduring charm of 90s cinema, invoking nostalgia among fans everywhere. Their chemistry and energy left everyone mesmerized, proving that some bonds only grow stronger with time.

FASHION

Shehnaaz Gill's stunning furry look leaves fans breathless

Shehnaaz Gill stuns in her latest furry look, leaving fans gasping with her hot photos. The Punjabi heartthrob flaunted her bold avatar in a green furry outfit, accessorized with golden earrings and black-kholed eyes, captivating everyone with her intense allure. Her fashionable statement once again proves why she's a style icon.



Trending on Insta

@Jacqueline Fernandez

Jacqueline Fernandez urges pet adoption: a call for compassion

Jacqueline Fernandez, a passionate animal advocate, urges pet adoption over buying, sharing a video on Instagram depicting the distressing conditions of dogs before rescue.



@Kajol

Kajol's hilarious life mantra: 'let my pallu be long'

Kajol shares a hilarious life mantra on Instagram, donning a stunning black mesh sari with gold accents: "Life is short. Let my pallu be long."



The family star OTT debut

Vijay Deverakonda and Mrunal Thakur's "The Family Star" makes its OTT debut on Prime Video on April 26. The Telugu romance family drama, directed by Parasuram, released in theatres on April 5.



Priyanka's 'Women of My Billion' on prime video

Priyanka Chopra Jonas' production, "Women of My Billion," directed by Ajitesh Sharma, tells the true story of Srishti Bakshi's walking pilgrimage from Kanyakumari to Kashmir. Premiering on Prime Video on May 3.



Kung Fu Panda 4

Catch the latest installment of the beloved animated franchise now on Disney+ Hotstar. Featuring the voices of Jack Black, Dustin Hoffman, and more reprising their iconic roles. Join Po and the Furious Five for another epic adventure!



Netflix's 'Dead Boy Detectives' premiere stock falls

Netflix's "Dead Boy Detectives" premieres Thursday, featuring two teen ghost detectives from DC comics investigating paranormal cases. The streaming giant's stock fell on Friday following changes to subscriber data sharing starting in 2025



Bhimaa: Gopichand's mystery

Gopichand leads in 'Bhimaa', a sleuth uncovering mysteries at a small-town temple. The film, supported by Priya Bhavani Shankar, Malvika Sharma, and others, premieres on Disney+ Hotstar on April 25, 2024.



Lifestyle

INTERIORS

Biophilic design: Nature inspired office revolution

Create healthy, happy, and sustainable work environments.



Revamp your office space with biophilic design! Incorporate earthy hues, lush greens, and natural textures for a workspace that sparks creativity and fosters well-being. Transform your environment into a tranquil oasis, bringing the outdoors inside.

HIGHLIGHT

● Embrace the essence of nature in your workspace with biophilic design. Infuse earthy tones, greenery, and natural textures to create a vibrant ecosystem that enhances well-being, boosts productivity.

natural aesthetic, creating visually stunning environments that resonate with our innate love for nature. Embracing biophilic design principles is not just about creating aesthetically pleasing spaces; it's about fostering a deeper connection between humans and the natural world. By prioritizing nature-inspired designs, offices can create environments that not only support the health and happiness of employees but also contribute to a more sustainable and environmentally conscious workplace culture. With biophilic design, the office becomes a place where employees can thrive in harmony with nature.



AI predicts irregular heartbeat before onset

In a groundbreaking study, researchers have unveiled a game-changing AI model capable of predicting irregular heartbeat before it strikes, boasting an impressive 80% accuracy rate. Led by experts from the University of Luxembourg, this revolutionary model offers early warnings, potentially saving countless lives by enabling timely intervention. What sets this innovation apart is its integration potential into smartphones, promising accessibility and convenience for users. By harnessing the power of artificial intelligence, individuals can now monitor their heart health with greater precision and ease, ushering in a new era of personalized healthcare.

TRAVEL

Discover the serenity: Kurseong, the land of white orchids



Tucked away just 30 kilometers from Darjeeling, Kurseong is a picturesque haven known as 'the land of white orchids'. With misty hills, tea gardens, and hidden viewpoints like Deorali and Chimney, it's perfect for a serene getaway. Indulge in local flavors at the bustling bazaar or sip on the finest Darjeeling tea. Don't forget to catch a breathtaking sunset at Eagles Craig and hop on the toy train for a whimsical journey to Darjeeling.

FASHION

Alonge's intelligent cotton: Knitwear revolutionized fashion

Central Chronicle News

The debut collection includes sweatshirts, jackets, camisoles, dresses, shorts, pants, co-ords, skirts, and oversized T-shirts.

Chennai-based fashion label Alonge introduces 'intelligent cotton' for its knitwear line, blending polyester's shine with viscose's softness. Nithya, the founder, spent 17 years nurturing her dream after completing a course in Fashion Technology. The debut collection boasts minimal, elegant designs made with iCotton, offering stretchability and

breathability, along with flow motion technology for fluid movement. One-and-a-half years of research led to the creation of iCotton, tested by Nithya herself before hitting the market. Alonge prioritizes quality, ensuring garments look brand new even after 50-plus washes. The collection features sweatshirts, jackets, dresses, shorts, and more, in a palette ranging from ecru to warm pink, adorned with hand-painted florals and hand embroidery. Designing in Chennai, production in Tiruppur, and materials sourced worldwide, including beads from Japan and zips from Hong



Chennai-based fashion label Alonge founder Nithya

Kong, ensure the label's commitment to quality and craftsmanship. Nithya's next collection promises more florals and attention to detail, reflecting her personal style translated into patterns, with a focus on natural fibers in the future. Prices range from 3,990 to 19,000, catering to those who appreciate everyday luxury and enduring style. Alonge's pieces are available on alonge.in, where fashion enthusiasts can indulge in the label's ethos of combining innovation with timeless elegance.

GadgetPick

TRENDING PERSONAL-TECH

Nothing Ear (1)

About: Nothing Ear (1) earphones, featuring ChatGPT integration, deliver advanced noise cancellation and intelligent voice assistance for an immersive audio experience. **Key Features:** It offers four noise-canceling modes (high, mid, low, and adaptive), ranging from 15dB to 40dB. "Adaptive" allows for intelligent, dynamic noise cancellation that adjusts itself automatically, compensating for ambient sounds in your surroundings



Meta Ray-Ban smart glasses

About: Meta's \$299 smart glasses, made in partnership with Ray-Ban, are exactly that, a premium wearable that can do smart things. **Key Features:** Meta's Ray-Ban smart glasses now support WhatsApp video calls, capturing photos and videos when voice-prompted; to playing music and podcasts via your phone; to answering your most curious questions with a built-in Meta AI.



Infinix GT 20 Pro

About: The Infinix GT 20 Pro has already acquired BIS certification, so we can expect it to launch in India. **Key Features:** It features a pentagon-shaped camera module and transparent rear panel. Priced at RM 1,299 (roughly Rs. 22,000) for the base variant, it's expected to launch globally on May 2, starting with Malaysia.



The Xbox Series S Toaster

About: The Xbox Series S Toaster is a fun addition to any kitchen, imprinting the Xbox logo on toast for gaming enthusiasts' enjoyment. **Key Features:** It features customizable toast levels and a countdown timer for perfect results every time. Versatile and stylish, it accommodates various types of bread, English muffins, waffles, and bagels, making it a must-have for any kitchen.



Hindware chimney

About: The Hindware Smart Appliances Skyla Neo 60 Cm kitchen chimney is a sleek and efficient addition to your kitchen. **Key Features:** Its Autoclean technology and maximum suction power of 1350 m3/hr, it effectively eliminates smoke and odours. The chimney features filterless and motion sensor technology, making maintenance a breeze.



Realme NARZO 70 5G

About: Smartphone-maker Realme has launched the Narzo 70 5G series in India today, comprising RealmeNarzo 70 5G and Narzo 70x. **Key Features:** The realme NARZO 70x 5G packs a 5000mAh battery with a 45W SUPERVOOC charge, a 120Hz Ultra Smooth Display and a 50MP AI Camera. The Dimensity 6100+ 6nm 5G package gets a VC cooling system. It also touts the segment's thinnest 7.69mm Ultra-slim body.



Sports



We're successful in setting targets, now time to polish chasing abilities
Daniel Vettori
SRH head coach.

India to face Estonia in the final of Archery World Cup



Women's compound archery team members (from left) Parneet Kaur, Jyothi Surekha Vennam and Aditi Swami after reaching final of Archery World Cup Stage 1, in Shanghai.

Press Trust Of India

SHANGHAI: The compound mixed team of Jyothi Surekha Vennam and Abhishek Verma assured India of a fourth medal in the ongoing Archery World Cup, advancing into the final here.

The world No. 2 Indians dropped just five points to prevail over their Mexican opponents Andrea Becerra and Lot Maximo Mendez Ortiz 155-151 in the semi-final. They will face low-

er-ranked Estonia in the gold-medal clash on Saturday. Jyothi is also a member of the women's compound team, which had entered the final on Wednesday.

With Jyothi also securing a semifinal spot in the individual section on Thursday, the World No. 3 and Asian Games gold medallist is in the hunt for a hat-trick of top podium finishes.

Overall, Indian archers have qualified in four finals, all in the team

HIGHLIGHT

● Overall, Indian archers have qualified in four finals, all in the team events, and are in the hunt for two medals in compound individual events -- where Jyothi and Priyansh have made the semifinals.

● Compound mixed team reaches final of Archery World Cup

events, and are in the hunt for two medals in compound individual events -- where Jyothi and Priyansh have made the semifinals.

The four events where Indian teams have made the gold-medal round are compound men's, women's, mixed categories and men's recurve.

The elimination round in the recurve individual category is slated to begin later in the day.

In the semi-final, the Indians started on a back-

foot after Andrea and Mendez Ortiz capped three 10s and one nine to take the opening end 39-38.

But the Mexicans slipped in the next set of arrows as Jyothi and Verma snatched the lead by dropping one point.

The Indians then extended their lead by three points in the penultimate round after another slip-up by the Mexicans. Jyothi and Verma sealed the issue with a perfect 40 in the fourth end.

Gulbadin Naib replaces Mitchell Marsh in DC squad

NEW DELHI: Delhi Capitals on Thursday drafted in Afghanistan all-rounder Gulbadin Naib as a replacement for Mitchell Marsh for the remainder of the IPL 2024. Naib joins the Capitals for his base price of Rs 50 lakh.

Marsh was ruled out of the IPL with a hamstring injury, and the Australian all-rounder had flown back to Perth on April 12 to have detailed medical check-up. Marsh played four matches in this IPL, but was underwhelming with both bat and ball, making just 61 runs and taking a solitary wicket. Naib has represented Afghanistan in 82 ODIs and 65 T20 Internationals so far. A right-handed batter and a medium pacer, this will be his first stint in the IPL. Capitals are currently placed sixth on the table with eight points from nine matches.

Shubman Gill prioritizes GT over national selection

Gill feels that representing India is the highest honor but he will commit injustice to his IPL team if he thinks about national selection.

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: There is no bigger honour than representing India in the T20 World Cup but as Gujarat Titans' skipper, Shubman Gill feels that he will be "doing injustice to himself and his team" if national selection occupies his mind.

The 24-year-old, who scored 890 runs during IPL 2023 and is among the top-10 batters in the current list believes that



Gujarat Titans' captain Shubman Gill playing against Delhi Capitals.

if he is "picked" it will be another chance for him

FACTFILE

● Gill is currently leading the Gujarat Titans in the IPL and is fully focused on bringing the best out of his players.

to take a shot at glory. If he is not picked,

then he will wish the selected 15 the very best from the bottom of his heart.

"Playing for India is the biggest thing. But if I start thinking about the World Cup, then I will be doing injustice to my current team (GT) and myself.

For any player appear-

ing in a World Cup is a dream, but Gill is learning the art of controlling the controllables.

"Obviously as a player, I want to be there and play the World Cup and get that opportunity to represent my country at the highest level - the biggest stage of T20 cricket.

world champion, admitted that doping continues to be a menace in the world of athletics, but said a lot of progress has been made to tackle it. "Doping is very dangerous to the sport. It continues to be an issue even now. Remember Russia was banned for such long time because of the doping scandal. But we are making great progress in this space."

Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

PREMIER LEAGUE

Phil Foden scores 2 goals as Manchester City eyes another title

BRIGHTON: Manchester City chalked up another big win in its pursuit of an unprecedented fourth straight Premier League title, with Phil Foden continuing his career-best scoring season with two goals in a 4-0 thrashing of Brighton on Thursday. Foden's first-half double came between goals by Kevin De Bruyne and Julian Alvarez as City extended its unbeaten run in the league to 18 games and trimmed the gap to leader Arsenal to one point. Liverpool is two points further back in third after its title chances were damaged by a 2-0 loss at Everton on Wednesday. "I trust my team," De Bruyne said. "All respect to Arsenal and Liverpool, they are amazing ... but we need to do our job. "We just need to keep going, not get ahead of ourselves, be humble and work hard." Since a 0-0 draw with Arsenal at home on March 31, City has won four straight league games and scored 17 goals in the process.

SOCCER

Indonesia and Japan qualify for Olympics while South Korea misses

DOHA: South Korea will miss the men's soccer tournament at the Olympics for the first time since 1984 after losing a penalty shootout to Indonesia at the Under-23 Asian Cup quarterfinals on Thursday. The top three teams will qualify for the Paris Games, and Indonesia reached the last four by winning the shootout 11-10 after the score remained tied 2-2 through extra time. Rafael Struick put Indonesia ahead after 15 minutes only for Komang Teguh's own goal to level the scoreline after 45 minutes. There was still time before the break, however, for Struick to score again. Jeong Sang-bin equalized with 14 minutes remaining despite Korea being reduced to 10 men minutes earlier when Lee Young-jun was shown a red card. Lee Kang-hee missed in the shootout, leaving Pratama Arhan to score the winner.

MADRID OPEN TENNIS

Nadal secures comfortable win in first round of Madrid Open against Blanch



MADRID: Rafael Nadal couldn't learn much from his comfortable straight-set win over American teenager Darwin Blanch in the first round of the Madrid Open.

Nadal cruised to a 6-1, 6-0 victory over the mistake-prone 16-year-old Blanch on Thursday. "I didn't test much my body today," the 37-year-old Nadal said. "I played a decent match doing the things that I had to do to be through, but at the same time I played against a player ... making more mistakes." Blanch, playing only in his second ATP tour

match, made 27 unforced errors. Nadal never faced a break point and was in control from the start against the wild-card entry, closing the match in just over one hour at the Caja Magica center court in the Spanish capital.

The encounter marked the largest age gap (21 years, 117 days) between two opponents at an ATP 1000 tournament. Nadal looked in good form and showed no physical limitations in just his third competitive match since returning from his latest injury layoff.

The Day's NUMBERS

TOP FIVE HIGHEST-PAID BASKETBALL PLAYERS (MILLIONS USD) AS OF DECEMBER 2023

LeBron James	\$110-130
Kevin Durant	\$100-120
Stephen Curry	\$90-110
Giannis Antetokounmpo	\$80-100
James Harden	\$70-90

WSPS WORLD CUP

Parashooters Mona and Amir secure medals at Korea

NEW DELHI: Indian para-shooter Mona Aggarwal claimed a gold medal in women's 10m air rifle while Army man Amir Ahmed Bhatt secured a silver in 25m pistol at the WSPS World Cup in Changwon, Korea, on Thursday. Mona claimed the R2 - 10m air rifle standing SH1 gold medal with a score of 250.8 in the final. It was her second World Cup title of the year following her win in the same event at the World Cup in New Delhi last month, when she sealed a Paralympic quota. Slovakia's Verónica Vadovicova (250) and Swedish shooter Anna Benson (228.8) won the silver and bronze medals respectively. The 37-year-old Mona, the mother of two children, looked in good touch in the final as all her 24 shots were above the 10-point mark. She had scored 625.5 to claim the fifth position in the qualification round. Mona had done well at the state level in shot put and powerlifting before picking up shooting only in December 2021.

SOCCER

Brazilian soccer hero, Romario retrains at 58 and maintains sharp tongue



SAO PAULO: Brazilian soccer hero Romário returned to training on Thursday at age 58, almost two decades after he retired from the sport, and needed just a few minutes to show he remains a prolific scorer. The 1994 World Cup winner turned politician netted two goals as he practiced with much younger players at struggling Rio de Janeiro club América, of which he is the president. América will play in Rio state's second division championship this year. Romarinho, one of the sons of the former Barcelona star, is in its squad.

PARIS OLYMPICS

Neeraj will face immense pressure at Paris Oly: Valerie Adams

Press Trust Of India

BENGALURU: Neeraj Chopra might be feeling the "massive weight of expectations" as he prepares to defend his javelin gold in the upcoming Paris Olympics, reckons legendary New Zealand shot putter Valerie Adams.

In the Tokyo Games, Chopra became the first

Indian athlete to win the track and field gold, finding a distance of 87.58 meters with his javelin. However, Adams, ambassador of the TCS World 10K, said that a seasoned performer like Neeraj will find a way to ward off the pressure and perform. The 39-year-old, though, urged Neeraj to remain cautious about the expectations around him. Adams, also a four-time



There's undoubtedly immense pressure on Neeraj Chopra as he goes out there and try to defend (the gold). I'm sure he can feel it.

Valerie Adams
Shot putter





फिर एक बार
मोदी सरकार

मोदी की गारंटी
यानी खुशियों की एंट्री
भारतीय जनता पार्टी, छत्तीसगढ़





British Foreign Secretary David Cameron, center, meets pupils and takes part in an English lesson at School No.23 in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.

Egypt hopes to broker Israel-Hamas cease-fire

Egypt's top intelligence official, Abbas Kamel, is leading the delegation and plans to discuss with Israel a "new vision" for a prolonged cease-fire in Gaza

Press Trust Of India

CAIRO: Egypt sent a high-level delegation to Israel on Friday with the hope of brokering a cease-fire agreement with Hamas in Gaza, two officials said. At the same time, it warned that a possible Israeli offensive focused on Gaza's city of Rafah on the border with Egypt could have catastrophic consequences to regional stability.

Egypt's top intelligence official, Abbas Kamel, is leading the delegation and plans to discuss with Israel a "new vision" for a prolonged cease-fire in Gaza, an Egyptian official said, speaking on condition of anonymity to discuss the mission freely.

As the war drags on and casualties mount, there has been growing international pressure for Hamas and Israel to reach an agreement on a cease fire.

HIGHLIGHT

● As the war drags on and casualties mount, there has been growing international pressure for Hamas and Israel to reach an agreement on a cease fire

Friday's talks will focus at first on a limited exchange of hostages held by Hamas for Palestinian prisoners, and the return of a significant number

of displaced Palestinians to their homes in northern Gaza "with minimum restrictions," the Egyptian official said. The hope is that negotiations will then continue, with the goal of a larger deal to end the war, he said. The official said mediators are working on a compromise that will answer most of both parties' main demands. Hamas has said it will not back down from its demands for a permanent

cease-fire and full withdrawal of Israeli troops, both of which Israel has rejected. Israel says it will continue military operations until Hamas is defeated and that it will retain a security presence in Gaza afterwards. Ahead of the talks, senior Hamas official Basem Naim told The Associated Press "there is nothing new from our side," when asked about the negotiations.

| SWEDEN-DEFENCE |

Swedish to spend more on defence

Press Trust Of India

The Scandinavian country joined the NATO alliance in March, moving away from a decades-long policy of neutrality in the wake of Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022.

COPENHAGEN: The report by the Defence Committee which is made up of representatives of the eight political parties sitting in the Swedish parliament, said that NATO membership and the serious security situation require higher ambitions. "An armed attack



Swedish armed personnel

against Sweden or our allies cannot be ruled out," the commission said in its report entitled "Strong defence capability, Sweden as an ally." Sweden's air defence must also be expanded to meet threats from unmanned flying craft, more hunting and cruise missiles must be

FASTFACTS

● Sweden's air defence must also be expanded to meet threats from unmanned flying craft, more hunting and cruise missiles must be purchased and the navy should receive more personnel

purchased and the navy should receive more personnel, according to the nearly 300-page report which also suggested that the number of conscripts should gradually be increased to 12,000 in 2032. Presently there are about 8,000 conscripts in Sweden.

The recommendation follows similar moves in its two Scandinavian neighbours, both of them longstanding NATO members. Earlier this month, Norway said it would gradually increase the number of conscripted soldiers from 9,000 at present to 13,500 by 2036. Meanwhile, Denmark last month said it wants to increase the number of young people doing military service by extending conscription to women and increasing the time of service from four months to 11 months.

Sweden's current military budget is about 119 billion kronor (USD 11 billion).

| JAPAN-ROCKET |

Japan's plan to launch upgraded observation satellites

Press Trust Of India

TOKYO: Japan's space agency announced Friday a plan to launch a major upgrade to its satellite imaging system, as a new flagship rocket is put to the test for a third time. The Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency that an H3 rocket will be launched from the Tanegashima Space Center, on a southwestern Japanese island, early afternoon on June 30,

with a launch window that runs through the end of July. The rocket will be carrying an Advanced Land Observation Satellite, ALOS-4, tasked primarily with Earth observation and data collection for disaster response and mapmaking, as well as with monitoring military activity, such as missile launches, with an infrared sensor developed by the Defense Ministry. The ALOS-4 is a successor to the current ALOS-2



and can observe a much wider area. The launch will be the H3's third, coming after a failed debut in March 2023 and a successful

launch on Feb. 17. During the first attempt, the rocket's second stage engine did not ignite and the rocket had to be destroyed along with its

main payload, a satellite that was supposed to be the ALOS-3.

During H3 No. 2's successful test flight, it carried two commercially-developed observation microsatellites and an ALOS mockup.

JAXA and its main contractor Mitsubishi Heavy Industries have been developing H3 as a successor to its current mainstay, H-2A, which is set to retire after two more flights.

ASSAULT CASE

Indian-origin man in US shot and killed by San Antonio police

A 42-year-old Indian-origin man in the US was shot and killed by police in San Antonio after he struck two officers with his vehicle as they were trying to arrest him in connection with an aggravated assault case against a woman. Sachin Kumar Sahoo was pronounced deceased at the scene after police officer Tyler Turner shot at him on April 21 in San Antonio, a city in Texas. The Bexar County Medical Examiner's Office said Sachin Kumar Sahoo died from multiple gunshot wounds during last weekend's altercation with police, San Antonio Express-News reported. Sahoo originally hailed from Uttar Pradesh. He could have been a naturalised US citizen. According to a preliminary investigation, just before 6:30 pm on April 21, officers were dispatched to a home in Cheviot Heights in San Antonio for a report about Aggravated Assault with a Deadly Weapon.

TIBET-TALKS

China to talks on Tibet only with Dalai Lama's representatives



China on Friday said it will talk only with the representatives of the Dalai Lama and not the officials of the Tibetan government in exile based in India but ruled out dialogue on the highest Tibetan Buddhist spiritual leader's long-pending demand for autonomy for his remote Himalayan homeland. Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin was reacting to reports of the back-channel talks between the Tibetan government-in-exile and the Chinese government.

From around the world

Corals bred in a zoo have joined Europe's largest reef. This is offering scientists hope



Just like the animals on Noah's Ark, the corals arrived in a pair. On Monday, divers with gloved hands gently nestled the self-bred corals from the World Coral Conservatory project among their cousins in Europe's largest coral reef at the Burgers' Zoo in the Netherlands.

"This is the first project where we started to keep these corals with a known origin. As we know exactly where they're coming from, they have the potential to be placed back into the wild. ... So it is very important to keep these corals, as it's going not very well in the wild," Nienke Klerks, a biologist at the Royal Burgers' Zoo

in Arnhem, told The Associated Press. It's among several projects worldwide seeking to address the decline of coral reef populations, which are suffering from bleaching caused by rising sea temperatures.

Corals are central to marine ecosystems, and while these projects won't stem the tide of damage from human-caused climate change, they are seen as part of broader solutions. The World Coral Conservatory hopes to create a bank of corals in aquariums across Europe that could be used to repopulate wild coral reefs if they succumb to the stress of climate change or pollution.

MALDIVES-CHINA-SHIP

Chinese marine research ship back in Maldives

Press Trust Of India

MALE: A 4,500-tonne high-tech Chinese research ship is back in the Maldivian waters, two months after it spent a week docked at different ports in this archipelago nation. Xiang Yang Hong 03

first visit," it said, days after President Mohamed Muizzu, a pro-China leader-led People's National Congress won the general election, securing 66 out of the 93-member People's Majlis.



गंजेपन का इलाज
अत्याधुनिक तकनीक द्वारा केश प्रत्यारोपण FUT एवं FUE तकनीक द्वारा
गंजेपन का इलाज
कालड़ा बर्न एवं प्लास्टिक कॉन्स्ट्रिक्ट सर्जरी सेंटर
आर.के.सी.के. सामन, चौबे कालोनी एवं पञ्चप्रेम नारायण, धर्मपुरी रोड, कटलर मॉल के पास, रायपुर
फोन : 9827143060/8871003060
Ajay 9827144371



(NABH से प्रमाणित)
सुयश
हॉस्पिटल
मेडिसीन विभाग
• खून की कमी
• खून कम बनना
• सांस से संबंधित बीमारियां
• डायबीटिस
• थायरॉइड
• हेपेटाइटिस बी
24 Hours Helpline
9926386660
कोटा-गुदियारी रोड,
होटल पिकाडिली के पीछे, रायपुर
Ajay 9827144371