

WEEKEND

Central Chronicle



COMMENT

Rethinking Freebies: Balancing Public Welfare and Economic Health Page 08



SPORT

Bangladesh inspire from India ODI series win: Nigar Sultana Page 14



WEEKEND

Celebrities dazzle at Heeramandi screening: a fashion extravaganza Page 16

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Former JP member killed

Press Trust of India

DANTEWADA: A former member of Janpad Panchayat was allegedly hacked to death with sharp weapons by unidentified assailants at a village in Chhattisgarh's Naxalite-hit Dantewada district, police said on Saturday. Police

suspect that Naxalites were behind the murder that occurred late Friday night, but no Maoist pamphlets were found at the spot. Investigation is underway into all possible angles, including personal enmity, they said. The incident took place in Potali village under Aranpur police

station limits when the victim, identified as Joga Podiyam, a former member of the local janpad panchayat, was at his home along with his family, a police official said. Around 8-10 people, dressed as civilians, stormed into Podiyam's house and dragged him on the street.

CBI admits Bhuneshwar Sahu murder case

Sahu died after being attacked with knives and other sharp weapons by 12 persons, all of whom were arrested at the time and are presently in judicial custody.

Press Trust of India

RAIPUR: The Central Bureau of Investigation has taken over the probe into the murder of 22-year-old Bhuneshwar Sahu in communal violence in Chhattisgarh's Bemetara district in April last year.

A statement from the Press Information Bureau said the CBI on Friday re-registered a case in connection with the incident on a request of the Chhattisgarh government that was received on April 25 as well as further notification by the Union government's Department of Personnel and Training on April 26.

On April 8 last year, some children returning from school in Biranpur village were beaten up allegedly by members of another community over an altercation, and when Sahu and a few others



Father of the deceased now MLA with son's photo.

FACTFILE

● CBI on Friday re-registered a case in connection with the incident on a request of the state govt that was received on Apr 25

went to the locality of the alleged accused, they were pelted with stones, as per police. Sahu died after being



Now CBI will investigate the murder case

Vishnu Deo Sai
Chief Minister

attacked with knives and other sharp weapons by 12 persons, all of whom were arrested at the time

and are presently in judicial custody. The PIB statement said the CBI has now

taken over the case registered on April 8 last year against these 12 persons in Saja police station in Bemetara under Indian Penal Code sections 147, 148, 149, 336, 307, 302 and 120-B.

In a post on social media platform X on Saturday, Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai said, "Now CBI will investigate the Biranpur murder case. Based on the decision and consent of the cabinet of our government, the Centre has also issued a notification. Late Bhuneshwar Sahu's family will definitely get justice."

Incidentally, Deputy Chief Minister Vijay Sharma, who holds the Home portfolio, had announced in the Chhattisgarh Assembly in February this year that the state government would recommend a probe into the incident.

Your vote
Provided free electricity connections to 2.8 Crore families

This time your vote will ensure
Zero Electricity bill through PM Surya Ghar Yojana

THIS IS MODI'S GUARANTEE

Right intent
Right results

Phir Ek Baar
Modi Sarkar

Press the lotus button Make BJP win

Indian heart saves Pak teen girl in Chennai

Press Trust of India

The medical team advised a heart transplant as her heart pump had developed a leak. She was put on Extra Corporeal Membrane Oxygenation (ECMO).



FASTFACTS

- Girl suffered a cardiac arrest in 2019
- Girl received a heart from a brain-dead man in New Delhi.

CHENNAI: A Pakistani teenage girl who has been ailing since 2019 got a new lease of life after she received a heart from a 69-year-old Indian donor from New Delhi.

The 19-year-old girl from Karachi successfully underwent a heart transplant surgery and was discharged recently, doctors who performed the surgery at a city hospital here said. "I am feeling fine (now). I thank the Indian government for giving me a visa. I got a heart transplant here," she said and also thanked the doctors for saving her.

She was very sick upon her arrival in Chennai, her mother Sanobar said. "We got an emergency visa... the doctors saved her," she added.

Getting the visa was very difficult; more than that the patient's family could not afford the treatment cost, Dr K R Balakrishnan, director of the Institute of Heart and

Lung Transplant, MGM Healthcare, here said.

"Her single mother had no money, no resources at all. With great difficulty, they arranged some finance and came here. We had to take care of the patient's entire expenses including her hospitalisation," he said. The girl has been battling for her life after suffering a cardiac arrest in 2019. Her family consulted Dr K R Balakrishnan and Dr Suresh Rao, Co-Director, Institute of Heart and Lung Transplant, MGM Healthcare.

The medical team advised a heart transplant as her heart pump had developed a leak. She was put on Extra Corporeal Membrane Oxygenation (ECMO).

NEWSLINE

CHHATTISGARH
Enthusiastic turnout marks KCG district

In a display of democratic fervour, Khairagarh-Chhukhadan-Gandai (KCG) district witnessed an impressive turnout of nearly 78 percent during the elections.

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QUOTE

"Illegal arrest" constitutes unprecedented assault on tenets of democracy

Arvind Kejriwal
Delhi CM

NATION

'Challenging abrogation of Art 370 in SC, a mistake'

Challenging the abrogation of Article 370 in the Supreme Court might have been a mistake but not doing so would have made things worse politically for the mainstream parties of Jammu and Kashmir, Peoples Conference chief Sajad Lone has said. The apex court in December last year upheld the Centre's decision to abrogate Article 370.

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EMOTIONAL APPEAL

'I brought my father home in pieces'

Press Trust of India

All 26 seats in Gujarat will vote in the third phase on May 7

DHARAMPUR: Hitting back at PM Narendra Modi, who has been attacking the Congress over an alleged "wealth redistribution" promise in its manifesto, Priyanka



Gandhi Vadra said she has seen several Prime Ministers - including her father who she "brought

FACTFILE

● Cong is committed to filling about 30 lakh vacancies in govt jobs.

back in pieces" - but not one who lies to the people.

In various rallies during the ongoing Lok Sabha election, PM Modi has alleged that the

Congress has promised "wealth redistribution" in its manifesto and would not spare even women's 'mangalsutras' - a piece of jewellery worn by Hindu married women. The Congress, including its president Mallikarjun Kharge, has denied this charge and accused the PM of spreading misinformation.

Mamata falls while boarding helicopter

KOLKATA: West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee lost her balance and fell while boarding a helicopter in Durgapur in Paschim Bardhaman district on Saturday afternoon. She was on the way to Kulti for an election rally when the incident happened. The CM fell inside the helicopter after losing her balance.

HISTORY CREATED

18 students of Army 'Super 30' crack JEE Mains

Press Trust of India

JAMMU: Eighteen underprivileged students scripted history by cracking JEE Phase-II (exam) on the back of intensive coaching provided at Army's White Knight Corps-run 'Petronet Super 30' in Reasi district, a defence spokesperson said on Saturday. The second batch of



27 students from the remote areas of the region had appeared in the JEE mains Phase-I

exams from January 27 to February 1. Eighteen of them exhibited superlative perfor-

NUMBER

18

● Out of 27 students 18 cleared exam

mance in the exam, the results of which were declared on February 13, the spokesperson said. All these 18 students were put through rigorous coaching and they

have scripted history by clearing tough JEE Mains Phase-II exams, the official said.

Among those who made it to elite engineering institute were Aditya Kumar of Arnia village in Other Social Caste (OSC) category who topped the centre with 99.07 per cent and is also among the top 10 students in all CSRL centres, the spokesperson said.



Total strength of voters in II phase of polling state went up by 7.69%
Reena Babasaheb Kangale
 CEO State Election Office



Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai addressing an election meeting in Wadraunagar of Balrampur district here on Saturday.

Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

MAOIST APPREHENDED

Congress has hatch conspiracy to snatch reservations from tribals

RAIPUR: Senior Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader and Minister for Tribal Welfare Kedar Kashyap on Saturday said that the Congress has hatched a conspiracy to snatch the reservations from Tribals and Other Backward Communities (OBCs) and to give it to the Minorities. Commenting on the statement of AIPC President Pravin Chakraborty, the BJP leader further asked him if it is the social justice of Congress. Kashyap further questioned the claims of Congress on poverty and sought the reason why the grand old party has failed to eradicate poverty even after ruling the country for 60 years. He claimed that the Modi government has provided Housing Scheme as well as free Domestic LPG to the people from weaker section of society which the Congress had failed to deliver to the people even after 60 years of regime.

WORLD RECORD

Voter awareness participation in Golden Book of World Record



BALRAMPUR: With objective to ensure cent percent polling in LS 2024, variety of activities were organized to create awareness among the voters to cast their votes. In this a football tourney, swimming competition, SVEEP Balloon and inviting the voters who have gone out-of-station through phone.

In this series, an Umbrella Rally was organized in the district and in which the women formed a human chain and created voter awareness through SVEEP Balloon.

Table Tennis tournament

Retired bureaucrat inaugurates Monthly Table Tennis League



RAIPUR: Retired bureaucrat and senior player Dr Bharat Agrawal on Saturday inaugurated the Monthly League Table Tennis tournament being organized under the aegis of Rajdhani Table Tennis Association (RTTA) here.

Providing the above information in a statement issued here, the RTTA Secretary Vinay Baiswade said that Shrehra Mishra defeated Abhinav, Advik, Atharv and Samarth with the score of 2-0 in his favour whereas Advik Senger defeated Abhinav, Atharva and Samarth with the same score in Sub Junior Boys event from Group A whereas Naithik Agrawal defeated Aryan and Tejas with the score of 2-1 whereas Aryan Singh defeated Neerav Tiwari and Sarthak Garg with the score of 2-0. In the Sub Junior girls matches, Ahana Singh registered victory against Lavanya, VEDI, Arana and Mahavish with the score of 2-0 whereas

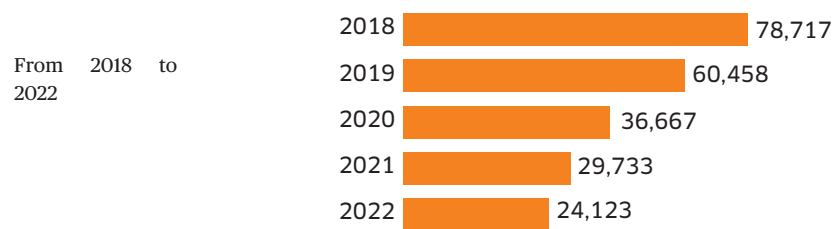
Samaya Pandey defeated VEDI, Ashmi, Mahavin and Mahavish with the score of 2-0 and Lavanya Padney defeated Ashmi, Arana and Mahavish with the score of 2-0 to remain in the fray for the league championship. In the senior women' category match, Ahana Singh, Lavanya Pandey and Renuka Subba are ahead in the League from Group A whereas Surabhi Modi and Samaya Pandey were leading in Group B.

Four players from first phase from each group would advance into Super League round of the championship. Arun Bawaria is the Chief Referee whereas Ajit Banerjee and Harish Pandey are his Assistants.

International Umpire Pravin Nirapure, Pranay Majumdar, Vinod Pateria, Tarun Rathore, Sushant Borwankar and NIS Coach Miraj were also present on the occasion.

The Day's NUMBERS

NUMBER OF MALARIA CASES ACROSS CHHATTISGARH IN INDIA



MAOIST APPREHENDED

Suspect Maoist apprehended Siraonta and Dampaya Jungle

BIJAPUR: On April 25, a joint team from Madded Police Station and DRG Bijapur went on a patrol and search operation from Siraonta towards Dampaya. During the operation, in the middle of the Siraonta-Dampara jungle, a suspect was spotted trying to hide and flee after noticing the police party. The joint team cordoned off the area and apprehended him. Upon interrogation, the arrested suspect identified himself as Marpalli Devendra son of Marpalli Ramaiah, aged 29 years, resident of Marpalipara Dampaya under Madded Police Station limits. Explosive materials (gelatin, cordex wire, detonators), 3 walkie-talkies with chargers, 1 Nokia mobile phone, and banned organization banners/posters were recovered from his possession.

The individual admitted to being actively involved with the banned Naxalite organization's Madded Area Committee, planting IEDs, and supplying materials for the Naxal outfit along with his associates.

TRAGIC DEMISE

CM expressed grief over demise of teacher Khelan Singh Patel



RAIPUR: Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai of Raipur expressed profound sorrow over the tragic demise of teacher Khelan Singh Patel. The news of Patel's passing, which occurred in a road accident as he returned from fulfilling his election duties at Taraud Secondary School in Balod district, prompted CM Sai to extend his condolences to the grieving family. In a heartfelt message shared on Twitter, CM Sai conveyed his deep sympathy, stating, "Sad news was received about the death of Khelan Singh Patel, a teacher of Taraud Secondary School in Balod district, who was returning after discharging his election responsibilities.

'Cong has made Ch'garh into den of corruption and crime'

Cong govt has not only done sand, liquor and DMF scam, but they did not even spared their favourite 'Narwa, Ghurwa, Badi...' scheme, made corruption in name of purchasing cow-dung.

Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai addressing an election meeting in Wadraunagar of Balrampur district came down heavily against former CM Bhupesh Baghel. It is so unfortunate on part of fromer CM that he did not even spared the youth and put them into habit of gambling, betting etc and he charged Baghel of taking Rs 508 cr as protection money in order to run Mahdev App satta in the state. In the last five years, Congress has made Chhattisgarh into den of corruption, crime and atrocities, he alleged.

CM Sai said that Con-

gress has made big promises in the last VS polls, but did not fulfilled any one of them. Contrary to this they are in power and should continue to fill their coffers. There were two cash counters in the liquor shop and out of which one was for the government and other for Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Vadra.

Congress government has not only done sand, liquor and DMF scam, but they did not even spared their favourite 'Narwa, Ghurwa, Badi...' scheme and made corruption in name of purchasing cow-dung. Vishnu Deo Sai said that

HIGHLIGHT

● **CM said that Congress has made big promises in the last VS polls, but did not fulfilled any one of them.**

● **Sai said that the people of Chhattisgarh wanted a tribal CM and to which PM Modi fulfilled in no time**

today not only many of Congress leaders are facing charges, but many of them are behind the bar. Many a top IAS officers who assisted Congress in corruption have failed to get bail in last 1.5 yrs and appealed voters not to

allow Congress to even open their account for LS seat in the state.

CM Sai said that the people of Chhattisgarh wanted a tribal CM and to which PM Modi fulfilled in no time and handed over the charge of a tribal state to son of a tribal. So therefore it is responsibility of all in the state to press the vote button in front of Lotus symbol and ensure making PM Modi as third PM of the country.

Citing some of the achievements of his government in the state, CM Sai said that his government has completed 4 months in the state and it was on second

day of assuming charge, sanction of funds for 18 lakh 'pucca' houses was sanctioned under PMAY. Apart from this 12 lakh farmers were paid balance amount of bonus to 12 lakh farmers and purchased 21 quintal paddy per acre at MSP of Rs 3100 and even transferred the amount into farmer's account.

The two installments of Mahatari Vandan Yojana too have been paid to women and eligible beneficiaries in the state and this include Rs 1000 per month and so the CM assured that all promises of BJP government are being fulfilled in the state.

INTERACTIVE SESSION |

Interactive session on Scholarship Initiative held

Central Chronicle News

Members of the Hablani family shared anecdotes about Dr. Hari Hablani, a distinguished alumnus of the Institute



NIT Raipur's Student Welfare Section orchestrated an interactive session

FACTFILE

● **Hablani's family generous contribution facilitated scholarships totaling ten thousand US dollars for 94 deserving students**

● **Dr Jain commended their generous gesture in covering the educational expenses of underprivileged students**

Nitin Jain, Dean (Student Welfare), along with the members of the Hablani family. Dr. Jain expressed gratitude for their invaluable time and financial support towards the advancement of both the Institute and its students. He commended their generous gesture in covering the educational expenses of underprivileged students, applauding their

commitment to fostering educational opportunities.

Members of the Hablani family shared anecdotes about Dr. Hari Hablani, a distinguished alumnus of the Institute, who initiated this scholarship to honor his father's belief that education is the key to overcoming poverty, and to cherish the compassion and strength embodied by his mother.

ELECTIONS II PHASE |

76.24 pc turn-out recorded in three LS seats

Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: A voter turnout of 76.24 per cent was recorded in three Lok Sabha constituencies in Chhattisgarh that went to polls in the second phase a day ago, an official said on Saturday.

"Voting was held in Kanker (Scheduled Tribe-reserved), Rajnandgaon and

Mahasamund Lok Sabha constituencies on Friday in the second phase of elections. It went off largely in a peaceful manner, and altogether 76.24 per cent voting was recorded in these three constituencies," state's Chief Electoral Officer Reena Babasaheb Kangale said in a statement. In Rajnandgaon constituency, 77.42 per cent voter

Voting was held peacefully and altogether 76.24 per cent voting was recorded in these three constituencies

Reena Babasaheb Kangale
 CEO State Election Office



turnout was recorded, while 75.02 per cent was registered in Mahasamund and 76.23 per cent in Kanker, she said.

In 2019 Lok Sabha elections, 74.95 per cent voter turnout had been recorded in these three seats- Rajnandgaon (76.04 per cent), Mahasamund (74.51 per cent) and Kanker (74.27 per cent).

Raipur News

'SVEEP Sandhya' event lights up Marine Drive, Telibandha

Collector Dr. Gaurav Singh and Justice J. Abdul Zahid, inaugurated the event

Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: In a remarkable display of civic engagement and unity, citizens from diverse backgrounds converged at Marine Drive, Telibandha, for the 'SVEEP Sandhya' event, igniting enthusiasm for voter awareness through a unique ramp walk initiative. Participants, spanning generations and representing various sections of society including mother-daughter pairs, disabled individuals, transgender individuals, grandparents, parents, son-daughter-in-law duos, grandchildren, and senior citizens above 75 years of age, enthusiastically held placards advocating for the importance of voting. The event, inaugurated by Collector Dr. Gaurav Singh and Chief Guest Justice J. Abdul Zahid, commenced with the lighting of the lamp, symbolizing the illumination of democratic values. Justice J. Abdul Zahid administered a voter awareness oath, emphasizing the significance of voting as a fundamental right and a cornerstone of democracy.



Participants at SVEEP Sandhya organised here for voters awareness.

Collector Dr. Gaurav Singh reiterated the importance of voting as a civic duty, urging every citizen to fulfill their responsibility and contribute to the success of the democratic process. SSP Dr. Santosh Singh and Municipal Corporation Commissioner Abinash Mishra also encouraged voters to actively participate in elections, striving towards the goal of achieving 100% voter turnout. In recognition of their contributions to organizing the event, several officials including Municipal Corporation Commissioner Abinash Mishra and District Panchayat CEO Vishwadeep were honored.

Participants of all ages advocate for voter awareness

The 'SVEEP Sandhya' event witnessed heartening displays of solidarity and commitment to democracy, with participants of all ages and backgrounds coming together to advocate for voter awareness. Notable ramp walks by elderly individuals above 75 years of age, including Adhir Bhagwanani and Jaya Bhagwanani, as well as

HIGHLIGHT

- Three generations united in their commitment to promoting voter awareness
- Women, elderly individuals, transgender individuals and disabled exemplified spirit of democracy

the presence of NRI voter Priyanka Mishra from London, underscored the universal importance of civic engagement regardless of geographical boundaries. Event concluded with a powerful message resonating across the city, as three generations united in their commitment to promoting voter awareness through the dynamic platform of the ramp walk.

Atmosphere against Modi govt across the country: Deepak Baij

Central Chronicle News

Pradesh Congress President Deepak Baij has launched a scathing attack on the Modi government's performance, citing a perceived national sentiment against the ruling party

RAIPUR: Pradesh Congress President Deepak Baij has launched a scathing attack on the Modi government's performance, citing a perceived national sentiment against the ruling party. Baij asserts that the recent two-phase voting indicates a widespread desire for change, with the India alliance poised to secure 80 percent of seats in both phases. He accuses BJP leaders, including Prime Minister Modi, of resorting to divisive rhetoric in response to the perceived threat of defeat, citing it as evidence of the BJP's nervousness and impending loss.

Baij highlights several unfulfilled promises of the BJP government, particularly in the areas of job creation, farmer income doubling, and demonetization. He points out that the BJP's pledge to generate 20 crore jobs has fallen drastically short, with only 1.2 crore jobs reportedly created since 2014. Similarly,

he criticizes the government's failure to achieve its goal of doubling farmers' income by 2022, with actual growth rates far below the required pace.

Furthermore, Baij condemns the Modi government's demonetization policy as a failure, citing its inability to achieve its stated objectives of curbing black money, fraud, terrorism, and corruption. He alleges that 99 percent of the banned currency has returned to

FASTFACTS

- It is clear from the two phases that this election is an election of change.
- Modi's guarantee proved to be a failure in 10 years, not a single promise was fulfilled

the system, rendering the exercise ineffective and likening it to "economic terrorism."

Baij also targets the Ayushman Bharat scheme, highlighting a recent Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) report revealing numerous irregularities and invalid beneficiaries. He accuses the government of neglecting women beneficiaries of the Ujjwala scheme, citing data indicating low cylinder purchases despite subsidies.

NEWSLINE

TRAVEL

Affordable food being provided to passenger



RAIPUR: The Indian Railways in collaboration with Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) is providing hygienic food at affordable prices to serve the passengers, especially in unreserved coaches.

At a time of increase in passenger traffic during the summer holiday season, Railways has provided convenient and budget-friendly meal options for passengers in unreserved coaches.

To ensure easy access of meals and snacks to passengers traveling in unreserved coaches in General Class coaches, meals are being made available at counters conveniently located near General Second Class GS coaches on the platform.

BOOTH INSPECTION

Collector inspects polling booths of Raipur South Assembly

RAIPUR: In preparation for the Lok Sabha Elections 2024, Collector and District Returning Officer Dr. Gaurav Singh undertook an extensive inspection of polling booths in the Raipur South Assembly constituency on Saturday. Dr. Singh visited several polling booths, including Government Primary School Bhatagaon, Government Primary School Changorabhatha, Pandit Sunderlal Sharma North Secondary School, Lakhe Nagar, Dr. Anirudh Singh Primary School, Kushalpur, Patel Vidya Mandir Maharanjan Talab, Government Radha Bhai Naveen Kanya Mahavidyalaya, Mathpara, and Government Pre-Secondary School, Santoshi Nagar.

ELECTIONS

Collector sends off Postal Ballot voting teams with floral welcome



RAIPUR: Dr. Gaurav Singh, Collector and District Returning Officer, presided over the dispatching of postal ballot voting teams in preparation for the Lok Sabha elections 2024. The Collector provided necessary instructions to the polling parties and extended a warm welcome by presenting roses before their departure. Special recognition was accorded to the oldest member of the polling party. Dispatching ceremony included the sending off of police and city police polling teams.

Bhuvneshwar was murdered due to appeasement : Sao

Central Chronicle News

Deputy Chief Minister Arun Sao said that Bhuvaneshwar Sahu was murdered due to appeasement. The Congress government had taken unilateral action and Hindu community was intimidated and threatened in Biranpur

RAIPUR: Talking to the reporters at his official residence here today Sao said that him culprits will come to light after CBI investigation. Sahu community has taken the murder of Bhuneshwar Sahu seriously, he said. Sao said that there will also be a CBI inquiry into the PSC scam, which will bring justice to the youth. Those who play with the future of the youth will go to jail, he said.

pesh Baghel's allegation he said that Baghel had to face opposition from the beginning in Rajnandgaon. Only his workers are protesting and even in the polling booth, he is facing opposition from Congress workers, this is a matter of infighting between Congress, he said, adding that BJP has nothing to do with this. Sao said that the BJP government had contained the Naxalites to some extent, but the Baghel government again nurtured the Naxalites. The Congress government spoke the language of Naxalites. But after the formation of BJP government in the state, a campaign against Naxalism has been started, he said. As many as 90 Naxalites were killed in the last four months while 125 were arrested and more than 200 surrendered, he said. According to him voting has been in favor of BJP in the first and second phases.

Congress for CBI probe into Jheeram Case

RAIPUR: In response to the ongoing CBI investigation into the Biranpur and PSC case, Sushil Anand Shukla, President of the State Congress Communication Department, has raised questions about the BJP government's commitment to justice.

Shukla emphasized that the BJP's decision to involve the CBI in the investigation implies a lack of faith in the state's police force and governance system. Shukla asserted that if the BJP truly possesses the courage it claims, it should extend the CBI investigation to include the Jheeram case.

He pointed out the inconclusive nature of the National Investigation Agency (NIA) probe and the incomplete judicial investigation into the Jheeram case under the previous administration.

Fashion market gears up for election season

FASHION

Central Chronicle News

On one hand, election season is in full swing, on the other the textile market is benefiting from it. Demand for linen kurta-pajama and jacket increased.

RAIPUR: The demand for specific clothing items like linen kurta-pajama and Modi jackets has surged, likely due to the ongoing election campaigns and the summer season. The textile market is capitalizing on the election season by catering to the demand for specific clothing items popular during this period. Apart from the election season, the approaching summer is also contributing to the high demand for linen kurta-pajamas, which are lightweight and suited for warmer weather.



Cloth market flooded with election related stuffs.

FASTFACTS

- Textile market is capitalizing on election season by catering to demand for popular clothing items.
- In Chhattisgarh, political fashion trends are on the rise, with BJP supporters opting for Modi jackets

In Chhattisgarh, political fashion trends are on the rise, with BJP supporters opting for Modi jackets, while Congress party supporters are choosing Rahul T-shirts. Designer dhotis are also gaining popularity. According to traders, orders for these fashion items have increased significantly, with sales exceeding those of 2019. This surge

in demand is benefiting clothing stores and online companies alike.

Along with clothes, demand of stickers of parties are also there. These stickers that come with the party's logo and slogan are being liked a lot. It is being affixed especially in vehicles by consumers. Badges with party symbols are also being sold in abundance.

WORKSHOP

Training on advancement in microbiological diagnostics techniques

Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: To impart hands-on training to Medical Microbiologists, Biotechnologist and Molecular Biologists, All India Institute of Medical Sciences has organized a national-level five-day workshop (April 23-27, 2024) on Next Generation Sequencing (NGS).

Gen Ashok Jindal (Retd) informed that AIIMS is trying to upgrade its state-level VRD lab in BSL-III. It will provide state-of-the-art testing facilities and will be equipped to address new challenges arising after the COVID-19 pandemic. He congratulated the microbiology department for providing hands-on training in NGS in both the theoretical and practical aspects. According to Dr. Anudita Bhargava, HoD,



Microbiology Department, with the advent of next-generation sequencing technology, it has now become possible for scientists and clinicians to look into the whole genome of infectious microorganisms. NGS, being expensive and requiring expertise to analyze the data, is most often outsourced and, hence, remains elusive. A five-day workshop was conducted at national level. Workshop trained

AIIMS is trying to upgrade its state-level VRD lab in BSL-III. It will provide state-of-the-art testing facilities.

Lt Gen Ashok Jindal (Retd) ED AIIMS RAIPUR



"People have faith in Modi's guarantee and Vishnu's good governance"

Jitendra Verma
BJP Durg District President

Prayas Residential School students bring laurels to dist

District administration providing free coaching to 500 students from class 9th to 12th

Central Chronicle News

BHILAI: The students from tribal areas, pursuing school education at the state run Prayas Residential School, proved their calibre by qualifying IIT-JEE Advance. 44 students (Mathematics) studying in class 12th session 2023-24 at Prayas Residential School had appeared in the IIT-JEE Mains exam.

Out of the 44 students, 18 students have qualified for the IIT-JEE Advance. Prayas Residential School is being operated at Malviya Nagar Chowk in Durg District Headquarters.

In this school, along with free studies, facilities of free coaching are also being provided by the district administration to 500 students from class 9th to 12th. The selected organization Gurukripa Career Institute has made a very important contribution in this achievement.

The exciting result in IIT-JEE Mains is the outcome of the administrative efforts and the efforts of the selected institution.

Personality develop-



Students at the state run Prayas Residential School, proved their calibre by qualifying IIT-JEE Advance.

ment and various other activities along with teaching and coaching are carried out here. The teachers take personal interest in these activities to shape the future of their students.

The officials of the Department of Scheduled Caste / Scheduled Tribe development as well the District Administration are feeling proud with the exam results. Compared to previous years, the success rate has increased in the year 2023-24.

Collector extends best wishes for qualified students of JEE Advance

Collector Richa Prakash Chaudhary, while congratulating the qualified students of IIT-JEE, extended best wishes for success in Advance Exam. Joint Collector and Nodal Officer Harvansh Singh Miri and Hemant Kumar Sinha along with Assistant Commissioner, Coaching Operators and Administrative Officers and Superintendents

HIGHLIGHT

• 18 students qualify for IIT-JEE Advance

• Higher success achieved in 2023-24 as compared to previous years

met Collector Richa Prakash Chaudhary and expressed gratitude for

the cooperation of the district administration. They extended greetings by presenting a flower bouquet. The officials assured the Collector to work hard and support the qualified students for the preparations of IIT-JEE Advance. They hoped that most of the students would be able to qualify the Advance exam as well.

Free Health Camp at Villages Changori and Anda



Central Chronicle News

Total of 42 villagers, from Changori, and 52 from Anda availed free health services.

BHILAI: The Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Department of Bhilai Steel Plant organised one-day free Health Camps, at Villages Changori and Anda on April 23 and 24, 2024 respectively.

A total of 42 villagers, from Changori, and 52 from Anda availed free health services at

the Health Camps. Free medicines were also distributed to villagers attending the camps. Medical Practitioners Dr Msaraswati, Pharmacist, Susan Jacob, Nurse Firoza Joseph, Manzoor Ali, for registration provided their services at the Camps. Budhelal from the CSR Department was also present at both the camps. It is noteworthy that conducting Health Camps is one of the prime initiatives, through which BSP's CSR Department has contributed substantially towards Public Health and medicine.

Man involved in attempt to murder

BHILAI: Police arrested a man on charges of attempted murder. He was accompanying a man, who fired a shot with an airgun on his father-in-law after an argument with wife. ASP Sukhnandan Rathore informed that the incident occurred at Lakshmi Market in Supela on April 25.

The victim is Omprakash Rai, a resident of Laxmi Market, Supela. Rai's daughter had come back to maternal place as her husband Chandrabhushan Singh was a habitual drinker and used to abuse her daily. On April 25, Chandrabhushan and his accomplice Roshan Singh reached Rai's place and Chandrabhushan started arguing with his wife. When Rai interfered, the accused took out a pistol type weapon and fired on his face. Rai suffered fatal injury and was admitted to the hospital.

Single auction sale of defective steel items

Central Chronicle News

The previous achievement for a single auction sale of defective steel items was in December 2020

BHILAI: Secondary sales of defective steel cutting Items by the Marketing & Business Planning department through auction to the tune of 36,400 T has created an ever best record at SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant, which was auctioned on April 19, 2024. The previous achievement for a single auction sale of defective steel items was in December 2020.

Online Forward Auctions by the Marketing & Business Planning team under the leadership of Jagannath Rath, GM along with Manoj Kumar has been successful in creating multiple sales records.



Members of the Marketing and Business Planning department.

EASTFACTS

• The Realisation from Coal Chemicals sales during 2023-24 has surpassed Rs 600 Crores

• Despatch of Granulated Slag is 25.31 Lakh Tonnes is the ever-best

The Realisation from Coal Chemicals sales during 2023-24 has surpassed Rs 600 Crores in the financial year 2023-24, for the second consecutive year. The Despatch of Granulated Slag is 25.31 Lakh Tonnes which is the ever-best despatch during a financial year surpassing the previous best of 22.59 Lakh Tonnes achieved during 2022-23. For secondary

sales, material availability is checked at the custodian department, Disposal yard, Material Recovery Department (MRD) & Mines and then a Catalogue is created with details of the material. The auction is conducted online by BSP. Delivery Order is issued by the Marketing department after Payment is received against the Sale offer.

RESEARCH-ASTROPHYSICS |

Dark origin of the monster black holes at the dawn of the universe

Central Chronicle News

BHILAI: Astrophysicists at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bhilai, PhD scholar Ritik Sharma and his guide Dr Mahavir Sharma, have published a research paper explaining the origin of supermassive black holes in the newly formed galaxies at cosmic dawn, which has appeared in the monthly notices of royal astronomical society (MNRAS).

The study finds that

the growth of the central black hole occurs in two phases. In the initial first phase, the seed black hole at the centre grows at a slow pace as per the standard feeding or accretion rate which was proposed in the seminal paper by the British physicist Herman Bondi.

However, then there is a crucial second phase, in which the evolving dark matter halo of a galaxy takes control of the accretion, as it soon



The astrophysicists Ritik Sharma & Dr Mahavir Sharma explained the origin of supermassive black holes.

modifies the Bondi accretion rate, and increases it multi-folds, leading to a

quick growth of the seed black hole into a monster, with a mass com-

fortably more than tens of millions solar masses, that agree with the recently detected SMBHs at cosmic dawn by the James Webb Space Telescope (JWST) launched last year by NASA.

The authors of the study, Ritik Sharma and Dr Mahavir Sharma, explained that the second rapid phase is the key, and the dark matter of a galaxy is the reason for it. Dark matter is everywhere and it is a reality

"In second phase, the evolving dark matter halo of a galaxy takes control of the accretion, leading to growth of seed black hole into a monster"

Ritik Sharma & Dr Mahavir Sharma
Astrophysicists

of our Universe; in fact, visible galaxies also have an underlying dark character. Each galaxy at a fundamental level is a spherical blob of dark matter known as the halo, which is 'invisible', that engulfs the 'visible' stars and gas.

Dark matter is in fact the omnipresent base fabric in which the visible galaxies and their stars develop and emerge as colourful designs that we see in the night sky.

RANDOMIZATION

Randomization of addl EVMs and ballot units



BHILAI: The first randomization of additional EVMs and ballot units was done on Saturday. These EVMs and Ballot Units will be kept reserved and are additional to the machines to be used in the assemblies for Durg Lok Sabha constituency. The first randomisation was conducted in the presence of Observer SB Shettenavar (IAS) and Collector and District Election Officer Richa Prakash Choudhary in the Collectorate Hall. Additional Collector Arvind Ekka, Additional Collector and Deputy District Election Officer Bajrang Dubey and Additional Collector Yogita Dewangan, Joint Collector Harvansh Singh Miri, Deputy Collector Lavkesh Kumar Dhruv, AROs Sonal David, and representatives of political parties were present.

VOTING

Casting of postal ballots begins today

BHILAI: Under Lok Sabha Elections 2024, voting is to be held in Durg Parliamentary Constituency on May 07. Voters of Durg district (working in Durg district and other districts) who will be deployed on election duty on the polling day, can cast their votes through postal ballot. Assembly wise facilitation center and absentee category essential service voters can cast their postal ballots at centre established in the Science Block of BIT College, Durg. Apart from this, a facilitation center has also been made at Police Reserve Centre for the police personnel deployed on security duty. Ballot voting is scheduled from April 28 to May 01 as well as from May 04 to 06.

CRIME

Rape accused nabbed while trying to flee

BHILAI: Police arrested a youth on charges of raping a minor girl. The accused was trying to flee to Uttar Pradesh. The vigilant cops chased him and with the help of Railway Police and local cops, nabbed him at Bhatapara. ASP Sukhnandan Rathore informed that Chhawani Police had received a complaint regarding sexual assault with a minor girl.

As per the information provided by the victim's family, police searched for the accused, who resided in the victim's neighbourhood. After committing the crime, the accused had boarded Navtanva Express and was escaping to Uttar Pradesh.

Durg Police immediately swung into action and with the help of Railway Police Force and local Police Station, the accused was arrested from the train at Bhatapara.

Battle-2024



Modi's 'factory of lies' won't work
Mallikarjun Kharge
Congress president



Union Minister Amit Shah being felicitated during a public meeting for Lok Sabha elections.

Make Narendra Modi PM for third term to rid country of terrorism and Naxalism

BJP Govt to give a platform to the youth so they could go hand in hand with the world and create a great India.

Press Trust Of India

PORBANDAR: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday urged people to make Narendra Modi the prime minister for the third term to rid the country of terrorism, Naxalism and poverty, and to make India the third largest economy in the world. In the last 10 years, PM Modi took several tough decisions without caring for the vote bank, he said as he cited the scrapping of Article 370 and construction of a Ram temple in Ayodhya. Addressing

a public rally to drum up support for Union minister Mansukh Mandaviya, who is contesting the Lok Sabha election from Porbandar constituency in Gujarat, Shah also said that after two phases of polls, it is now clear that people of the country have decided to bring Modi to power once again. "I would appeal to you to vote for lotus (BJP's poll symbol) on the remaining 25 seats and make Modi prime minister for a third term. Making him PM for the third term means freedom from terrorism and

HIGHLIGHT

- Modi carried out surgical and air strikes to finish off terrorists on Pakistan soil. Modi worked to secure the country and make it prosperous.
- After two phases of election, it is now clear that Rahul Gandhi is finished.

Naxalism, freedom from poverty, making arrangements to give a platform to the youth so they could

go hand in hand with the world and create a great India," the senior BJP leader said. PM Modi worked to brighten the name of Gujarat on the world map, and gave a new identity to the state that is known for Mahatma Gandhi and Sardar Patel, he said. Attacking Congress, Shah said, "When Article 370 was scrapped, Rahul Gandhi opposed the move saying a river of blood will flow in Kashmir after that. But in the last five years, let alone the river of blood, nobody dared to

throw even a stone there. Modi worked to finish terrorism and Naxalism from the country." When Manmohan Singh was the country's prime minister, anyone could enter the country from Pakistan and blow up bombs, he said. "When Pakistan carried out terrorist attacks in Pulwama and Uri, it forgot that Modi was the prime minister. Within 10 days, Modi carried out surgical and air strikes to finish off terrorists on Pakistan soil. Modi worked to secure the country and make it prosperous," he said.

BJP opposed to ethos of Bengal: Abhishek

NEW DELHI: Dubrajpur (WB): Senior TMC leader Abhishek Banerjee on Saturday alleged that the BJP was opposed to the ethos of Bengal and called upon the people to reject the saffron party. Addressing an election rally here in Birbhum district, the Trinamool Congress national general secretary alleged that the Narendra Modi government is yet to release money for the 100 days wages of the poor job card holders of the state. "Don't vote BJP. They are anti-Bengal. They don't hold in reverence luminaries like Swami Vivekananda, they smash the bust of Iswar Chandra Vidya-sagar, they don't know where Rabindranath Tagore was born.

YSRCP promises to increase pension, to make Vizag capital

Press Trust Of India

Assembly elections will be held simultaneously with the Lok Sabha polls in Andhra Pradesh on May 13.

AMARAVATI: YSRCP chief Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy on Saturday released the party manifesto for the coming elections and promised to gradually hike welfare pensions from Rs 3,000 to Rs 3,500 per month and govern the state from Visakhapatnam. The chief minister noted that welfare pensions, which are currently at Rs 3,000 per month, will be raised to Rs 3,250 from January 2028 and



YSRCP chief during manifesto release.

FACTFILE

- Amaravati will be developed as the legislative capital and Kurnool as the judicial capital

subsequently to Rs 3,500 from January 2029. "Immediately after YSRCP forms the government in 2024, Visakhapatnam will be made the executive capital as the seat of the government. It will be developed as the growth

engine for the state," said Reddy, addressing a press conference. Further, he vowed that Amaravati will be developed as the legislative capital and Kurnool as the judicial capital. Continuing almost all the schemes introduced in the past five years, Reddy has also raised the financial outlay for some schemes such as Amma Vodi, which has been hiked from Rs 15,000 per annum to Rs 17,000. Amma Vodi is a financial aid scheme for mothers who send their children to school. The YSRCP chief insisted that a political party's manifesto assumed its real meaning only in his government, which treated it as a holy book like the Bible, Quran and Bhagavad Gita.

PRIYANKA SPEAKS

BJP will change Constitution if it returns to power

Press Trust Of India

DHARAMPUR: Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi on Saturday claimed that the ruling BJP's top leadership may be pretending to be in denial mode now, but the party will change the Constitution if it returns to power. Targeting Prime Minister Narendra Modi

over inflation, she called him a "mehengai" man. "BJP leaders and candidates are saying that they will change the Constitution. But Prime Minister Narendra Modi is denying it. This is their tactic," she said at a public rally at Dharampur village of tribal-dominated Valsad district held in support of Congress candidate for

BJP leaders and candidates are saying that they will change the Constitution.

Priyanka Gandhi
Congress leader



ST-reserved Valsad Lok Sabha seat, Anant Patel. "First, they will always deny what they want to do. But after coming to power, they will implement it. They want to change the Constitution to weaken the common people and deprive them of their rights given in our Constitution," said the Congress leader.

Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

LOK SABHA POLLS

AAP's Chabbewal banks on Mann gov't work for victory in Hoshiarpur

CHANDIGARH: The AAP's Raj Kumar Chabbewal is banking on the Bhagwant Mann government's schemes, especially providing free electricity and setting up aam aadmi clinics, to win the Hoshiarpur Lok Sabha seat.

A radiologist by profession, the former two-time MLA is contesting the parliamentary polls on an AAP ticket from Hoshiarpur, currently represented by the BJP's Som Parkash. Chabbewal last month quit the Congress and joined AAP.

The 54-year-old also resigned as MLA from the Chabbewal constituency in Hoshiarpur district. He was the deputy leader of opposition in the Punjab Assembly when he quit. Chabbewal first became an MLA from the Chabbewal assembly segment in 2017 and retained the seat in the 2022 polls. **PTI**

SAJAD LONE ON ARTICLE 370

Will not fight LS polls if NC gets INDIA bloc to publicly commit



SRINAGAR: Challenging the abrogation of Article 370 in the Supreme Court might have been a mistake but not doing so would have made things worse politically for the mainstream parties of Jammu and Kashmir, Peoples Conference chief Sajad Lone has said. The sepa artist-turned-mainstream politician, who is contesting the Lok Sabha polls from the Baramulla seat, said the National Conference was "fooling" the people by talking about restoring Jammu and Kashmir's special status. **PTI**

BJP to deepen its bond with Sikhs Large number of Sikhs, including DSGMC members, join BJP



NEW DELHI: A large number of Sikhs, including members of the Delhi Sikh Gurudwara Management Committee, joined the BJP on Saturday.

Citing a host of measures taken by the government to help the minority community, BJP president J P Nadda on the occasion said if anybody has really worked for the community, it is Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Nadda also cited central government decisions such as the opening of the Kartarpur Sahib corridor, the FCRA registration for donations to the

Golden Temple and the action against accused in the 1984 anti-Sikh riot cases.

He said the BJP highly regarded the contribution and sacrifices of the community for the country and will keep working for its welfare.

The BJP has been in an overdrive to deepen its bond with Sikhs and is looking to put up a strong fight in the Lok Sabha polls in Punjab, where they are in a majority. A number of well known Sikh politicians from the state have joined the party recently. **PTI**

The Day's NUMBERS

TOP INDIAN UNIVERSITIES AND RANKINGS (AS PER QS WORLD UNIVERSITY RANKINGS)

IISc, Bangalore	185
IIT Bombay	177
IIT Delhi	182
IIT Madras	255
IIT Kanpur	350

Source: Statista

POLITICAL CONTROVERSY Cong seeks explanation over Jayarajan's meeting with Javadekar

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: The controversy arising out of the charges levelled against LDF convener E P Jayarajan that he planned to join the BJP, refused to die down on Saturday with the Congress demanding that the CPI(M) leadership explain why he met BJP leader Prakash Javadekar. Dismissing the allegations, the Left party said it was a ploy of the Congress party to hide its embarrassment over party leaders joining the BJP enmasse. Senior BJP leader Shoba Surendran had alleged that a middleman tried to help Jayarajan "who expressed interest to join the BJP". On the day of the election, Congress chief K Sudhakaran and Leader of Opposition in the state Assembly, V D Satheesan had attacked the LDF convener saying there was a secret understanding between the BJP and the CPI(M). Addressing reporters today, Satheesan said the CM had defended the meeting between Jayarajan and Javadekar. **PTI**

POLITICS Modi undermining dignity of PM post: Siddaramaiah



KALABURAGI: Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Saturday said Narendra Modi has undermined the dignity of the Prime Minister's post with lies and inflaming people's sentiments. "Narendra Modi is very good at lying. They have marketed lies. He is trying to harm the dignity of people by saying irrelevant things, inflaming people's feelings, polarizing them, which undermines the dignity of the post of Prime Minister," Siddaramaiah said, while addressing a press conference here. **PTI**

There will not be any dearth of development in the region and sought blessings of people for Dr SK Daharia.

Shakun Daharia



Chhattisgarh

Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

ENCOURAGEMENT

Invitation cards distributed to voters in local haat-markets

KOREA: Lok Sabha Elections 2024 invitation cards were distributed in local haat-markets to encourage voters to vote under the guidance of Collector and District Election Officer Vinay Kumar Langeh, Superintendent of Police Suraj Singh Parihar Korea and Chief Executive Officer of District Panchayat Dr. Ashutosh Chaturvedi. As per information, distribution of invitation cards were done in local haat-markets to encourage voters to vote, in Bazaar Para Patna of development block Baikunthpur on 27th April and on 28 April at 4 pm in Bazaar Para Baikunthpur and on 30 April at 5 pm in market area Chhindand. The Chief Executive Officer of District Panchayat has instructed the Chief Executive Officer of District Panchayat Baikunthpur and Sonhat and the Chief Municipality Officer of Baikunthpur to ensure necessary preparations for the successful program.

OATH TO VOTE

Students take oath to vote in government EVPG College, Korba



KORBA: In a bid to increase voter awareness in the district among the young population students of Government EVPG College Korba, were administered the oath to vote hundred percent by Principal Dr. Sadhna Khare. Also to increase the voting percentage in the Lok Sabha elections in the aspirational development block Korba, a voter awareness campaign was conducted in Gram Panchayat Godhi for 100 percent voting under the SVEEP program, under which a collective oath was administered to men and women.

From around the region

Voting completed peacefully with participation from all sections of society



DONGARAGAON: Lok Sabha elections 2024 were completed peacefully in the area and on 26th April all the aware voters exercised their franchise, with equal enthusiasm. Taking election duty seriously, employees became a source of inspiration for other employees by doing duty with their children, meanwhile many elders showed their alertness and set an example for the coming generation by voting, while in many booths, newly married couples also took part in this election festival. As soon as voting commenced, at 7 am on Friday, a large number of voters gathered in all the booths and by noon, most of them had cast their votes. In the same sequence, on the lines of first

vote and second work, a newly married couple, reached booth number 155 Sanginakchhar to vote, similarly, Bhupendra Meriya, a resident of Kilapara Dongargaon, after returning from the marriage procession, was the first one to cast his vote along with his wife. His wife Sandhya cast her vote before bidding farewell to her parents. A very elderly woman gave inspiration by voting in village Vicharpur Navagaon polling station number 154. In this election, many election workers accepted the challenge by doing election duty even in adverse circumstances, in which constable Bhumika Yadav in Mathaldbari fulfilled her role in the polling festival while doing duty with a 2 year old boy girl.

The Day's NUMBERS

Sourcewise and statewide estimated potential of Renewable Power in India (as on 31/03/2023) for Large Hydro (in MW)

WHAT IS STATEWISE ESTIMATED POTENTIAL OF RENEWABLE POWER IN INDIA (LARGE HYDRO)

Arunachal Pradesh	50,394
Himachal Pradesh	18305
J&K	12,972
Karnataka	4414
Odisha	2825
AP	2596

Source: Statista

SUSPENSION

Teacher suspended for negligence in election work in Sonhat block

KOREA: Digvijay Singh Paikra, teacher of secondary school Baser of development block Sonhat, has been suspended owing to negligence in election work. Collector and District Election Officer Vinay Kumar Langeh had issued a show cause notice to Digvijay Singh for his absence in the training and directed him to submit a written explanation within 24 hours, but reportedly Mr. Paikra did not submit the clarification within the stipulated time.

The above act is indicative of indifference and gross negligence towards an important and time-bound task like elections, which is contrary to Rule 3(a) of the Civil Services (Conduct) Rules, 1965 and is punishable as per Rule 9(1) of the Civil Services (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules, 1966. As per Civil Services (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rule 9 (1), he has been suspended with immediate effect by taking disciplinary action.

MOTIVATION

Sahu motivates villagers to exercise their votes in various villages



RAJIM: BJP leader and District Panchayat member Chandrashekhar Sahu visited various villages of his constituency including Rajim Mandal, Panduka Mandal, Fingeshwar Mandal and Chhura Mandal and motivated the villagers to exercise their votes diligently. Sahu was part of the election campaigning and while meeting the workers, he kept motivating them to increase the voting percentage and was also seen appealing for heavy voting in favor of BJP. He said that this Lok Sabha election has now become a festival and people are voting spontaneously.



Two big industries in the Janjgir-Champa district have been facing serious legal troubles lately.

'Krishna and Narayan Inds in trouble over pollution'

Fake report causes uproar from PM office; Authorities issue strict orders to investigate both fake report and the factories

HIGHLIGHT

- Both Krishna and Narayan Industries are generating heavy pollutants that is causing the villagers a lot of physical harm

- Villagers suffering from silicosis and tuberculosis due to pollutants from the factories.

generating heavy pollutants that is causing the villagers a lot of physical harm.

Several people have taken an active interest in the workings of these two industries. Moreover, many top officials

were notified of this problem in writing by the people.

As the angry people mobbed the various administration offices for the solution of their problem, the latter have decided to take action on the two industries.

Even after so many complaints, only a file was made for the same in which it was written that there had been no such case against the factories and there are no orders to shut down the same.

It also surfaced that it was a fake report that was created and sent to the Prime Minister's office.

In light of this, the PM office has issued orders to find out who is the culprit behind this fake scenario and have given the case to an IS officer who is investigating the case along with the Chief Secretary of Chhattisgarh government.

Not only this, the PM office has also issued strict orders regarding proper inspection of both the factories at the earliest and to shut them down at the earliest.

At present, the matter is being investigated on 11 points by different departments and once they finish their investigations, they will bring out the final report.

Central Chronicle News

JANJGIR-CHAMPA: Two big industries in the Janjgir-Champa district have been facing serious legal troubles lately due to creating pollution in their nearby surroundings.

These industries are Krishna and Narayan Industries that are operating on leased land provided to them by the government.

However, the increasing pollution from these factories has become quite dangerous for the people who reside around these industries.

Actually, the pollutants created by these two industries are giving peo-

ple some major diseases that are silicosis and even tuberculosis.

Additionally, a factory worker by the name of Ramkumar Yadav has contracted TB because of working in the factory and is undergoing treatment at the Community Health Center in Baloda.

Moreover, Ramkumar's wife fears that she might also contract silicosis or TB and that's why the couple decided to go to the Collector's office to file a complaint to test the chemicals that are being used in both the industries and shut them down with immediate effect.

Both Krishna and Narayan Industries are

| LS POLLING |

Voting disrupted as EVM machine breaks down

Central Chronicle News

There are a total of 1236 voters here and a long queue in the morning

RAJIM: Enthusiasm for voting in Mahasamund Lok Sabha constituency on Friday, 26th April was clearly seen as there was a long queue since 7:00 am in the morning, but reportedly the pace of the voting process was disrupted due to the malfunction of the EVM machine in serial no. 185 at Chaubebandha at around 1:00 pm on Friday. The machine malfunctioned for about 13 minutes, after which the voting procedure was continued.

As per information,



Enthusiasm for voting in Mahasamund Lok Sabha constituency on Friday.

FACTFILE

- The pace of the voting process was disrupted due to the malfunction of the EVM machine

there are a total of 1236 voters here and a long queue in the morning was due to only one polling booth organized resulting in people waiting for hours to cast their vote. Scorching heat along with humid-

ity also troubled the voters as the pandal and shade installed was not covering the entire area. Voting machine malfunction was also informed in Bhainsatra and Lafandi region also, which was rectified latter.

| LITERACY CAMP |

Legal literacy camp organized in Central School

Central Chronicle News

KHAIRAGRH: A legal literacy camp was organized in the city's Kendriya Vidyalaya, in which President Sushma Sawant, as per the instructions of District Legal Services Authority Rajnandgaon and Secretary Hemant Kumar Ratre informed the audience about various act and actions

offending women can come under the section of punishable acts.

Also towards the safety of children, the topic based on POCSO Act was prepared to prevent crimes like my safety, my responsibility, sexual harassment, sexual exploitation and pornography, good and bad touch and any type of sexual behaviour under

A person needs a license of the type of vehicle he or she drive and the vehicle should also be insured.

GP Dewangan (Class-I) Judicial Magistrate



the age of 18 falls within the scope of this law. This law provides equal protection to boys and girls.

Judicial Magistrate First Class Guru Prasad Dewangan, while explaining about the Motor Vehicle Act, said that you need a license of the type of vehicle you drive and the vehicle should also be insured and have a fitness permit.

Enthusiastic turnout marks KCG district elections

Voters of all demographics participate fervently; Naxal-affected areas record high participation

Central Chronicle News

KHAIRAGARH: In a display of democratic fervour, Khairagarh-Chhuikhadan-Gandai (KCG) district witnessed an impressive turnout of nearly 78 percent during the elections. From the plains to the Naxal-affected regions, citizens turned out in large numbers to exercise their franchise, reflecting their commitment to the electoral process.

Despite technical glitches reported at a few polling stations, including Gatapar forest, where a delay ensued due to a VVPAT malfunction, authorities swiftly rectified the issues, ensuring minimal disruption to the voting process. Particularly noteworthy was the enthusiasm observed among voters from diverse backgrounds, including the elderly, youth, and differently-abled individuals, who queued up as early as 7:00 am to cast their ballots. This robust participation underscores the electorate's dedication to shaping the future through democratic means. Remarkably, even in the most remote corners of the district, such as Katema-Ghaghra, located on the border with Madhya



Citizens turned out in large numbers to exercise their franchise.

Pradesh, voter turnout exceeded 88 percent by early afternoon. Despite being a Naxal-affected area, residents demonstrated unwavering resolve to exercise their voting rights. As the final tally approached 75.55 percent, with Khairagarh and Dongargarh (partial) assembly segments registering 75.25 percent and 76.48 percent respectively, the Election Commission awaits the return of polling teams from remote locales to ascertain the complete figures.

SP and wife queue to vote; disabled voters show enthusiasm

During Khairagarh's Lok Sabha voting, SP Trilok Bansal and his wife joined voters, urging for democracy's protection. He cast his vote, stood in a queue with the voters, likening it to a festival, and encouraged others. Disabled voters accessed polling stations via the Divyang Rath. The peaceful conclusion of voting in Rajnandgaon's

HIGHLIGHT

- Disabled voters display remarkable enthusiasm, reaching polling stations via Divyang Rath
- SP Bansal leads by example, queues with voters, urges protecting democracy

Khairagarh district saw high enthusiasm among diverse demographics. SP's active engagement highlighted democratic importance. The Divyang Rath ensured inclusivity, enhancing access for disabled voters. Overall, the smooth voting process reflected citizens' commitment to exercising democratic rights.

Voters' enthusiasm paints a vibrant picture of democracy

Central Chronicle News

KURUD witness unparalleled enthusiasm as voters in the Mahasamund Lok Sabha constituency exemplify civic duty and engagement.

In a remarkable display of democratic fervour, the voters of Kurud assembly constituency, nestled within the Mahasamund Lok Sabha constituency, showcased unparalleled enthusiasm during the ongoing Lok Sabha General Elections 2024. From the crack of dawn, residents, including those from Kurud Nagar Panchayat, exuded an unwavering zeal for exercising their voting rights, painting a beautiful portrait of civic engagement.

With polling stations witnessing a steady stream of voters, the spirit of participation permeated every corner, with women and youth actively contributing to the electoral process. Notably, Kurud MLA Ajay Chandrakar himself joined the queue to cast his vote, emphasizing the significance of full participation in shaping the nation's future. The resolute commitment to democracy was further exemplified by newlywed brides, Ghanshyam Sahu

and Tekeshwar of villages Silyari and Teka and their wives respectively, prioritized their civic duty before their farewell ceremonies. Their actions, supported wholeheartedly by their families and in-laws, underscored the profound awareness and responsibility among Kurud's electorate.

In a touching moment, an elderly couple from Nagar Panchayat Bhakhara, Jageshar Sahu and Bukhin Bai, aged

FASTFACTS

- Newlywed brides prioritize voting before their farewell ceremonies, showcasing commitment to civic responsibility.
- Elderly couple's heartwarming gesture of walking hand in hand to vote symbolizes Kurud's enduring spirit.

75 and 72 respectively, declined assistance to the polling center, choosing instead to walk hand in hand, symbolizing the enduring spirit of democracy.

Out of a total of 2,11,605 voters in the Kurud assembly constituency, a significant turnout was witnessed, with voters embracing their duty with gusto.

NEWSLINE

KARATE

Karate players of Dhamtari district win medals



In an impressive display of skill and determination, karate players from Dhamtari district secured medals at the Interstate Tong IL Moo Do National Championship held in Paikmal, Odisha. Gajanan Sinha and Niranjan Sahu clinched gold, while Jagannath Sahu claimed bronze.

The championship saw participation from 300 players representing 17 districts. Notable dignitaries including MLA Barsa Singh Baria and special guest CL Sahu graced the event, underscoring its significance. Chhattisgarh Secretary Upendra Pradhan and other officials were also present to witness the thrilling competition.

SCOUT GUIDES

Scout guides assist voters with dedication

Under the leadership of Bharat Scouts and Guides Chhattisgarh's State Chief Commissioner Dr. Somnath Yadav and State Secretary Kailash Soni, Scout Guides from Gariaband district played a crucial role in assisting voters during the elections. Following instructions from District Election Officer and Collector Deepak Kumar Agarwal, along with District Education Officer Anand Kumar Saraswat, the Scouts-Guides worked tirelessly to facilitate the voting process. They provided special assistance to handicapped, disabled, and elderly voters, ensuring they could cast their votes smoothly. Additionally, they undertook service tasks like queue management and providing water to voters, displaying unwavering devotion and honesty in fulfilling their responsibilities.

ACCIDENT

Tragic accident claims 11-year-old girl's life

A devastating incident occurred when an 11-year-old girl, Mukta Shri Sahu, was fatally hit by a four-wheeler at 7:30 pm. The Rajim police swiftly responded, registering a case against the driver, Rajkumar. The family, shattered by the loss, received the girl's body after police formalities. The accident took place near Sai Mandir on Gariaband Marg, where Mukta Shri Sahu was with her family. Despite immediate medical attention, she couldn't survive the impact. Investigating Officer Jai Prakash Kash Netam confirmed the timing of the accident and assured that legal action is underway against the driver.

Observer Meena ensures election readiness in Korba

Central Chronicle News

Observer Meena's meticulous inspections ensure Korba's polling stations are ready for Lok Sabha Elections 2024, reflecting commitment to democracy.

KORBA: General Observer Prem Singh Meena, designated by the Election Commission of India for Korba district, diligently inspected numerous polling stations ahead of the Lok Sabha Elections 2024. Accompanied by SDM Shrikant Verma and booth label officers, Observer Meena meticulously assessed facilities and arrangements at various polling stations across the Korba assembly constituency.

From Nirmala English School in Kosabari to Government Primary School in Tulsinagar, Observer Meena scrutinized ame-

nities such as voter information wall writings, ramps for disabled voters, toilets, and drinking water systems. Providing necessary instructions, Observer Meena emphasized the importance of ensuring adequate facilities to meet voters' needs.

Notably, polling stations in Jelgaon, Ayodhyapuri, Jannipali, Balgikhar, and other areas under Tehsil Darri also underwent thorough examination by the observer, underscoring a comprehensive approach to election preparedness in Korba. Observer Meena's dedicated efforts to guarantee a seamless voting process reflect the Election Commission's commitment to conducting free, fair, and accessible elections. With meticulous attention to detail and proactive measures, Korba residents can anticipate a smooth and efficient electoral experience in the upcoming elections.

Peaceful voting amid wedding celebrations

PANDARIA: Voting for Rajnandgaon Lok Sabha concluded peacefully despite the scorching heat. While some voters arrived early, others waited until evening to cast their ballots. Notably, on April 26, numerous weddings took place, affecting voter turnout. However, many, like Deepak Sahu, prioritized their civic duty. Deepak, set to wed on the same day, ensured he and his family voted before the wedding procession. He emphasized the importance of voting regardless of circumstances. Even elderly voters and newlyweds participated fervently. Additionally, an eco-friendly booth adorned with wood and leaves was set up in the Vananchal area, showcasing a blend of tradition and sustainability in the electoral process.

Fingeshwar farmers hit hard by hailstorm seek aid

Central Chronicle News

Fingeshwar villages reel from hailstorm's wrath, crops devastated.

FINGESHWAR: The hailstorm and heavy rains that battered the Fingeshwar development block have wreaked havoc on the Rabi crops of around 20-25 adjacent villages. Villages like Sorid, Amethi, Sajapali, and others faced substantial damage, leaving farmers in despair.

The catastrophic weather, which struck on the night of April 23rd, resulted in widespread destruction of paddy plants, causing nearly 100 percent losses for many farmers. Trees were uprooted, electric wires were torn down, and agricultural operations came to a standstill due



Devastation of Rabi Crops after hailstorm strikes villages

FASTFACTS

- Farmers, facing overwhelming losses, plead for immediate government assistance to rebuild their livelihoods. Urgent appeals to the District Collector highlight the urgent need for aid amid the crisis.

to the adverse conditions. Despite efforts to salvage what remains of their crops, farmers find themselves overwhelmed by the scale of devastation. With fields submerged in water and plants ruined beyond repair, the financial burden of recovery looms large. Approximately one thousand acres of crops have been affected, prompting farmers to urgently appeal to

the Chhattisgarh government for assistance. They have approached the District Collector, highlighting their plight and emphasizing the need for immediate compensation to alleviate their suffering. In the face of adversity, the resilient farmers of Fingeshwar remain hopeful for swift aid to help them rebuild their livelihoods and overcome this challenging period.

PLASTIC AWARENESS

Use of polythene continues indiscriminately in city shops

Sushil Shukla

MUNGELI: The indiscriminate use of polythene in Mungeli city continues unchecked, despite the state government's ban, highlighting a concerning lack of enforcement. Despite sporadic municipal actions shortly after the ban's initiation, polythene usage swiftly resumed across shops in the city.

Polythene, a major contributor to environ-

mental degradation and health hazards, persists in clogging drains, posing risks to both human and animal well-being. Despite potential penalties, including imprisonment and fines, lax enforcement and shopkeepers' disregard perpetuate the issue.

The state government's order, aimed at curbing plastic pollution and safeguarding public health, faces challenges in implementation due to incon-



sistent monitoring and insufficient penalties. The failure to enforce the ban underscores the urgent need for concerted efforts

from authorities and public cooperation.

If action is taken, hundreds of kilos of polythene can be seized from

the shops in the district. Like the government, after the order, now the issue of banned polythene has been put on hold. Now neither any kind of investigation is done nor polythene is being confiscated. Whereas these days it is being used extensively by every fruit stall and grocery shopkeeper in the market. The first effect of the resumption of carry bags in the same condition as before was that the quantity of poly-

Efforts have been made to follow the orders of the government, this is a continuous process. After the elections, swift action will be taken in the city.

Anubhav Singh

CMO

thene carry bags in urban waste has increased again, which is becoming the cause of pollution these days.

Addressing this pressing issue requires sustained vigilance and proactive measures from authorities and citizens alike. Only through concerted action can Mungeli city hope to overcome the scourge of polythene pollution and safeguard the health and environment of its residents.



QUOTE FROM THE QUOTABLE

Dream, dream, dream. Dreams transform into thoughts, and thoughts result in action

[A.P.J. Abdul Kalam]

Comment

Rethinking Freebies: Balancing Public Welfare and Economic Health

OUR VIEW |

Modernizing Defence: Soldiers to Adapt Tech Revolution

In an age characterized by rapid technological progress and evolving security landscapes, the Army's proactive embrace of technology marks a crucial milestone in its journey towards modernization. The recent announcement by Army Chief Gen Manoj Pande underscores the pressing need to equip soldiers with the skills to effectively harness emerging technologies. The integration of simulation and virtual reality training modules into the Army's curriculum represents a departure from traditional methods, offering soldiers immersive, tech-driven learning experiences. This initiative not only enhances their technical proficiency but also fosters a culture of innovation and adaptability within the ranks. Furthermore, the inclusion of cyber specialists and linguists in the Territorial Army acknowledges the multifaceted nature of modern warfare, where cyber threats loom large. Against the backdrop of geopolitical tensions, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh's commitment to providing world-class equipment and training to the armed forces resonates with the Army's strategic imperative of countering emerging threats. Indeed, the Army's embrace of cutting-edge technologies enhances not only operational efficiency but also its ability to confront hybrid threats and grey-zone aggression. However, this transition presents numerous challenges. Investment in training is essential to ensure the seamless integration of technology into existing operational frameworks. Moreover, the success of this endeavor hinges on the Army's steadfast adherence to core principles of courage, integrity, and dedication to national defense, even in the face of evolving warfare techniques. As the Army navigates the complexities of modern warfare, it must remain vigilant and adaptable. Continuous training and investment in technology are paramount to staying ahead of adversaries and safeguarding national security interests. Moreover, collaboration with industry partners and academic institutions can further enhance the Army's technological prowess.

GUEST VIEW |

Smart Workplaces: Transforming Safety and Productivity

Workplace safety is paramount for global sustainability and workers' well-being. Mental health at work is crucial, with April 28th marking "World Day for Safety and Health at Work." Immediate action is vital to address health risks from the climate crisis, impacting 70% of workers. Strong safety policies protect workers and their livelihoods, requiring supportive environments and effective protocols. With most work-related fatalities from diseases, addressing emerging risks from technological shifts is crucial. Organizers emphasize fostering a safety and health culture, ensuring every worker's right to a secure environment. In the Industry 4.0 era, challenges like psychosocial risks demand proactive resolutions. IoT technology transforms workplace safety, setting new standards with smart devices and data utilization. Smart manufacturing enhances productivity and safety through connectivity and technology like 3D visualization and robotics. Wearable technology improves safety awareness and operational efficiency. Embracing Industry 4.0 mandates updating workplaces for safety, health, and productivity, benefiting all stakeholders.



Dr. Krishna Kumar vepakomma

Former RBI Governor D Subbarao cautions against the rising prevalence of freebies in Indian politics, emphasizing their detrimental impact on economic stability. The practice of political parties offering incentives like free electricity, water, and electronic gadgets to sway voters not only strains government finances but also diverts funds from essential developmental projects, hampering overall economic growth.

Subbarao underscores the urgency for governments to uphold financial discipline and refrain from succumbing to the allure of populist measures. He advocates for a concerted effort among political parties to address this issue, suggesting the presentation of a "white paper" by the Modi government to initiate a meaningful debate and formulate a concrete policy to curb the proliferation of freebies.

The recent White Paper presented by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman

in the Lok Sabha serves as a testament to the government's commitment to transparency and accountability. By highlighting the failures of the previous administration and showcasing the achievements of the current government, it empowers the public to make informed decisions about governance and public policy.

The Supreme Court's intervention in this matter further underscores the gravity of the issue. Questions raised by the apex court regarding the economic viability of promising freebies during election campaigns and their impact on governance highlight the urgent need for action to address this systemic challenge. Similarly, the Election Commission's scrutiny of political promises and expenditure on freebies underscores the growing concern over the distortion of electoral processes and governance priorities.

The adverse effects of freebies extend beyond



Prof. Satish Singh

Assistant General Manager (L&D), State Bank of India, Ahmedabad

economic repercussions to undermine the democratic fabric of the country. By distorting electoral outcomes and diverting attention from pressing governance issues, they compromise the quality of governance and hinder the enactment of laws and policies beneficial to society as a whole. Moreover, the indiscriminate use of resources for freebies often results in wastage and inefficiency, further exacerbating economic challenges.

India must heed the lessons learned from other countries grappling with similar economic crises triggered by unsustainable populist measures. The experiences of European nations and neighboring countries like Sri Lanka and Pakistan serve as cautionary tales, highlighting the perils of prioritizing short-term electoral gains over long-term economic stability and development.

It is imperative to distinguish between genuine welfare schemes aimed at addressing socio-economic

disparities and populist measures intended solely for political gain. Subsidies targeted at promoting development in underserved areas or supporting renewable energy initiatives should be distinguished from indiscriminate freebies that contribute little to long-term progress.

A robust framework for evaluating the effectiveness of public welfare schemes and monitoring their impact on the standard of living is essential. This entails setting clear benchmarks for budget allocation and ensuring accountability in scheme implementation to maximize benefits for the intended beneficiaries. Ultimately, the onus lies not only on the government but also on citizens to critically evaluate the true value of freebies and demand accountability from policymakers. By fostering a culture of responsible governance and prioritizing sustainable development over short-term electoral gains, India can chart a path towards inclusive growth and prosperity for all.

India's CPGRAMS System Praised Globally

India's CPGRAMS system hailed as global best practice by Commonwealth, showcasing effective public grievance redressal and smart government institutionalization. by *Aditi Khanna*



Delegation level talks with Deputy Secretary General Commonwealth Secretariat on the sidelines of the 3rd Commonwealth Heads of Public Service/ Secretaries to Cabinet meeting. | Photo: AP

India's centralised public grievance redressal system has been recognised as best in practice across the Commonwealth following a meeting of top civil servants from the 56 member countries this week.

The Centralised Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (CPGRAMS) was highlighted in the outcome statement of the Third Biennial Pan-Commonwealth Commonwealth Heads of Public Service meeting held between Monday and Wednesday at the Commonwealth Secretariat Marlborough House headquarters in London.

The meeting was themed as "Institutionalisation of Smart Government to enhance public service delivery" under which the government of India's administrative department made a presentation.

"The Indian presentation on the Centralised Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (CPGRAMS) was made by Shri V Srinivas, Secretary, Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG), on April 23, 2024, and received commendation from Commonwealth member countries as a global best practice," reads a

Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions statement. "The primary objectives of the meeting were to share contemporary knowledge, ideas and experiences on how technology could be leveraged to support the provision of e-services for optimal service delivery and achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development across the Commonwealth. It also aimed at sharing select relevant case studies of some member countries and to identify opportunities for pos-

sible partnership and collaboration," it adds.

Delegates were given the Commonwealth platform to share country case studies based on some of the innovative approaches and strategies adopted to improve performance, digitalise services, minimise bureaucracy and red tape across the Commonwealth public service.

The forum brought together Commonwealth Heads of Public Service, Secretaries to Cabinet, Senior Public Officials, industry cham-

pions, and eminent scholars. The sessions were addressed by Tshering Tobgay, Prime Minister of the Royal Kingdom of Bhutan, and Commonwealth Secretary-General Baroness Patricia Scotland, among others.

The Commonwealth Secretariat said the outcomes and key agreements reached in the meeting will form the basis of recommended policy measures and strategies that will be used to promote the institutionalisation of smart government across the Com-

monwealth.

It was observed that there is currently greater appreciation of the importance of digital government, which has added impetus to the roll-out of e-services across many jurisdictions.

Besides India, delegates appreciated the papers and country studies presented by the delegates from Rwanda, Kenya and Namibia, and noted that the forum remains an important platform for networking and sharing knowledge, expertise and ideas on public service management.

Member countries affirmed the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) mandate that seeks to eliminate the digital divide and acknowledged the importance of transformative technologies, such as Artificial Intelligence (AI).

Member countries also noted that AI has the potential for future-ready governance institutions and agile governments to enhance efficiency to deliver the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and spur growth and development, by in particular, improving access to education, healthcare, clean water, energy, and to combat climate change, poverty, and hunger.

YOUR LETTERS

SC upholds EVM usage

Justices Sanjiv Khanna and Dipankar Datta reject paper ballot plea, affirming Electronic Voting Machines (EVM) use. They mandate completion of VVPAT symbol loading by May 1, 2024, with sealed Symbol Loading Units (SLU) to be stored alongside EVMs post-election for 45 days. Additionally, 5% of EVMs per constituency will undergo burnt memory semi controller verification. The Court advises the Election Commission to explore bar coding VVPAT slips for electronic counting.

BK Chatterjee

Marine food insecurity

Record sea temperature has adversely affected the food chain in marine ecosystem by reducing growth of phytoplankton and algae. Equatorial regions of the Atlantic and Pacific as well as the northern Atlantic saw some of the worst heat waves raising temperature upto 4 degree celcius above the normal. According to the World Meteorological Organization on any day one third of the global ocean experience hearwaves. In 2023 Net primary production dropped by 22 percent compared with the 21 year average.

Arka Goswami, Durgapur

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.

Business



We invite women from across India to join Raashii in taking the #Evion OMG Challenge

Vijay Pampana,
Director & Head of Marketing,
P&G Health

BizBriefs

BEST OF THE REST

Q4 RESULT

Maruti Suzuki posts record Rs 3,878 cr profit in Q4

NEW DELHI: India's largest car-maker Maruti Suzuki on Friday its highest quarterly net profit in March reported quarter net profit as sports utility vehicles drove an increase in sales and favourable commodity prices helped margins. Consolidated net profit of Rs 3,877.8 crore in January-March (fourth quarter of fiscal year April 2023 to March 2024) soared 47.8 per cent when compared with Rs 2,623.6 crore in the same period a year back, the company said in a stock exchange filing and media statement. The company, in which Japan's Suzuki Motor Corporation holds 58.19 per cent stake, sold 13.4 per cent more cars in the fourth quarter at 5.84 lakh (including 78,740 units exported) while material cost as percentage of sales dropped 190 bps to 74.2 per cent. Maruti, however, does not share an exact number of SUVs sold.

QUARTERLY RESULT

ICICI Bank reports 18.5 pc growth in Q4 net profit at Rs 11,672 crore

MUMBAI: Private sector lender ICICI Bank on Saturday said its March 2024 quarter consolidated net grew 18.5 per cent to Rs 11,672 crore.

It had reported a net profit of Rs 9,853 crore in the year-ago period. On a standalone basis, the second largest private sector lender showed a 17.4 per cent growth in its profit after tax at Rs 10,708 crore for the reporting quarter against Rs 9,122 crore in the year-ago period. The core net interest income increased 8.1 per cent to Rs 19,093 crore on a 16.8 per cent growth in loans and a marginal compression in net interest margin to 4.40 per cent. The non-interest income, excluding the performance of the treasury, came at Rs 5,930 crore, 15.7 per cent higher than the year-ago period.

The provisions more than halved to Rs 718 crore for the reporting quarter, as per the exchange filing by the lender.

Ease of doing business

Sebi allows AIFs to pledge shares in invested cos in infra sector



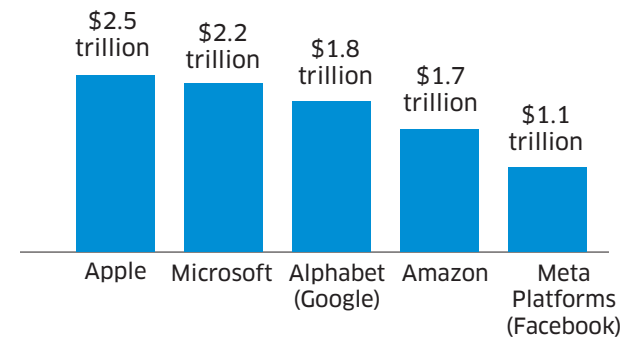
NEW DELHI: To facilitate ease of doing business, markets regulator Sebi allowed AIFs (alternative investment funds) to pledge their shares in investee companies in the infrastructure sector. The regulator has also provided additional flexibility to AIFs and their investors to deal with unliquidated investments of their schemes. "Category I and Category II AIFs may create an encumbrance on equity of investee company, which is in the business of development, operation or management of projects in any of the infrastructure sub-sectors," Sebi said in a circular. The move

will provide ease of doing business and flexibility to such AIFs. Experts believe that allowing AIFs to create an encumbrance on their equity investments in infrastructure sector companies for the purpose of project finance is essential for infrastructure development. Earlier, pledging of securities held by an AIF in investee companies for loans availed of by the investee companies violates provisions of the AIF Regulations. In its circular, Sebi said that existing schemes of category I and category II AIFs who have not on-boarded any investors prior to April 25, 2024

The Day's NUMBERS

(in USD Trillions)

MAJOR TECH COMPANIES' MARKET CAPITALIZATION



ECO-FRIENDLY CARDS

Airtel Payments Bank launches interoperable eco-friendly cards

MUMBAI: Airtel Payments Bank announced the launch of its eco-friendly NCMC (National Common Mobility Cards) enabled debit and pre-paid cards. The Bank has partnered with National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) to launch these interoperable cards that are powered by RuPay. The launch comes in alignment with the Bank's commitment to India's One Nation, One Card vision. The Bank has introduced NCMC enabled debit card for its savings account customers and NCMC enabled pre-paid card for the wallet customers. Both cards are being made from eco-friendly e-PVC material, which is certified for its environmental sustainability. The adoption of these cards allows Airtel Payments Bank to make a significant positive impact on the environment. Speaking about the launch, Ganesh Ananthanarayanan, Chief Operating Officer of Airtel Payments Bank said, "We are delighted to introduce our eco-friendly range of NCMC enabled Cards, which are made using recycled PVC.

INVESTMENT LIMIT

FPI investment limit in g-sec unchanged at 6% of outstanding stocks : RBI

MUMBAI: The Reserve Bank said the limits for FPI investment in government securities, state development loans and corporate bonds will remain unchanged at 6 per cent, 2 per cent and 15 per cent, respectively, of outstanding stocks of securities for the current fiscal. As of now, all investments by eligible investors in the 'specified securities' will be reckoned under the fully accessible route (FAR), the RBI said in a notification. "The limits for FPI investment in government securities (g-secs), state government securities (SGS) and corporate bonds shall remain unchanged at 6 per cent, 2 per cent and 15 per cent, respectively," it said.



Models walk the ramp during a fashion show during Kaleidoscope 2024, in Kolkata.

India's cotton yarn, fabric exports rise 7 pc to \$ 11.7 bn

As per estimates, India is the largest producer of cotton globally, accounting for 23 per cent of the total global cotton production

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The country's cotton yarn, fabrics/made-ups and handlooms exports rose 6.71 per cent year-on-year to USD 11.7 billion in 2023-24, even as the total exports dipped by 3 per cent in the last fiscal. According to the commerce ministry data, these exports in March grew by 6.78 per cent to USD 1 billion. In 2022-23, these exports

stood at USD 10.95 billion. This is one of the key product categories out of 30 closely monitored by the ministry. The top five export markets for the sector during the last fiscal year were the US, Bangladesh, China, Sri Lanka, and the UAE. The US accounts for over 25 per cent of India's total cotton yarn, fabrics/made-ups and handlooms exports, followed by Bangladesh (16

NUMBER

10.95bn

● Exporters are looking at increasing textiles shipments to USD 100 billion by 2030

● India's total merchandise exports dipped by 3.11 per cent to USD 437 billion in 2023-24. Imports too

per cent), China (6.6 per cent), Sri Lanka (4.4 per cent), and UAE (2.35 per cent).

In 2023-24, the outbound shipments also entered new geographies like Anguilla, a British Overseas Territory in the Eastern Caribbean; Serbia; Georgia; Sweden; Cyprus; Azerbaijan; and Iran. The other new markets explored by domestic exporters from the sector include

Zambia, Cote D'Ivoire, Sierra Leone, and Russia. An industry expert said that Brazil and Vietnam are promising markets where these shipments can be potted.

On average, India exports of these products worth USD one billion every month. As per estimates, India is the largest producer of cotton globally, accounting for 23 per cent of the total global cotton production.

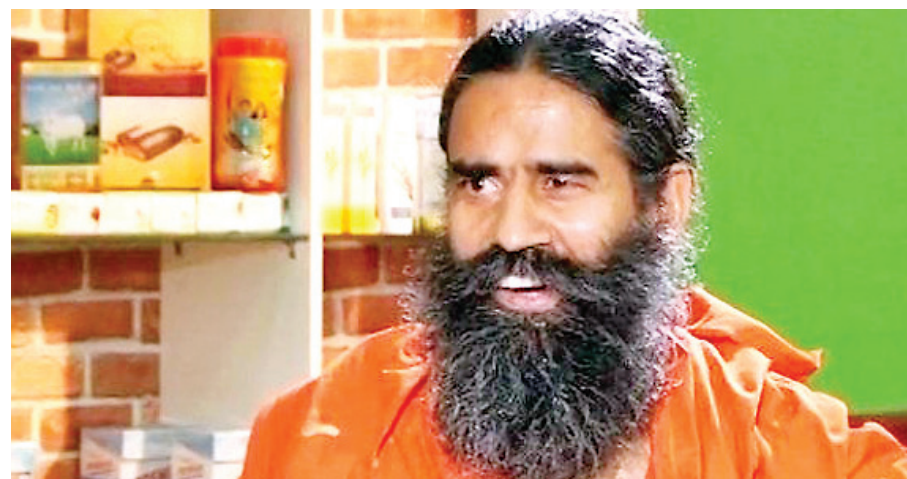
PROPOSAL EVALUATION

PFL to evaluate proposal to buy non-food business

Press Trust Of India

Patanjali Foods informed that its board has discussed the initial proposal received from Patanjali Ayurved Ltd

NEW DELHI: Patanjali Foods Ltd (PFL), which is mainly into edible oils, said it will evaluate a proposal to acquire the non-food business of promoter group Patanjali Ayurved led by Baba Ramdev. However, the company did not mention the categories of non-food products it plans to acquire, but sources said it will consider acquiring products falling into dental care, home care, personal care categories, which contribute 50-60 per cent to the promoter's total turnover. In a regulatory filing, Patanjali Foods informed that its



Baba Ramdev, Co-Founder of Patanjali Ayurved

FACTFILE

● Patanjali Ayurved. Patanjali Foods' total income increased to Rs 31,821.45 crore in the 2022-23 fiscal

● 2. The proposal received from Patanjali Ayurved "may offer synergies to the company's product portfolio

board has discussed the initial proposal received from Patanjali Ayurved Ltd for a sale of the latter's non-food business undertaking to the company.

"The board accorded its in-principle approval for evaluating the most efficient mode of enhancing synergies with Patanjali Ayurved non-food portfolio

in any manner on an arm's length basis," the filing said.

The board also authorised officials to carry out due diligence, appoint professionals, negotiate the terms and conditions of the proposal, and report the findings to the Audit Committee and the board for further consideration.

ONION EXPORT

Centre allows 99.5k tons of onion exports to 6 countries

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The Centre on Saturday said it has allowed exports of 99,500 tonnes of onions, mainly sourced from Maharashtra, to six neighbouring countries despite the ban on shipments. The Centre has also allowed exports of 2,000 tonnes of white onion cultivated, especially, for export

markets in the Middle East and some European countries.

On December 8, 2023, the government banned export of onions. In an official statement, the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution said the government has "allowed export of 99,150 tonnes of onion to six neighbouring countries of Bangladesh, UAE,



Bhutan, Bahrain, Mauritius and Sri Lanka". The export prohibition has been imposed to ensure adequate domestic availability against the backdrop of estimated lower Kharif and Rabi crops in 2023-24 compared to the previous year. The ban was imposed amid an increase in demand in the international market, it added.



BJP opposed to ethos of Bengal
Abhishek Banerjee
TMC leader

Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

VIOLENCE

Two CRPF personnel killed and two others injured in militant attack

IMPHAL: Two CRPF personnel were killed and two others injured as militants attacked a camp of security forces in Manipur's Bishnupur district in the early hours of Saturday, police said. The militants attacked an IRBn (India Reserve Battalion) camp at Naranseina in the Moirang police station area, they said.

"The militants fired indiscriminately from hilltops, targeting the camp. It started around 12.30 am and continued till about 2.15 am. The militants also hurled bombs, one of which exploded in the outpost of CRPF's 128 battalion," a senior police officer said.

The deceased were identified as sub-inspector N Sarkar, a native of Assam's Kokrajhar district, and head constable Arup Saini of Bankura district in West Bengal, he said. **PTI**

CAMPAIGN

Spl arrangements in Bilaspur Division to manage summer rush



BILASPUR: During the summer season, the Bilaspur Division is making several efforts to manage the extra rush of passengers in trains to provide passengers with convenient, easy, and hassle-free travel facilities. Various initiatives are being undertaken to control the crowd at platforms and railway premises, including instructions to employees. Monitoring of crowds is being conducted in all trains passing through the division. **PTI**

From around the web on India

Trinamool Congress lodged a complaint to WB CEO against CBI Sandeshkhali raid



KOLKATA: Trinamool Congress has lodged a complaint with the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) of West Bengal stating that the CBI had "deliberately carried out an unscrupulous" raid at an "empty location" at Sandeshkhali during the second phase of polling in the state.

The TMC said that while elections were going on at Darjeeling, Raiganj and Balurghat Lok Sabha constituencies on Friday, the central agency carried out an "unscrupulous" raid at an empty location at Sandeshkhali.

The CBI on Friday seized arms and ammunition, including a police

service revolver and foreign-made firearms, during searches at two premises of an associate of now-suspended TMC leader Shajahan Sheikh in West Bengal's Sandeshkhali.

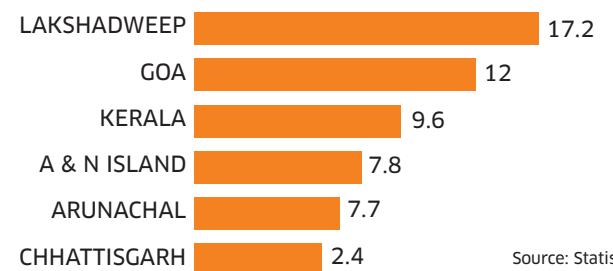
The searches were conducted in connection with the January attack on an Enforcement Directorate (ED) team by a mob that was allegedly instigated by Sheikh, who was arrested by the West Bengal Police on February 29 in the case.

The Trinamool Congress in a letter to the CEO on Friday said that media reports suggested that CBI had called in additional forces including the bomb squad of NSG. **PTI**

The Day's NUMBERS

Unemployment figure is highest in Lakshadweep

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE IN INDIA (IN %)



DIFFICULT CONDITIONS

Heatwave sweeps Odisha, Bhubaneswar records 44.6 degrees Celsius

BHUBANESWAR: With heatwave sweeping across Odisha, the mercury touched 44.6 degrees Celsius in the state capital on Saturday, the highest during this summer. Bhubaneswar day temperature touched 44.6 degrees Celsius during the day at 2.30 pm, weather scientist Umashaknar Dash told reporters here. He said the temperature in Bhubaneswar crossed 44 degrees Celsius for the first time this season.

Dash said the IMD has urged people not to come out of their houses between 11 am to 3 pm as hot and intense humid condition prevails in most parts of the state.

The IMD said that Bhubaneswar was followed by Jharsuguda which recorded 43.6 degrees Celsius, Rourkela at 42.5, Chandbali 42.4 and Sambalpur 42.1 degrees Celsius.

In its mid-day weather bulletin, the Meteorological Centre in Bhubaneswar said that due to prevailing northwesterly/westerly dry air and high solar insolation,

day temperature is likely to further increase slightly by two degrees Celsius at many places in Odisha during the next 24 hours.

Thereafter, maximum temperature (day temperature) is likely to be above normal by four to six degrees Celsius in some parts of the state during the next four to five days, it said. **PTI**

Classifieds

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'Challenging abrogation of Art 370 in SC, a mistake'

Hearing a batch of petitions filed by several political parties in J&K, the SC held that Article 370 was a temporary provision putting a stamp on the Centre's decision.

Sheikh Suhail

SRINAGAR: Challenging the abrogation of Article 370 in the Supreme Court might have been a mistake but not doing so would have made things worse politically for the mainstream parties of Jammu and Kashmir, Peoples Conference chief Sajad Lone has said.

The apex court in December last year upheld the Centre's August 5, 2019 decision to abrogate Article 370, which bestowed a special status on the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir.

In an interview with PTI, Lone said the Centre

could have propped up anyone to take the case to the apex court had the mainstream parties stayed away from taking legal recourse.

"I do not know, it could be," Lone told PTI when asked whether approaching the court was a mistake as the verdict has left almost no chance of getting the special status back.

"You see we (mainstream political parties in Kashmir) could have worked together and said let us save it for a rainy day. But, that could not have stopped somebody else from going to the Supreme Court," he added. Lone said the Cen-

HIGHLIGHT

● SC in Dec last year upheld Centre's decision to abrogate Art 370

● Political parties must together to save J&K

tre could have propped anyone to take the case to the court and had the mainstream parties in Jammu and Kashmir stayed away from taking legal recourse, it would have made things worse politically for them.

"Say tomorrow, they select someone to go to the court... getting a court judgement is not that difficult. Our staying

away would have made things worse politically for us at home.

"But, saying that there could not have been a judgement had we not gone to the court is not true either, they (Delhi) could ask a person to go to the court," he said.

Hearing a batch of petitions filed by several political parties in Jammu and Kashmir, including the Peoples Conference, National Conference and the Peoples Democratic Party, the top court held that Article 370 was a temporary provision putting a stamp on the Centre's decision.

Lone, who is contesting the Lok Sabha polls

from north Kashmir's Baramulla constituency, said he understands the importance of Parliament in the backdrop of what happened on August 5, 2019. He said he believes that the voices of the people of Jammu and Kashmir should resonate in Parliament.

"I honestly believe that the people of J&K deserve that their voices be heard post-2019. If I am elected, I would be (that) voice," he said. We live in a digital world, and Parliament is the highest, the supreme constitutional platform that you can probably have and I see it as more of a medium to communicate, he added.

PERSONAL BOND

AAP MLA Amanatullah Khan gets bail in case filed by ED

Press Trust Of India

The ED filed a chargesheet against 4 accused persons and one firm, alleging that Rs 100 crore Waqf Properties were given on lease illegally

NEW DELHI: A Delhi court on Saturday granted bail to AAP MLA Amanatullah Khan in a case filed by the Enforcement Directorate for allegedly evading its summons in the Delhi Waqf Board related money laundering case.

Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (ACMM) Divya Malhotra granted bail to Khan on a personal bond of Rs 15,000 and one surety of like amount after he



AAP leader Khan on his way to the party office. | PTI PHOTO

FACTFILE

● ED has alleged that Khan was running away from the investigation

appeared before the court. The Enforcement Directorate (ED) had moved the court, alleging non appearance before the agency, accusing Khan of not joining the probe in the case related to the money

laundering case.

The federal probe agency has alleged that Khan has elevated his role from witness to accused by filing an anticipatory bail plea and running away from the investigation.

NATURAL CALAMITY

IAF copter pressed into service to douse forest fires

Press Trust Of India

DEHRADUN: An IAF helicopter was pressed into service on Saturday to extinguish the raging forest fires in Uttarakhand's Nainital district, Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami said.

The situation in the district worsened on Friday with the flames reaching the High Court

Colony in the Pines area. An MI-17 helicopter collected water in a Bambi Bucket from Bhimtal lake and poured it over the burning forests of Pines, Bhumiadhar, Jyolikot, Narayan Nagar, Bhawali, Ramgarh and Mukteshwar areas of the district, officials said.

Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami said all efforts are being made to

40 Manora Range staff and 2 forest rangers trying to extinguish the fire

Chandrashekhar Joshi
Nainital Divisional Forest Officer



bring the fires under control and it will be done soon. "An IAF helicopter has already started dousing the fires," he said.

Dhami said he will hold a meeting with forest officials in Haldwani later in the day to review the situation.

Three people were arrested in Rudrapur on Friday while trying to set fire to forests.

Do not make mistake of electing 'urban Naxals': Shah

Congress is an anti-tribal party and AAP will exploit tribals after getting their votes

Press Trust Of India

BHARUCH: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday said people must not make the mistake of voting for "urban Naxals" and asserted that the Congress and Aam Aadmi Party were "anti-tribals".

Addressing a rally in Gujarat's Bharuch Lok Sabha constituency, where the AAP has fielded a candidate as part of its alliance with the Congress, he urged the people to vote for BJP's sitting MP Mansukh Vasava.

"You will never get a public representative like Manuskh Vasava. If you make a mistake, then some urban Naxal will take his place (as MP) and destroy this tribal region," Shah said.

Mansukh Vasava is pitted against the AAP's sitting MLA Chaitar Vasava in Bharuch, which is part of south Gujarat that has a sizable presence of tribals. "The Congress and AAP have come together to loot people. I have no hesitation in saying the Congress is an anti-tribal party and AAP will exploit tribals after getting their votes," Shah asserted.

The Congress and AAP are spreading rumours



Union Home Minister Amit Shah at a public meeting in Rajkot.

that the BJP will change the Constitution and scrap reservations after it wins 400 Lok Sabha seats, he said, adding the grand old party is an "expert" and the Arvind Kejriwal-led party a "sardar" (chieftain) in spreading lies.

"These two liars have come together (as part of INDI alliance) in Bharuch," Shah said and pointed out that the Narendra Modi government has been in power for the past 10 years with a clear majority.

that the BJP will change the Constitution and scrap reservations after it wins 400 Lok Sabha seats, he said, adding the grand old party is an "expert" and the Arvind Kejriwal-led party a "sardar" (chieftain) in spreading lies.

The Congress and AAP are spreading rumours

'Never opposed ban on PFI as claimed by HM Amit Shah'

BHOPAL: Senior Congress leader Digvijaya Singh on Saturday rejected Union Home Minister Amit Shah's allegation that he had opposed the ban on the Popular Front of India and instead accused the BJP of contesting polls in Karnataka in alliance with PFI's political unit.

Singh, the Congress candidate from Rajgarh Lok Sabha constituency

HIGHLIGHT

● Singh said Shah took his name 17 times and spoke lies about him 8 times

● BJP renominated sitting MP Rodmal Nagar from Rajgarh seat

in Madhya Pradesh, also countered Shah's allegation concerning the Students' Islamic Movement of India (SIMI), saying he had banned the outfit when was MP's chief minister. Addressing a rally in Khilchipur under Rajgarh Lok Sabha seat on Friday, Singh said Shah took his name 17 times and spoke lies about him eight times.

'Clandestine' Drug labs unearthed in Raj, Gujarat; 7 arrested

Press Trust Of India

A total of 149 kgs of mephedrone or 'meow meow' (both in powder and liquid form), 50 kg ephedrine, and 200 litres of acetone was recovered from the three labs located in Bhinmal of Jalore district and Osian in Jodhpur district of Rajasthan and Gandhinagar in Gujarat, the officer said. Seven people have been arrested till now in the crackdown, he said.

NEW DELHI: The NCB and Gujarat Police ATS Saturday busted three "clandestine" drug manufacturing labs in Rajasthan and Gujarat leading to the seizure of 300 kgs of narcotics and arrest of seven persons.

Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) Deputy Director General (Operations) Gyaneshwar Singh in a statement said that the labs were unearthed after about three months of "intensive" technical and ground surveillance that was mounted by the two agencies to identify the people involved in

the network as well as the locations of the labs.

A total of 149 kgs of mephedrone or 'meow meow' (both in powder and liquid form), 50 kg ephedrine, and 200 litres of acetone was recovered from the three labs located in Bhinmal of Jalore district and Osian in Jodhpur district of Rajasthan and Gandhinagar in Gujarat, the officer said. Seven people have been arrested till now in the crackdown, he said.

The teams of the two agencies were also raiding a similar lab in Amreli district of Gujarat and more recoveries are expected, Singh said.

"The kingpin of this network has been identified and will be arrested soon. Efforts are being made to track and identify the source of precursor chemicals as well as the distribution network, national as well as any international linkages," he said.

PM may even shed tears on stage, alleges Rahul Gandhi

Press Trust Of India

Modi Cong on a variety of issues in recent campaign rallies, including "mangalsutra", "redistribution of wealth" and "inheritance tax" charges

BALLARI: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Friday took potshots at Prime Minister Narendra Modi over his attack on the grand old party, saying he is scared and may even shed tears on the stage.

He called the BJP 'Bharatiya Chombu Party'. Chombu in Kannada means round water pot, which is sometimes used to convey emptiness and deception.

"You have heard the prime minister's speeches. He is scared. It's possible that he may shed tears on stage," Gan-



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi addresses a public meeting for Lok Sabha elections, in Bijapur, Karnataka.

FASTFACTS

● Rahul called BJP 'Bharatiya Chombu Party'. Chombu in Kannada means round water pot

● Gandhi promised the youth that his party will scrap the 'Agniveer' scheme

dhi said, addressing public meetings in the district headquarters towns of Vijayapura and Ballari in the party-governed state.

Modi has targeted the Congress on a variety of issues in recent campaign rallies, including "mangalsutra", "redistribution of wealth" and "inheritance tax" charges.

The former Congress chief accused Modi of

ICMR to provide medical solutions for health issues

Press Trust Of India

ICMR network is invested in providing an end-to-end solution for the Indian researchers

NEW DELHI: The ICMR has planned to expand its Indian Clinical Trial and Education Network (INTENT) and invited tenders from public and private medical research institutes for coordinating regulatory clinical trials for drugs and devices.

These expressions of interest would help in the growth of the national network, which encompasses 47 institutes that include public and private medical colleges, hospitals, and research institutes including the ICMR institutes.

The ICMR established INTENT, a network of medical colleges and research institutes, with an overarching goal of providing evidence-based, and culturally sensitive solutions to health issues of national priorities by conducting large, decisive, regulation compliant clinical trials.

This network is invested in providing an end-to-end solution for clinical trials for the Indian researchers.

"The ICMR now plans to expand the national network and accordingly

invites expressions of interest (EOI) from public and private medical research institutes in India to contribute to the INTENT activities," an official document said.

The broad objectives of the network are to generate high quality evidence by conducting and coordinating hospital-based and community-based trials in the diseases or health conditions of public health importance in India.

FASTFACTS

● The INTENT is being coordinated by CSTU under Division of Development Research at ICMR, Delhi

● ICMR plans to expand the national network and accordingly invites EOI from public and private institutes

The aim is also to guide health policies and informed management practices based on the evidence generated and build capacity of clinical researchers in India for the planning, conduct, analysis and scientific dissemination of the clinical trials, the document stated. Additionally, trials that are planned through inter-ministerial collaborations may also be conducted by INTENT.

NEWSLINE

PARADIP

Congress office inaugurated by Niranjan Nayak



Niranjan Nayak Congress MLA candidate of Paradip VS was warmly welcome by the Paradip city Congress as he gears up for the upcoming assembly elections. The election campaign kick started with inauguration of the Congress office at old Cost-guard building Badapadia on Wednesday evening. Niranjan Nayak leading the way accompanying him were members of the youth congress, womens congress, student congress of the Paradip city.

BILASPUR

Summer Special Train for 09 trips

Keeping in mind the convenience of rail passengers, the railway administration will operate a Summer Special Train 08291/08292 Bilaspur-Yesvantpur-Bilaspur Summer Special Train for 09 trips between Bilaspur and Yesvantpur. This train will run from Bilaspur to Yesvantpur every Saturday and Tuesday with train number 08291 from April 30 to May 28, 2024, and similarly in the opposite direction, the train number 08292 Yesvantpur-Bilaspur Summer Special Train will run from Yesvantpur every Monday and Thursday from May 2 to May 30, 2024. This special train will consist of a total of 21 coaches, including 2 SLR, 06 General, 10 Sleeper, 02 AC Three Tier, and 01 AC Two Tier coaches."

Sunita Kejriwal holds maiden poll roadshow

NEW DELHI: Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal is a "sher" (lion) and nobody can break him, said his wife Sunita Kejriwal as she held her maiden Lok Sabha poll roadshow in support of the AAP's East Delhi candidate on Saturday evening.

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to all concern that "M/s AMAN CONSTRUCTION COMPANY Registration no. 222202327778 registration Date-27.12.2023 has undergone the following changes:-

- PAYAL CHANEKAR D/o Deepak chaneekar resident of 990 modal town Nehru nagar bhilai dist. Durg 490020 c.g. Retires on 13.02.2024 and ceased to be a partner w.e.f.13.02.2024. Total partners in the firm after such changes are
- Following are the details of partners:
 - BHARTI BANPURIYA D/o BRAJNANDAN BANPURIYA resident of C/o Harish rathore Nihilswaram colony sarkanda chantidh road Bilaspur 495001 (C.G.)
 - MADHU VERMA D/o Bharath Lal resident of 31-1 dharmtha gadaghat dist. Durg 491001 C.G.

For, M/s AMAN construction company,
PLACE: BHILAI (C.G.)
DATED: 13.02.2024
PARTNER

CHANGE OF DATE OF BIRTH

I Jagmohan Residing at Vill-Kouwatal, Pin-493344. I have changed my Father Motilal Patel DOB-01/01/1964 to 01/01/1967. Vide affidavit dt-12/09/2023. Sworn before notary in J. F. BLAH East Khasi Hills District Shillong Meghalaya.

I Jagmohan Residing at Vill-Kouwatal, Pin-493344. I have changed my Mother Rameshwari Bai Patel DOB-01/01/1960 to 01/01/1975. Vide affidavit dt-12/09/2023. Sworn before notary in J. F. BLAH East Khasi Hills District Shillong Meghalaya.

ELECTION AGENDA

Stray cattle menace key poll issue for farmers in UP

Uzmi Athar

FIROZABAD: "When I come to work in the fields in the morning, stray cattle are standing there, ready to attack. I was once hit on the back and was hospitalised for a week," says Keshav Kumar, a farm worker in Pilkhana village in Uttar Pradesh's Hathras.

Besides, he said, he has been chased by cows and Nilgai multiple times. Dharmendra Singh,

a farmer, in Firozabad's Akilabad village, says, "I lost 30 per cent of my produce due to stray cattle entering my field. There is drought, unseasonal rain and now this stray cattle menace. What are we supposed to do?"

Instances like these are not uncommon in western Uttar Pradesh and encapsulate the stray cattle menace that farmers have been struggling with for several years now.



The problem, exacerbated by recent policy changes, has emerged as a major issue in western Uttar Pradesh in the ongoing Lok Sabha elections.

The importance of the issue can be gauged from the fact that it is the sole deciding factor for some. "I voted for 'phool' (referring to the BJP's party symbol lotus) in the last two general elections thinking that this problem would be solved.

Necessary to set up more cow shelters, promoting livestock insurance schemes to tackle the stray cattle crisis

Chaudhary Pushpendra Singh
President, Kisan Shakti Sangh

SOUTH EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY CORRIGENDUM

Sri. No. TENDER NOTICE FOR CEC/BSP/23-24/20 DATE: 17/01/2024 (Open Tender)

Name of Work: Request for Proposal (RFP) for appointment of Authority engineer for providing Project Management Services for Construction of electrified 4th Railway BG line in between (1) Dadhapara-Belaha-Dagori & Nipania-Bhatapara-Hathbandh Station (2) Rajnandgaon - Dongargarh and Bhilai - Durg Link Block Station (Exc. Yard) in the State of Chhattisgarh in South East Central Railway on EPC Basis)

In connection with above subject tender schedule following changes are being incorporated.

Sir. No.	Event Description	Existing Value	Modified Value
1-	Advertised Value(INR)	Rs. 5.76.35.448.00	Rs. 10.09.97.024.47
2-	Earnest Money (INR)	Rs. 4.38.200.00	Rs. 6.55.000.00
3-	Tender Closing Date & Time	01/05/2024 15:00	07/05/2024 15:00
4-	Bidding Start Date	17/04/2024	23/04/2024

All details of 6th Corrigendum May please be seen in IREPS portal Others Terms and condition remains same.
Note: Modified Tender document uploaded in IREPS portal.

Dy. Chief Engineer/Con/Works-II S.E.C.Railway, Bilaspur
CPR/10/30

I'm fortunate to receive this award. I never really regarded myself worthy of such an award, but Hridayanath (Mangeshkar) ji tried hard so that I could come here.

Amitabh Bachan
Actor



Weekend

CC
SUNDAY
Raipur, April 28, 2024

CELEB TALK

Celebrities dazzle at Heeramandi screening: a fashion extravaganza

Celebrities showcase stunning ethnic ensembles at the Heeramandi screening, with Alia Bhatt, Mrunal Thakur, and others turning heads with their stylish looks.



The Heeramandi screening in Mumbai last night was a regal affair, celebrating Sanjay Leela Bhansali's digital debut. Among the stylish attendees, Alia Bhatt stole the show in a dusty pink sharara set by Seema Gujral, embodying Gangubai Kathiawadi's elegance with white embroidery.

Similarly, Mrunal Thakur opted for 'Gangu waala safed' in a beautiful white saree by Mrunalini Rao, exuding grace with a scalloped border. Aditi Rao Hydari, radiant in a multi-coloured anarkali suit by Torani, and her fiancé made a breathtaking couple. Sonakshi Sinha, who plays Fareedan in the series, shimmered in a black and gold saree, com-

Glamour meets tradition as stars shine in exquisite attire, adding allure to Heeramandi's regal screening.

peting with the moon in her glory. Ananya Panday looked precious in a royal blue sleeveless suit, adorned with gajra in her hair, jhumkas, bangles, and a small bindi, giving her OOTD a refreshing touch.

The celebrities' impeccable style choices added glamour

to the event, with each outfit reflecting their unique personalities. Aditi Rao Hydari's vibrant anarkali suit and Sonakshi Sinha's bold black and gold saree showcased their elegance and confidence. Meanwhile, Alia Bhatt and Mrunal Thakur opted for traditional white ensembles, each with its own subtle twist, while Ananya Panday brought a youthful charm with her royal blue suit and traditional accessories. The Heeramandi screening not only celebrated Bhansali's cinematic excellence but also provided a platform for stars to showcase their fashion flair, leaving attendees deeply impressed and eagerly awaiting the series.



The most stylish stars at the Heeramandi screening

| FRIENDSHIP |

Anne Hathaway and Priyanka Chopra: A potential collaboration sparks excitement

Central Chronicle News

Anne Hathaway eagerly embraces the idea of working with Priyanka Chopra, igniting anticipation for a future collaboration between the two stars.

Anne Hathaway expressed her excitement at the possibility of collaborating with Priyanka Chopra. Although the idea hasn't been discussed between them yet, Hathaway eagerly embraced it, saying, "We discussed a few things that night; that one hasn't come up yet, but what are we going to do? This is a great idea; how do we make this happen?" Their association with Bulgari has not only brought them together socially but has also sparked discussions about possible professional collaborations, promising an exciting



Stars Anne Hathaway and Priyanka Chopra share a moment, sparking excitement for a potential collaboration at a Bulgari event.

prospect for fans of both stars. With their evident chemistry and shared passion for their craft, a collaborative project between the two talented actresses would undoubtedly be eagerly anticipated by fans around the world.

The friendship between Anne Hathaway and Priyanka Chopra has blossomed over the years, with their mutual respect and admiration shining through in their interactions. Despite their busy schedules, they have found common ground in their love for Bulgari and their shared interest in exploring potential collaborations in the entertainment industry. As they continue to support each other's endeavors, the possibility of seeing them on screen together remains an exciting prospect for fans and industry insiders alike.

Their association with Bulgari provides a solid foundation for potential collaborations, showcasing their ability to seamlessly blend glamour and talent in the world of entertainment. This budding friendship and professional camaraderie between Hathaway and Chopra opens up exciting opportunities for future collaborations, igniting excitement among fans for what lies ahead.

We discussed a few things that night; that one hasn't come up yet, but what are we going to do?



PixelView
WHAT TO WATCH AT HOME



Bhimaa

Starring: Malvika Sharma, Priya Bhavani Shankar, Vennela Kishore and Raghu Babu
Where to watch: Disney+Hotstar

"Bhimaa" unfolds in a quaint small town where mysterious occurrences at a local temple unsettle the community. Gopichand, portraying a determined cop, delves into the enigma surrounding these incidents. As he investigates, layers of intrigue and supernatural elements begin to unravel, challenging his beliefs and testing his resolve. The film seamlessly blends action and fantasy, offering audiences a gripping cinematic experience. With its captivating storyline and stellar performances, "Bhimaa" on Disney+Hotstar promises a thrilling journey into the heart of mystery and adventure.

Crakk - Jeetega Toh Jiyega



Starring: Vidyut Jammwal, Arjun Rampal, Nora Fatehi and Amy Jackson
Where to watch: Netflix

"Crakk" presents a riveting tale of ambition and grit, following a man's transformative journey from Mumbai's slums to the adrenaline-fueled realm of underground extreme sports. Set against the backdrop of India's first-ever extreme sports action movie, it explores themes of resilience, determination, and the pursuit of dreams against all odds. As the protagonist navigates through challenges and triumphs, viewers are immersed in a thrilling narrative that showcases the raw energy and spirit of adventure.

Kung Fu Panda 4



Starring: Jack Black, Dustin Hoffman, James Hong, Bryan Cranston, Ian McShane
Where to watch: Disney+ Hotstar

"Kung Fu Panda 4" streaming on Disney+ Hotstar, this American animated martial arts comedy, produced by DreamWorks Animation and distributed by Universal Pictures, continues the adventures of Po and his friends. As the fourth installment in the franchise, it promises another entertaining escapade filled with humor, action, and heartwarming moments. Audiences can expect the same delightful blend of captivating animation, lovable characters, and meaningful life lessons that have made the "Kung Fu Panda" series a cherished favorite among fans of all ages.

Beekeeper



Starring: Jason Statham, Emmy Raver-Lampman, Josh Hutcherson, Bobby Naderi, Phyllicia Rashad, Jemma Redgrave, Jeremy Irons
Where to watch: Prime Video

In "The Beekeeper," Jason Statham leads an ensemble cast including Emmy Raver-Lampman, Josh Hutcherson, and Jeremy Irons in a gripping action thriller. Statham portrays Adam, an operative driven by vengeance after his compassionate landlady falls victim to a devastating phishing scam, leading to her tragic demise. Fueled by a sense of justice and retribution, Adam embarks on a relentless quest to punish those accountable for the heartbreaking loss. As the plot unfolds, secrets unravel, and adrenaline-pumping action sequences ensue, drawing viewers into a high-stakes game of cat and mouse where every move could be a matter of life and death.

Dead Boy Detectives



Starring: Charles Rowland and Edwin Paine
Where to watch: Prime Video

"Dead Boy Detectives" brings to life the quirky supernatural comedy series, streaming on Prime Video, inspired by DC Comics characters. Created by Steve Yockey, the show centers on Charles Rowland and Edwin Paine, two deceased youngsters who opt to remain on Earth, solving otherworldly mysteries rather than transitioning to the afterlife. As they navigate the realms between the living and the dead, their adventures unfold with a blend of humor, intrigue, and the supernatural, captivating audiences with each investigative escapade.

Achieving a remarkable feat by securing the 6th All India Rank in the GATE-2024 says there is no alternative to hard work.

Aryan Khare



Scholar

CAMPUS CALLING

National Education Policy 2020: Path to Pinnacle of Excellence

Prof. Alok Kumar Chakrawal
Vice-Chancellor
Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya
(A Central University)



An outer view of Guru Ghasidas University (a central University) in Bilaspur

Campus Calling
THE FIRST LECTURE

India has been a major center of learning for centuries and people from far-off corners of the world have been coming here to acquire knowledge. In universities like Takshashila, Nalanda, students from all over the world used to come for studies. The country's National Education Policy-2020 has been implemented to regain our glorious past and moving towards Vishwa Guru. With the vision of our Honorable Prime Minister Narendra Modi behind it, this policy will prove to be the most important step in building a new India. An India that is strong, prosperous, self-reliant, and self-confident, one which is the protector and promoter of the highest human values across the globe.

Policy-2020 has emerged as an innovative road map capable of transforming India into a global knowledge superpower. In true sense, this policy has evolved from extensive discussions, dialogues and contributions from almost all stakeholders across the country. The policy envisages achieving the highest global standards in terms of quality of higher education and at the same time inculcating in the learners a sensitivity towards Indian values, public conduct, patriotism, human values and social engagement. In line with the National Education Policy 2020, there is a need for coordinated national efforts and inter linkages between government policies and approaches of higher education institutions, so that it can be implemented in



National Education Policy-2020 has multiple elements capable of providing exciting experiences to learners

a time bound manner. The whole idea of this work is to make the young generation of learners truly global citizens, deeply rooted in Indian values, aware of our cultural heritage and proud to be an Indian to take India to the

pinnacle of knowledge. In a country with immense youth power, this education policy provides a clear vision and strategy for reforming and restructuring all aspects of education to make our youth job-oriented, in line with the emerging job prospects globally. Along with this, in order to achieve the fundamental principles of the constitution - social justice and equality-in true sense, adequate arrangements are also reflected in it to ensure inclusive higher education for all. National Education Policy-2020 has multiple elements capable of providing exciting experiences to learners and aims to enhance 21st century skills and innovation, complex problem solving, creativity and digital literacy along with ancient Indian knowl-

edge and cultural heritage. A smooth, practical, all-inclusive easy path is to be paved for implementing the various provisions of the National Education Policy-2020 as suggested by the UGC and the Ministry of Education from time to time, which includes adopting a multi-disciplinary approach, multiple entry-exit options. Apart from this, to implement the National Education Policy-2020, it is also necessary to take this process to the entire country through public awareness. Many important programs like implementing mixed mode learning, preparing quality teaching material, enhancing the capacity of teachers and proposed restructuring of the regulatory framework will have to be prepared in a time bound manner for better implementation.

Variety of programmes marks 'AmiSpark 2024'



Raipur: Amity University Chhattisgarh's annual 'AmiSpark-2024' a mega Techno-cultural Festival came to end in a grand and pompous show on Friday. Students from Amity University and other Universities in the State competed in a variety of events. Scintillating events such as Amivibe (singing), Heat Wave (dancing), and fashion shows were a few of the highlights of the closing ceremony. AmiSpark hosted a dance competition that

showcased exceptional talent across three vibrant carnivals. Among the participants, Amandeep Kumar stood out with a captivating solo performance titled Heatwave (solo). In the group category, Nomita and Shubh, known as "The Titans," delivered an outstanding performance that secured them victory. The face-off competition was fiercely contested, with Vani Kesharwani emerging as the ultimate champion, showcasing her prowess and skill.

College Gossip: Energy Club formation at MATS University

Central Chronicle News

MATS University Raipur has formed the Energy Club as part of its commitment to promoting sustainable practices and innovation," said Chancellor Gajraj Pagaria. He further added, "Our goal is to provide a forum for students and professionals to engage with industry experts, share ideas, and work together towards a greener future." It was further aided by our distinguished guests IAS Rajesh Singh Rana and Dr. Priyanka Pauchauri

from CREDA for the Energy conservation program. The Energy Club will focus on a range of topics, including renewable energy technologies, energy policy and regulation, and sustainable building practices. Members will have access to resources such as guest lectures, site visits, and networking opportunities with professionals in the field. On this occasion, various in-house competitions were held, in which students participated with great zeal and enthusiasm, achieving success.

| PROFESSOR'S VIEW |

The changing face of journalism in India: Trends, Challenges, and Opportunities

Tuhina Choubey | Assistant Professor, Department of Journalism and Mass Communication, Kalinga University, Raipur

After higher secondary education, many students struggle to decide on a professional path. Numerous students aspire to become renowned and affluent. That's why choosing a career in journalism helps them accomplish these goals. Therefore, this article will shed light on the changing face of journalism in India. Choosing journalism as a career is driven by a deep-seated passion for communication and storytelling. It's about the thrill of uncovering the truth and sharing it



The Origin Of Journalism

with a broad audience. For those with insatiable curiosity, journalism offers a never-ending journey of discovery, delving into diverse topics and constantly learning something new. More than just reporting news, journalism is about making a difference, amplifying voices, and holding power to

account. The field offers a dynamic environment where each day brings new challenges and opportunities. From writing articles to producing multimedia content, journalism allows for flexibility and creativity in how stories are told. Its a profession that demands resilience, adaptability, and a com-



HIGHLIGHT The face of journalism is changing rapidly in India, according to Tuhina Choubey.

mitment to truth, making it an exciting and fulfilling career choice for those who are drawn

to its unique blend of artistry and impact. The scope of journalism is vast and continually evolving to adapt to technological advancements and societal changes. Traditionally encompassing print, broadcast, and radio media, journalism now extends to digital platforms, including websites, blogs, podcasts, and social media. Within this expansive landscape, journalists cover a wide range of topics, from breaking news and investigative reporting to specialized areas such as politics, business, health, and entertainment.

ZeroPeriod

THE WORLD OF SCHOOL EDUCATION

TRAINING CAMP

Special summer training camp from May 1

KHARORA: The summer special training camp in Saraswati Shishu Mandir School, Kharora will start from May 1-15. In this training will be imparted in Spoken English, music, physical education, maths, 'Ghosh Vadan' daily from 7:30 am to 9:30 am. To take part in this training, any student from the region can apply from any school that of Class 6th to 12th and it will done free of cost. Those interested in taking part in this training can contact the principal of School Apart from this many other activities are also likely to be organized in the School, depending upon the enrollment of the students and their interest in different subjects.

Admission

Admission in SAGEMS Raikhedra thru lottery on May 6

KHARORA: The applications for admission into Class 1 to 12th through online and offline in Swamy Atmanand Government English Medium School (SAGEMS), Raikheda (Kharora) has been started. The application date is from April 10 and it is through lottery that the draw will be taken out for admission. For admission, the students will have to take enrollment between May 11-15 and those failing to take admission will be replaced by those in the waiting list. Principal JK Verma informed that in Class 1, there are 50 seats, 2 in Class 2; 32 in Class 4; 42 in Class 5th, 40 in Class 6th; 37 in Class 7th; 45 in Class 8th; 47 in Class 9th; 20 in Class 11 (Maths); 20 in Biology and Commerce each.

Event of the week

Earth Day celebrations held at Allons Public School



Earth Day celebration was held at Allons Public School.

BEMETARA: The Earth Day celebration was held under the supervision of Principal Neetu Singh, Allons Public School (formerly New Sainik School) conducted a vibrant and impactful Earth Day celebration on April 22. The event aimed to raise awareness about environmental conservation and the importance of sustainable living among students and staff. The celebration began with a special assembly led by Neetu Singh, emphasizing

ing the significance of Earth Day and urging everyone to take action to protect our planet. Students presented thought-provoking speeches, poems, and skits highlighting various environmental issues such as pollution, deforestation, and climate change. Throughout the day, various engaging activities were organized across different grade levels. These included tree planting sessions, eco-friendly craft workshops, and educational seminars on recycling and waste management.

Shortake: Government Girl's HS School

Students given training about intricacies of editing

ARANG: The students of Media faculty from Government Girl's HS School, Arang were felicitated for learning about editing and boosted their morale. In this context, trainer Media subject Anjali Jhade by organising an internship programme on Media field, provided them good training on how to carry out editing of a subject. It was successful completion of the internship programme, all the students were presented with certificates and cash amount and boosted their morale.



SchoolBuzz

Yogita Patel selected by University of Chilli (Santiago)

KHARORA: Yogita Patel D/o Karju Patel and Rukhmani Patel, Gram -Tekari (Kunda) block Arang, District Raipur has been selected for studies and research in the field of Astronomy by University of Chilli, Santiago (Chilli), South America. There she will carry out research and studies on various aspects of Astronomy for a period of four years.



Results of Class 9th 64.44%, Class 11th 97%

ANWARI: The results of the Government HS School, Anwari were declared on April 24 for Class 9th and 11th and the result was nearly cent percent. The results of Class 9th was 64.44% and in this Kajal with 96.17% came first and Tulsi with 92.17% came second and Tamanna with 88.17% came third and brought laurels to the School.



Priyanshu Goud of PP-1 tops; Meyan Nirmalkar in PP-2

KHARORA: The results of Maa Sharda Higher Secondary School, Kharora, for PP-1 to Class 9th have been declared. In this Priyanshu Goud of PPI came first; Meyan Nirmalkar of PP-2 came first and in Class 1st- Minikashi Pal came first and Monika Sahu second and Nikita Sahu third.



Sport



What I feel about Hardik Pandya is that Indian cricket needs to make it clear that they should not give him that much priority as they have given him so far.

Irfan Pathan
Former cricketer

Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

IPL

Ten Doeschate, KKR assistant coach wants team to use innovation

KOLKATA: Bowlers need to find “innovative ways to execute deliveries with a touch of “anti-skill” to challenge the range-hitting batsmen in the ongoing IPL, reckoned Kolkata Knight Riders assistant coach Ryan ten Doeschate.

Punjab Kings successfully mounted the highest run-chase in T20s when they surpassed Kolkata Knight Riders imposing 261/6 with eight balls and eight wickets to spare in their IPL match at Eden Gardens on Friday.

“The game is almost unrecognisable from 10 years ago when you get past 160 you can almost pack your bag and feel you’re going to win the game. Now, you need 160 before the 13th over to have a chance to get a big score,” Doeschate said during the post-match media interaction.

UNDER-23 ASIAN CUP

Saudi Arabia knocked out from the race for Olympics by Uzbekistan

DOHA: Defending champions Saudi Arabia lost to Uzbekistan 2-0 in the Under-23 Asian Cup quarterfinals and also saw its chance of a second successive appearance at the Olympics end.

Only the top three teams from the 16-team competition qualify automatically for men’s Olympic soccer in Paris. Fourth place earns a playoff against Guinea in May.

In a reverse of the 2022 final, Uzbekistan was the comfortable winner. Khusain Norchaev scored on halftime and the Saudis’ task became much harder after 70 minutes when Ayman Yahya received a second yellow card. Umarali Rakhmonaliev headed home to secure the win for the 2018 champion.

The Central Asian team will take on Indonesia in Monday’s semifinal.

Iraq defeated Vietnam 1-0 to earn a last-four clash with Japan.

INDIAN PREMIER LEAGUE

My aim was to take game deep, pick bowlers to target: PBKS’ Shashank



KOLKATA: Shashank Singh said his ability to pick the bowlers and take the game deep helped him produce the blistering unbeaten 68 off 28 balls, which played a big role in Punjab Kings’ record-breaking eight-wicket win over Kolkata Knight Riders in the IPL. When Shashank entered the field, PBKS needed 84 runs in 7.3 overs to overhaul KKR’s daunting 261 for six. Jonny Bairstow, the eventual centurion, was then batting at the other end on 93 off 39 balls. However, Shashank did not bat an eyelid while knocking off 68 runs (2x4, 8x6) in that period as Bairstow

added just 15 off nine balls during their third wicket alliance, which saw Punjab raising the bar for the highest run chase in T20s. “Before this, in the pre-camp and in the domestic matches, I was batting to make sure I could take the game as deep as possible. “I knew I’d be batting around 5-7 in the IPL, so I have been planning on how to take my innings deep,” said Shashank on JioCinema. But there was a lot of cricketing smarts too in his innings as Shashank left alone KKR spinner Sunil Narine while focussing on other bowlers to collect his runs.

The Day’s NUMBERS

TOP FIVE HIGHEST-PAID ATHLETES IN ENDORSEMENTS AS OF MAY 2024. (IN US\$ MN)

Athlete	Endorsement Value (US\$ MN)
LeBron James:	\$75-90
Cristiano Ronaldo:	\$70-85
Tiger Woods:	\$60-75
Naomi Osaka:	\$55-70
Roger Federer:	\$50-65

ASIAN U-20 ATHLETICS

India grabs 15 medals at Asian U-20 Athletics Championships

DUBAI: Promising middle distance runner Laxita Vinod Sandilea and low hurdler Shreeya Rajesh won silver and bronze medals, respectively, on the penultimate day of the Asian U-20 Athletics Championships here on Friday. India’s overall medal tally thus swelled to 15 medals, including five gold, six silver and five bronze. Shreeya ran a well-judged pace to sail over the barriers, but eventually settled for a bronze in the women’s 400m hurdles. Laxita lived up to her reputation but had to contend with a silver in the women’s 800m. Tanvi Malik however, finished sixth in 800m. The morning session didn’t go on expected lines for the Indian team as Sachin finished fourth in the men’s 10,000m race walk. Himanshu, the second Indian race walker was disqualified. The Indian duo of Nadini and Anushka finished fifth (56.99m) and sixth (55.81m) respectively, in the women’s hammer throw.

SOCCER

Replacements for Madrid deeming too good as team eyes La Liga title



SAN SEBASTIAN: Real Madrid moved another step closer to a 36th Spanish league title after beating Real Sociedad 1-0 and extending its lead in the standings to 14 points. Carlo Ancelotti’s men need just five points from their last five games to ensure the title will return to the Santiago Bernabeu Stadium. “We are very close to winning La Liga,” the coach acknowledged after a hard-fought win in the Basque country. On a rainy night in San Sebastian, Madrid put out a second-string team to rest Jude Bellingham, Vinicius Junior and other regulars.



Archers Jyothi Surekha Vennam and Abhishek Verma pose for photos after reaching the mixed compound final at the Archery World Cup Stage 1, in Shanghai.

India completes clean sweep at Archery WC

Press Trust Of India

SHANGHAI: Underlining their supremacy in non-Olympic compound archery, India grabbed a hat-trick of gold medals to make a clean sweep of team events at the ongoing World Cup Stage 1 in Shanghai here on Saturday.

India’s Jyothi Surekha Vennam, Aditi Swami and Parneet Kaur dropped just four points to trounce Italy 236-225 in the women’s compound team event to open their

account with a gold in the season-opening global showpiece. The men’s team of Abhishek Verma, Priyansh and Prathamesh Fuge went one step better as they missed just two points en route to defeating Netherlands’ Mike Schloesser, Sil Pater and Stef Willems 238-231.

The mixed team completed the sweep when the second-seeded Jyothi and Abhishek warded off a late resurgence from their Estonian rivals -- Lisell Jaatma and Robin

HIGHLIGHT

● India’s men’s and women’s archery teams grab hat-trick of medals at Archery World Cup.

● India has made a complete clean sweep at the compound events in Archery World Cup.

Jaatma -- to win 158-157 in a thrilling finish. This was a double gold medal for the reigning Asian Games champion Jyothi who is

also in the hunt for an individual gold and will play her semifinal later in the day.

Priyansh is also in the hunt for an individual medal in the compound segment. The Indian men’s team will take on Olympic champions South Korea in the gold medal clash.

Deepika Kumari is in fray for an individual medal and will play her semifinal against South Korean rival in the women’s recurve section.

The men’s team, who qualified as the fourth seed, put up a near flawless show to defeat their Dutch opponents.

They began with a perfect round of 60 and dropped just two points in the next two ends, before sealing the win with another perfect 60 in the final set of six arrows.

In the compound mixed team event, Jyothi and Abhishek took a three-point lead, starting off with a perfect round of 40.

INDIAN PREMIER LEAGUE

Cricket becoming more like baseball, says Sam Curran

Press Trust of India.

Sam Curran elated after his team chased down and broke records against KKR

KOLKATA: “Cricket is turning into baseball,” Punjab Kings skipper Sam Curran aptly summed up his team’s T20 world record run chase of 262 against Kolkata Knight Riders in the IPL here on Friday.

Led by Jonny Bairstow’s incredible hundred, Punjab Kings set the new world record for the highest run chase in the history of T20 cricket as they went past KKR’s 261/6 with eight wickets and eight balls to spare. “Very pleasing. Most importantly the win, cricket has turned to baseball isn’t it?” Sriram told reporters.



Punjab Kings’ captain Sam Curran celebrates with teammates after taking the wicket.

FACTFILE

● Punjab won Friday’s game on the back of a superb ton by Jonny Bairstow and trounced KKR at the latter’s home.

We’re delighted with the two points,” Curran said

at the post-match presentation ceremony. Asked about the massive scores being put up by teams this IPL season, Curran said, “Loads of different things, guys can hit balls for long periods of time, the coaches, training, the dew, dot balls become

wide after reviews and you get the extra ball. Speaking about Bairstow’s unbeaten century and Shashank Singh’s belligerent innings, he said, “Really pleased for Jonny, he’s been on tour for a long time and was eager to score.

CRICKET

Bangladesh inspire from India ODI series win: Sultana

Press Trust of India

SYLHET: A rejuvenated Bangladesh will take inspiration from last year’s ODI series success against India when they host the visitors in a women’s T20I series here starting Sunday, said home skipper Nigar Sultana.

Bangladesh will play a five-match T20 series

against India with all the games set to be played at the Sylhet International Cricket Stadium here. India had toured Bangladesh last year for a white-ball series and although the hosts lost the T20 format (1-2), they managed to end the three-game ODI rubber 1-1. Nigar said the team is coming from a break and expects the series to be a ‘cracker’.

“We plan to take inspiration out of the ODI series win against India last year, and if we play our best cricket, it’s going to be a cracker of a series.”
Nigar Sultana
Bangladesh cricketer



“We failed to fare well against Australia and it was a tough phase for us. But we went on a break then, spent time with our families and are back fresh, both physically and mentally,” she replied to a PTI query during a media session on Friday. Bangladesh had lost both the WODI and WT20I series against Australia 3-0 at home in March-April this year.

Sports News



Delhi Capitals bowler Rasikh Salam celebrates with teammates after taking the wicket of Mumbai Indians captain Hardik Pandya.



Delhi Capitals batter Tristan Stubbs plays a shot.

McGurk, Stubbs rock as DC beat MI by 10 runs

Press Trust of India
The win elevated DC to the fifth spot.

NEW DELHI: Jake Fraser-McGurk produced a power-hitting master class as Delhi Capitals kept themselves in the race for IPL play-offs with a 10-run win over Mumbai Indians here on Saturday. Bringing his big-hitting prowess to the fore, young McGurk gave the scorching Delhi heat competition with a sizzling 27-ball 84, powering DC to a massive 257 for four after being asked to bat. Tilak Varma (63) and Har-

dik Pandya (46) played some lofty shots to give MI a glimmer of hope but Delhi bowlers, led by Rasikh Salam (3/34), kept striking at regular intervals to stop MI at 247 for 9. The win elevated DC to the fifth spot while MI continued to occupy the penultimate place. While McGurk sparked up front, Tristan Stubbs dazzled with an unbeaten 48 off 25 balls at the death overs as DC put up a superlative batting effort to register their highest-ever score in IPL. In reply, MI's script didn't go as per plan as Khaleel Ahmed drew first blood in

SCORECARD		
Delhi Capitals		
Jake Fraser-McGurk		
c Md Nabi b Chawla	84(27)	
Abishek Porel c Ishan Kishan		
b Md Nabi	36(27)	
Shai Hope c Tilak Varma		
b Wood	41(17)	
Rishabh Pant (c)† c Sharma		
b Bumrah	29(19)	
Tristan Stubbs not out	48(25)	
Axar Patel not out	11(6)	
Extras: (lb 1, nb 1, w 6)	8	
Total	257/4	
Bowling: Luke Wood 4-0-68-1, Jasprit Bumrah 4-0-35-1, Nuwan Thushara 4-0-56-0, Piyush Chawla 4-0-36-1, Hardik Pandya 2-0-41-0, Mohammad Nabi 2-0-20-1		
Mumbai Indians		
Ishan Kishan † c Patel	20(14)	
b Mukesh Kumar		
Rohit Sharma c Hope	8(8)	
b Ahmed		
Suryakumar Yadav		
c Williams b Ahmed	26(13)	
Tilak Varma run out (sub Sumit Kumar)/Pant	63(32)	
Hardik Pandya (c) c Mukesh Kumar b Rasikh Salam	46(24)	
Nehal Wadhwa c IPant b Rasikh Salam	4(2)	
Tim David lbw b Mukesh Kumar	37(17)	
Mohammad Nabi c Hope	7(4)	
b Rasikh Salam		
Piyush Chawla c Hope	10(4)	
b Mukesh Kumar	9(3)	
Extras: (b 2, lb 2, nb 1, w 12)	17	
Total	247/9	
Bowling: Lizaad Williams 3-0-34-0, Khaleel Ahmed 4-0-45-2, Mukesh Kumar 4-0-59-3, Kuldeep Yadav 3-0-47-0, Axar Patel 2-0-24-0, Rasikh Salam 4-0-34-3		

the form of Rohit Sharma (8). With more than 250 runs to score, MI batters had to go from the world go and that led to Ishan Kishan (20) and Suryakumar Yadav's (26) wickets. Three wickets down and the required run rate increasing, Pandya took things in his own hands, plundering 19 runs of the ninth over by DC's star spinner Kuldeep Yadav. He punched three fours before launching the ball for a towering six over long on. Tilak Varma joined in with a boundary and a six off Axar Patel as the duo stitched a 71-run stand.

'Indian cricket should not give Hardik so much priority'

NEW DELHI: Former seamer Irfan Pathan has insisted that Indian cricket must stop obsessing over Hardik Pandya's worth as an all-rounder at international level, saying he has failed to create an impact in ICC tournaments. The Mumbai Indians all-rounder is battling poor form this IPL season, raising questions about his inclusion in India's T20 World Cup squad, which is to be



announced soon. "What I feel about Hardik Pandya is that Indian cricket needs to make it clear that they should not give him that much priority as they have given him so far, because we still haven't won the World Cup," Pathan said on Star Sports Press Room Show, Ticket to World Cup. "If you think you are a primary all-rounder, you need to make that kind of an impact at the international level."

GT eye collective improvement Vs RCB

Press Trust of India
In a crucial IPL clash, Gujarat Giants confront resurgent Royal Challengers Bengaluru. With playoff hopes on the line, both teams seek vital points in Ahmedabad..



AHMEDABAD: The Gujarat Giants face a crucial match against the rejuvenated Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) in the Indian Premier League. Currently sitting at seventh place with eight points from nine matches, the Giants urgently need a victory to climb above the mid-table congestion alongside Chennai Super Kings and Delhi Capitals. A major concern for the Giants has been their underperforming pace bowling unit, with Mohit Sharma, Umesh Yadav, and Sandeep Warrier

leaking runs consistently. Even the backup quicks like Spencer Johnson and Azmatullah Omarzai have failed to inspire confidence. Although their spinners Rashid Khan, R Sai Kishore, and Noor Ahmad have been steady, they face a tough challenge against RCB's

resurgent middle-order, led by Rajat Patidar and Cameron Green. RCB's newfound balance in the middle-order has eased the pressure on their top-order batsmen, allowing them to post competitive totals without relying heavily on the lower order. In contrast, the Giants' middle-order has struggled for consistency, with players like David Miller, Shahrukh Khan, Vijay Shankar, and Rahul Tewatia showing glimpses of promise but failing to capitalize on their starts.

Pakistan tour NZ next year for 3 ODIs, 5 T20Is

LAHORE: The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) confirmed that its national side will tour New Zealand next year to play three ODIs and five T20 Internationals. The series, sixth between the two nations since 2023, was finalised during a meeting between PCB Chairman Mohsin Naqvi and New Zealand Cricket (NZC) CEO Scott Weenink in Lahore on the sidelines of the on-going five-match T20I rubber. During the meeting it was in principle decided to conduct the tour after the 2025 Champions Trophy, which is scheduled to be hosted by Pakistan. The meeting was also attended by PCB COO Salmaan Naseer and Director International Cricket Usman Wahla. As per the existing ICC FTP, New Zealand are also scheduled to tour Pakistan for a tri-nation series before the Champions Trophy.

Zaheer picks Pant as sole wicket-keeper for T20 WC, wants India debut for Dayal

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI: Former India pace spearhead Zaheer Khan has picked Rishabh Pant as the sole wicketkeeper in his team for the T20 World Cup while handing out international debut to left-arm seamer Yash Dayal to add a new dimension to the attack. One of Zaheer's most interesting selections was the 26-year-old Dayal, who

represents Uttar Pradesh in domestic cricket and Royal Challengers Bengaluru in the Indian Premier League. He has taken into account Mohammed Shami's injury layoff while picking his squad. "When I talk about Yash Dayal, it's a floating spot when the 15 are announced because Mohammed Shami will not be available for the tournament. "He's one bowler that if you need someone to

bowl up, you have Yash Dayal. If you want a back-end bowler and if Siraj's form is spotty, he can be used there as well," Zaheer told Jio Cinema. Zaheer also selected Delhi Capitals' captain Pant as the only wicket-keeper in his squad, overlooking others such as Sanju Samson, KL Rahul and Ishan Kishan. "Rishabh Pant is my only wicket-keeper. I have given more importance

to bringing four pace bowlers. You don't want to sacrifice a fast bowler for another wicketkeeper. You have options like KL Rahul, Sanju Samson, and many want to see Dinesh Karthik. "At this point, we can consider Mahendra Singh Dhoni as well because of his strike rate! I think they'll focus on current players like Samson, KL Rahul, and maybe even Jitesh Sharma."

CSK to face bruised SRH in IPL

Press Trust of India
CHENNAI: In a crucial IPL clash, the Chennai Super Kings, shaken by consecutive defeats, seek a resurgence against the Sunrisers Hyderabad. CSK's fortunes have centered around skipper Ruturaj Gaikwad and the consistent Shivam Dube, with their batting lineup showing signs of inconsistency. The bowling department faces a stern test against SRH's aggres-



sive batting approach, especially considering the challenges posed by dew at Chepauk. Meanwhile, the Sunrisers Hyderabad,

a collective failure in the previous match. In bowling, senior seamer Bhuvneshwar Kumar's form remains a concern, prompting considerations for changes in the lineup. With both teams eyeing a crucial win to bolster their playoff chances, the encounter promises to be fiercely contested, with strategies revolving around batting first to mitigate the impact of the unpredictable dew factor.

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World



Ready to serve nine more years in prison rather than striking deal with people enslaving Pakistan:
Imran Khan
Former PM Pakistan

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सुशासन और सबका सम्मान

भारतीय जनता पार्टी, छत्तीसगढ़



Joint military exercise between Indian Army and Uzbekistan Armed Forces at Termez Training Base, in Uzbekistan.

Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

SEXUAL MISCONDUCT

Sean 'Diddy' Combs files motion to dismiss claims in sexual assault lawsuit

LOS ANGELES: Lawyers for Sean "Diddy" Combs pushed back against a woman's lawsuit that accused him of sexual assault, filing a motion to dismiss some claims that were not under law when the alleged incident occurred.

The motion filed in a New York court on Friday claims Combs cannot be sued because certain laws didn't exist when Joi Dickerson-Deal made the allegations against him in 1991. The music mogul's lawyers want certain statutes from Dickerson-Deal's claims such as revenge porn and human trafficking to be dismissed with prejudice. In a filing last year, she said Combs "intentionally drugged" her then brought her home and sexually assaulted her after a date in Harlem when she was a 19-year-old college student. **PTI**

MUSIC-EMINEM

Eminem to soon release 12th studio album 'The Death of Slim Shady'



LOS ANGELES: American rapper Eminem has announced that he will be releasing his 12th studio album this year. Titled "The Death of Slim Shady (Coup de Grace)", the new album comes four years after he released "Music to Be Murdered By", according to entertainment news outlet Variety. The 51-year-old rapper, whose real name is Marshall Bruce Mathers, shared the news on his social media handles on Friday evening. **PTI**

From around the world

Pro-Palestinian students have peacefully evacuated prestigious Paris university campus building



PARIS: Students in Paris inspired by Gaza solidarity encampments at campuses in the United States peacefully evacuated a campus building at a prestigious French university late on Friday after days of tensions.

The head of the Paris Institute of Political Studies, known as Sciences Po, said an agreement was found Friday with students. Sciences Po counts President Emmanuel Macron and Prime Minister Gabriel Attal among its many famous alumni.

Tensions had broken out on the campus as pro-Palestinian students sought to occupy an amphitheatre earlier this week. On Friday, pro-Palestinian and pro-Israeli demonstrators faced each other in a tense stand-

off in the street outside the school. Riot police stepped in to separate the opposing groups. Students later agreed to leave the site.

Pro-Palestinian protester and Sciences Po student Wajih, who declined to give his last name for fear of disciplinary sanctions by the university, said "the occupation has paused for now. But we'll still support the Palestinian movement at large, we'll support other universities, we'll support all over the globe until Palestine is free."

In an email to students, Sciences Po administrator Jean Bassères pledged Friday to hold a townhall meeting in the coming week and to suspend some disciplinary proceedings against students. **PTI**

Russia renews attacks on the Ukrainian energy sector

Russia said its air defence systems had intercepted more than 60 Ukrainian drones over the southern Krasnodar region

HIGHLIGHT

● Russia had launched 34 missiles against Ukraine overnight, of which 21 had been shot down by Ukrainian air defences

● Earlier this month Russia destroyed one of Ukraine's largest power plants and damaged others in a massive missile and drone attack

more air defence systems to ward off such attacks. At a meeting of the Ukraine Defense Contact Group on Friday, U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin announced the

U.S. will provide Ukraine with additional munitions and gear for its air defense launchers.

Further east, a psychiatric hospital was damaged and one person was wounded after Russia launched a missile attack overnight on Ukraine's second-largest city, Kharkiv. Photos from the scene showed a huge crater on the grounds of the facility and patients taking shelter in corridors. Regional governor Oleh Syniehubov said a 53-year-old woman was hurt. In Russia, the Defence Ministry said Russian air defense systems had intercepted 66 drones over the coun-

try's southern Krasnodar region. Two more drones were shot down over the Moscow-annexed Crimean Peninsula.

The governor of the Krasnodar region, Veniamin Kondratyev, said that Ukrainian forces targeted an oil refinery and infrastructure facilities but that there were no casualties or serious damage. The regional department of the Emergency Situations Ministry reported that a fire broke out at the Slavyansk oil refinery in Slavyansk-on-Kuban during the attack. Ukrainian officials normally decline to comment on attacks on Russian soil.

Press Trust Of India

KYIV: Russia launched a barrage of missiles against Ukraine overnight, in attacks that appeared to target the country's energy infrastructure. Meanwhile, Russia said its air defence systems had intercepted more than 60 Ukrainian drones over the southern Krasnodar region.

Ukraine's air force said Saturday that Russia had launched 34 missiles against Ukraine overnight, of which 21 had been shot down by Ukrainian air defences.

In a post on Telegram, Minister of Energy Herman Halushchenko said

energy facilities in Dnipropetrovsk in the south of the country and Ivano-Frankivsk and Lviv in the west had been attacked and that an engineer was injured. Private energy operator DTEK said four of its thermal power plants were damaged and that there were "casualties," without going into detail.

Earlier this month Russia destroyed one of Ukraine's largest power plants and damaged others in a massive missile and drone attack as it renewed its push to target Ukraine's energy facilities.

Ukraine has appealed to its Western allies for

| SHIP-INDIAN CREW |

Consular access to Indian crew

Press Trust Of India

Iran on Saturday said the mostly Indian crew of a Portuguese-flagged ship that was seized by Iranian forces in its maritime territory two weeks ago is being granted consular access, raising hopes for their early release and extradition



Israel Ship Seized By Iran

said Portugal's newly-appointed Foreign Minister Paulo Rangel had a phone conversation with his Iranian counterpart Hossein Amirabdollahian and exchanged views on the bilateral relations & the situation in the region, with the developments in Palestine standing out in their talks. It was during this telephonic conversation that both sides exchanged their latest views on the Portuguese-flagged Israeli ship seized by Iranian forces. "We (will) seriously consider the release of the

FAST FACTS

● Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard on April 13 seized the Israeli-affiliated, Portuguese-flagged MSC Aries, a container ship near the Strait of Hormuz

ship's crew as a humanitarian issue and we have announced to their ambassadors in Tehran their access to consular services, release and extradition," Amirabdol-

lahian said. Ann Tessa Joseph, the sole woman cadet among the 17 Indian crew members of the MSC Aries was released on April 18 following "concerted efforts" by the Indian mission in Tehran and the Iranian government. Earlier on Thursday, in New Delhi, the Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said there are certain "technicalities involved" in the return of the remaining 16 Indian crew members. In response to a

question during his weekly media briefing, Jaiswal said the 16 Indians are in "good" health and that the Indian mission was given consular access to the Indian crew by Iranian authorities.

Indian officials had met the crew and are in constant touch with their families, he said adding, "As far as their return is concerned, there are certain technicalities involved, there are some contractual obligations, once that is done, it will depend on that, when they will return."

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होटल पिकाडली के पीछे, रायपुर

Ajay 9827144371

Expert Team For

Chemotherapy, Immunotherapy & Supportive Treatment of Cancer

Dr Vikas Goyal
MD, DM
Blood diseases & blood cancer specialist

Dr Aniket Thoke
MD, DNB, ECMO
Chemotherapy and immunotherapy specialist

Dr Rakesh Mishra
MD, DM
Chemotherapy and immunotherapy specialist

Dr Avinash Tiwari
MBBS, MD
Pain and Palliative medicine specialist

(Fully NABH Accredited, 20 Specialists, Over 17 Years)

SANJEEVANI CANCER HOSPITAL

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