



## Supreme Court to hear Kejriwal bail plea today

Press Trust of India

**NEW DELHI:** The Supreme Court will consider on Tuesday whether to enlarge Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on interim bail in view of the ongoing Lok Sabha elections when it hears his petition challenging his arrest in an excise policy-linked money laundering case. Whether Kejriwal,

who has been in custody through the Lok Sabha elections so far, is able to campaign during the remaining phases will depend on the outcome of the proceedings. A bench of Justices Sanjiv Khanna and Dipankar Datta will take up as the first matter the plea of the AAP leader. Kejriwal was arrested on March 21 and is currently lodged in Tihar jail under judicial custody.

| LS POLLS |

## BJP, Cong lock horns in seven seats today

Chh'garh will vote today in the third phase with 168 candidates in the fray.

Press Trust of India

**RAIPUR:** Amid heightened security with the deployment of 202 companies of Central forces and more than 60,000 personnel of police force and District Reserve Guard, the remaining seven Lok Sabha seats in Chhattisgarh will vote on Tuesday in the third phase with 168 candidates in the fray.

The main contest lies between the BJP, which had won 10 out of 11 seats in the state in the 2004, 2009 and 2014 general elections. In 2019, the BJP bagged nine constituencies and Congress 2.

A total of 1,39,01,285 voters are eligible to exercise their franchise in seven seats, including the high-profile Raipur where state minister and BJP leader Brijmohan Agrawal



Poll personnel on duty receiving polling material. | Photo: PTI

### HIGHLIGHT

● 1,39,01,285 voters are eligible to exercise their rights.

● Polling will be between 7 am to 6 pm.

is facing off against former MLA Vikas Upadhyay of Congress. In Korba seat, the BJP

incumbent leader of the opposition Charandas Mahant.

Polling will be held between 7 am to 6 pm.

"All the preparations have been completed for conducting polling in Raipur, Durg, Bilaspur, Korba, Janjgir-Champa (Scheduled Caste reserved), Surguja (Scheduled Tribe reserved) and Raigarh (ST) seats in the third phase on



May 7," state Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Reena Babasaheb Kangale said in a press conference on Monday.

has fielded its influential woman leader and former MP Saroj Pandey against Congress' sitting MP Jyotsana Mahant, wife of the

## Naxalite carrying Rs 2 lakh bounty surrenders

**SUKMA:** A Naxalite carrying a reward of Rs 2 lakh on his head surrendered before the security forces in Chhattisgarh's Sukma district on Monday, an official said. Muchaki Joga (30) turned himself in before personnel of the police and Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), citing disappointment with the "hollow" and "inhuman" Maoist ideology, Sukma Superintendent of Police Kiran Chavan said. He was impressed by the district police's rehabilitation drive 'Puna Narkom' (a term coined in the local Gondi dialect, which means new dawn, new beginning), he added.

## 'I'm abused as I stop loot'

Press Trust of India

**BJP govt is committed to women's empowerment.**

**NABARANGPUR:** After the Directorate of Enforcement's huge cash haul in Jharkhand, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that people are lauding the action taken by the central agency, some are criticising him for stopping corruption and loot.

"Today, mountains of currency notes are being found in the neighbouring state Jharkhand. People are saying 'chori ho gaya aur mal pakad raha Modi waha' (theft has taken place and Modi



has seized the robbed goods). Now tell me, if I stop their theft, stop their earning, stop their loot, won't they abuse Modi or not? Despite the abuses, shouldn't I be doing this work. Shouldn't I be saving your money," the Prime Minister said while addressing a public rally in Odisha's Nabarangpur today.

ED earlier uncovered over Rs 20 crore from

FACTFILE

● BJD failed to spend money sent by the Centre properly.

the residence of a household help employed by Sanjiv Lal, the Personal Secretary to Jharkhand Rural Development Minister Alamgir Alam during raids at multiple locations in Ranchi on Monday morning, PM Modi also hit out at the Biju Janata Dal (BJD)-led government in Odisha and alleged that the latter did not "allow" implementation of central government schemes in the state. He further said that those schemes that were implemented were "stamped by corruption."

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## 'Remove fake content within 3 hrs'

Press Trust of India

**NEW DELHI:** The Election Commission (EC) on Monday directed political parties to remove fake content from their social media platforms within three hours of such content being brought to

their notice. This is part of directives issued by the poll panel to political parties for responsible and ethical use of social media in election campaigning to ensure a level playing field for all stakeholders after taking cognisance of certain violations by them.

**Vote First Everything else can wait**

Today, on 7th May, do participate in the third phase of the festival of democracy. As a responsible citizen, do not forget to cast your vote for the Nation's development and progress.

**Your One Vote Will strengthen our nation's fight against corruption, poverty and nepotism**

**Will move nation forward Will make a viksit Bharat**

**To vote for Modi Ji**

**Press the Lotus button**

**Make BJP win**

**Phir Ek Baar Modi Sarkar**

THIS IS MODI'S GUARANTEE

# Raipur



Modi govt does not shows differences with anyone, not even Cong govt.

Vishnu Deo Sai,  
CM, Chhattisgarh

## Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

### EXERCISE YOUR FRANCHISE

**Governor Vishwabhusan Harichandan urges citizens to fulfill democratic duty**

**RAIPUR:** In a fervent call to action, Governor Vishwabhusan Harichandan of Raipur has implored all eligible citizens of the state to exercise their right to vote in the upcoming Lok Sabha general elections of 2024. Emphasizing the significance of democratic participation, the Governor underscored the pivotal role each voter plays in shaping the nation's destiny. Addressing the public, Governor Harichandan highlighted India's esteemed position as the world's largest democracy and urged citizens to actively engage in this fundamental aspect of democracy.



### VOTER PARTICIPATION

**CM Sai to cast vote in home village Bagiya, urges voter participation**

**RAIPUR:** Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Vishnu Dev Sai is set to exercise his franchise in his ancestral village of Bagiya, located in Jashpur district, underscoring the significance of voter participation. After an extensive 47-day campaign period, CM Sai will embark on a journey from the state capital, Raipur, to Bagiya, where he will cast his vote alongside his family at booth number 49 in the village primary school. CM Sai's decision to cast his vote in Bagiya serves as a poignant reminder of the democratic ethos embedded in grassroots participation. Encouraging citizens across Chhattisgarh to actively engage in the electoral process, the Chief Minister's appeal resonates with the broader call for civic duty and responsibility.



Polling team along with voting material ready to reach their destinations.

## Raipur District gears up for smooth Lok Sabha Elections

Monday marked a significant milestone as the polling parties embarked on their journey, equipped with essential voting materials, including EVM machines and VVPATs.

### Central Chronicle News

**RAIPUR:** In an exemplary display of dedication and meticulous planning, Raipur district gears up for the forthcoming Lok Sabha elections, slated to commence on May 7th.

Led by Collector and District Election Officer Dr. Gaurav Singh, along with SSP Mr. Santosh Singh, the administrative machinery leaves no stone unturned to ensure a seamless electoral process.

Monday marked a significant milestone as the polling parties embarked

on their journey, equipped with essential voting materials, including EVM machines and VVPATs, along with medical kits. Amidst a backdrop of enthusiasm and encouragement, Collector Dr. Gaurav Singh, accompanied by SSP Mr. Santosh Singh, personally extended gratitude to the polling teams, officials, drivers, conductors, and security personnel involved at BTI Ground, Raipur. The heartfelt gesture, marked by the presentation of rose flowers, symbolized the collective appreciation for

### HIGHLIGHT

● Collector Dr. Gaurav Singh encouraged officials and polling parties by giving them rose flowers.

● Distribution of voting material to the polling party.

their tireless efforts in upholding the democratic spirit.

Security remains a top priority in Raipur, as evidenced by the stringent measures implemented to safeguard the integrity of the electoral process. Dr. Gau-

rav Singh's impassioned plea to police officers to ensure the safety of polling parties and election materials underscores the unwavering commitment to a fair and transparent election.

The Collector greeted Municipal Corporation Commissioner Mr. Abinash Mishra, District Panchayat CEO Mr. Vishwadeep and all the AROs by presenting them rose flowers. Furthermore, the administration leaves no room for complacency in ensuring the comfort and preparedness of the polling teams. Extensive training sessions, coupled with the provision of comprehensive facilities and meticulous checklists, underscore the dedication to conduct voting with utmost efficiency.

As anticipation builds for the upcoming polling day on May 7th, Raipur stands poised to showcase the pinnacle of democratic governance. With preparations completed and security arrangements in place, all eyes are set on the electorate as they exercise their fundamental right to vote, shaping the future of the nation.

## Talking about justice to women is Cong drama: Pandey

**RAIPUR:** Senior BJP leader and LS candidate Saroj Pandey charged that Congress has always done injustice with women, then be it the case of Shah Bano's 'talaq', wherein an old woman was made to fight in the court for many years got the decision of getting alimony.

But in order to change this decision, the then Rajiv Gandhi government issued a government order and snatched a simple right that of an old woman. Suppressing, exploiting and snatching away the rights of women is the true character of Congress and therefore the members of fair sex have started hating Congress.

## AIIMS-R inks MoU with IIT Indore for tech collaboration

### Central Chronicle News

On developing newer technologies in the field of healthcare.

**RAIPUR:** All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Raipur, and Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Indore, have joined hands to collaborate on developing newer technologies in the Field of Healthcare.

Executive Director Lt Gen Ashok Jindal (Retd) and Shri Amandeep Shrivastava, Vice President, IIT-I Driшти CPS Foundation, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Monday. According to Lt Gen Jindal, MoU will give a new direction to public health by the partnership of



ED Lt Gen Ashok Jindal (Retd) and Amandeep Shrivastava, VP, IIT-I Driшти CPS Foundation, exchanged MoU documents.

### FACTFILE

● MoU will give a new direction to public health by the partnership of two eminent Institutes of National Importance.

two eminent Institutes of National Importance. It will provide solutions for

training medical students, peripheral health workers and developing appropriate technology for the same.

'AIIMS Raipur will provide expert guidance and validate the medical technology developed by IIT-I Driшти CPS Foundation. MoU will pave the way for exchange programs for faculty,

researchers, and students between two institutes of national importance. It will include technology transfer, healthcare system enhancement, and public health initiatives, he added. Both institutes agreed to collaborate and resource sharing and to participate in joint consulting and research projects.

### SUMMER CAMP

## Young dancers shine bright at summer camp

### Central Chronicle News

**RAIPUR:** In a vibrant display of talent and creativity, young dancers stole the spotlight at the recent dance competition held at the Brahma Kumaris Summer Camp in Raipur. Organized by Prajapita Brahma Kumari Ishwariya Vishwavidyalaya as part of the Prerna Summer Camp in Chaubey Colony, the event

witnessed enthusiastic participation from children who mesmerized the audience with their exceptional performances. Dressed in colorful attire, the children took to the stage with gusto, showcasing their skills in various dance forms ranging from Kathak to contemporary. What made their performances even more impressive was the fact that the dance steps were

**Children should strive for goodness in their actions and interactions with others**

Priyanka Didi,  
Brahmakumari



entirely choreographed by the children themselves, adding a personal touch to their presentations.

Judged by Brahma Kumaris Rashmi and Sneha Didi, the competition saw a diverse array of performances, each brimming with energy and emotion. Ms. Deeksha Gupta kicked off the event with a spellbinding Kathak performance.

### The Day's NUMBERS

Ten biggest thermal power stations operating in India are all coal-fired

### WHAT ARE THE TOP 10 BIGGEST THERMAL POWER PLANTS IN INDIA?

VTPS-MP	4760
MTPS-Gujarat	4620
MUMPP-Gujarat	4000
SUMPP-MP	3960
TTPP-Mah	3300

Source: Web

### LS ELECTION

**LS polls: 38 candidates in fray in Raipur seat in 9 Assembly constituencies**

**RAIPUR:** As many as 38 candidates are in the fray in Raipur Lok Sabha seat and 2385 polling stations have been set up in 9 Assembly constituencies under this seat. Voting under Raipur Lok Sabha Election 2024 will start from 7 am on May 7 and will end at 6 pm.

As many as 23 lakh 75 thousand 379 voters including 11 lakh 86 thousand 504 men, 11 lakh 88 thousand 571 women and 304 third gender voters will exercise their franchise. Three ballot units will be used in each polling station. Micro observers have been appointed after selecting a total of 245 polling stations in the district. Webcasting has been done after selecting 954 polling stations. Women have been given the responsibility of 857 polling stations in Raipur. Women will operate 203 polling stations of Raipur North Assembly. Similarly, 7 polling stations have been selected for the disabled.

### SECURITY MEASURES

**18 CAPF and 7 CAF companies are in the fray for Lok Sabha elections**

**RAIPUR:** As Raipur braces itself for the upcoming Lok Sabha elections, security preparations reach unprecedented levels with a multitude of forces deployed across the district. Under the vigilant direction of Inspector General of Police Raipur Range, Amresh Mishra, and Senior Superintendent of Police Raipur, Santosh Singh, a massive security apparatus has been mobilized to ensure the sanctity of the electoral process.

A formidable lineup of 18 companies of Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) and 7 companies of Chhattisgarh Armed Force (CAF) stand ready, bolstered by the presence of 1995 personnel from the police force, home guards, forest guards, and Kotwars. This concerted effort, a day before polling day, aims to maintain law and order and uphold the democratic ethos.

# Radhika Khera speaking BJP's language: PCC

PCC Chief Deepak Baij said that Radhika Kheda deliberately created a controversy before exit

Central Chronicle News

**RAIPUR:** Chhattisgarh Congress president Deepak Baij on Monday hit out at his former party colleague Radhika Khera a day after her resignation and accused her of speaking the language of the Bharatiya Janata Party and claimed she deliberately created a controversy before exit.

Khera, the AICC's communication and media coordinator for Chhattisgarh for the Lok Sabha polls, resigned from the Congress's primary membership on Sunday, days after her altercation with another leader at the party's state unit office in Raipur. Khera also claimed she was facing opposition in the party for her visit to the Ram temple in Ayodhya. In her resignation letter to Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, she claimed criticism over her visit to Lord Ram temple in Ayodhya led to the denial of justice to her in the incident that happened at the party's Chhattisgarh office last month.

Talking to reporters in Raipur, state Congress president Baij alleged the entire resignation episode was a "pre-planned political plot" of the BJP and claimed Khera was



PCC Chief Deepak Baij reacted Radhika's allegation. File Photo

## PCC Communication head refutes Radhika's allegations

Radhika had alleged that Shukla with whom she had an altercation, offered her alcohol during party MP Rahul Gandhi's Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra in the state in February and used to knock on the door of her room in an inebriated condition.

Khera had also claimed Shukla abused her on April 30 in the party office in Raipur, but no action was taken

### HIGHLIGHT

- She (Khera) tried to assassinate my character. She claimed I offered her alcohol. Media persons know me
- If she wants to join the BJP, she can do so, my best wishes are with her

against him.

"She (Khera) tried to

assassinate my character. She claimed I offered her alcohol. Media persons know me. Neither I nor any of my family members have ever consumed liquor. I reject such allegations.

If she wants to join the BJP, she can do so, my best wishes are with her. She was like my younger sister, but she crossed limits of levelling allegations." Shukla told reporters on Monday.

speaking the saffron party's language. "It was an in-house matter and linking it with temple (visit) and religion is not appropriate. The issue would have been resolved within the party. But if someone's mentality is to switch (to another party) and deliberately commit such acts, then such acts have no place in democracy," he said.

Asked about her allegations related to the April 30 altercation with a party colleague, Ram temple visit and denial of justice, Baij noted, "It was a fabricated story and deliberate attempt to create a new controversy. It was pre-planned and done at the BJP's behest. This planning was going on for long."

The Congress leader said quitting the party was Khera's personal decision, but she could have waited for the outcome of the ongoing investigation into the matter (of altercation).

Meanwhile strongly refuting Radhika's charges, PCC Communication head Sushil Anand Shukla maintained the script of Khera's story was written soon after Arvinder Singh Lovely (former Delhi Congress chief) quit the party in April-end.

## Workshop on 'Mechanics and Materials for Biomedical Applications'

Central Chronicle News

NIT Raipur's Department of Biomedical Engineering organized a workshop on "Mechanics & Materials for Biomedical Applications" with a valedictory session held on 6th May 2024.

**RAIPUR:** National Institute of Technology (NIT) Raipur's Department of Biomedical Engineering organized a week-long high-end workshop on "Mechanics & Materials for Biomedical Applications" with a valedictory session held on 6th May 2024.

This 7-day workshop attracted 25 participants from across India and featured 33 sessions led by distinguished professionals from prominent institutions like BARC, IIT BHU, IIT Delhi, NIPER and MNNIT, among many others. The workshop included a range of theoretical and hands-on training sessions, offering participants a comprehensive understanding of the subject.

The valedictory session was attended by Dr Prabhat Diwan, Dean (R&C), Dr Shubhojit Ghosh, Chairman,

CEC, NIT Raipur, Dr Bikesh Kumar Singh, Head, Department of Biomedical Engineering, Dr Nishant K Singh and Dr M Marieswaran, Program coordinators, and key faculty members and participants.

Dr Prabhat Diwan extended his congratulations to the coordinators and participants and expressed appreciation for the contributions of SERB in supporting the event. He emphasized the department's commitment to innovative research

### FASTFACTS

- The workshop attracted 25 participants from across India and featured 33 sessions led by distinguished professionals from prominent institutions

and wished the participants a bright future, noting that they had likely gained valuable experience from the workshop.

Dr Nishant Singh provided a brief about the past 7 days of the workshop while Dr Bikesh Kumar Singh congratulated everyone involved and encouraged participants to carry forward the knowledge gained from the workshop.

### NEWSLINE

#### ANTI-LIQUOR DRIVE

190 liters of illicit liquor seized



**RAIPUR:** The Excise Department of District Raipur along with Railway Police Force (RPF) conducted raids at Raipur Railway Station and many other places under drive against illicit-liquor and seized of 190.54 liters of illicit liquor. The raid was carried out under the instructions of Raipur Collector Gaurav Singh and under the guidance of Deputy Commissioner Excise District Raipur Vikas Goswami.

According to information available premium foreign liquor of Delhi and Punjab was seized in raid. With this three persons were arrested in connection with peddling illicit liquor and sent to jail. The team that carried out raid comprised Assistant District Excise Officers Zeba Khan Tekbahadur Kurre and Ravi Shankar Paikra, Excise Sub Inspector Neelam Swarnkarand Prakash Deshmukh, Railway sub-inspector AZ Chaudhary, chief constable PK Meshram, VC Banjare, constable Devesh Singh, excise constable Ravindra Dewangan.



**भारत निर्वाचन आयोग**  
Election Commission of India

**लोकसभा निर्वाचन - 2024**

तृतीय चरण मतदान हेतु संसदीय क्षेत्र



**तृतीय चरण मतदान**

**7 मई 2024**

इस बार दिन भर मतदान सुबह 07 से 06 बजे शाम

सरगुजा, रायगढ़, जांजगीर-चांपा, कोरबा, बिलासपुर, दुर्ग एवं रायपुर संसदीय क्षेत्र



**चुनाव का पर्व**  
देश का गर्व  
लोकसभा निर्वाचन 2024

चुनई चिरई

**मजबूत लोकतंत्र बर ये टीका हे जरूरी**



"All departments working in coordination to ensure smooth, free and fair voting",

Richa Prakash Chaudhary  
Collector, Durg

# Polling for Lok Sabha election begins at 07:00 hrs today

Polling parties reached their polling stations before Monday sunset with polling materials.

Central Chronicle News

**BHILAI:** Voting will be held in the third phase of Lok Sabha Elections-2024 in Durg district on May 07. In Durg district, after collecting voting material from three different centres, all the polling parties reached their respective destinations by Monday evening.

To ensure smooth conduct of Lok Sabha Elections 2024, the voting material was distributed from three centers in the district on Monday. Polling parties collected the material from Government Polytechnic College, Manas Bhawan and Science College Durg. After checking the material properly, they departed for their respective polling stations. For the Lok Sabha Elections 2024 in Durg Constituency, polling will be conducted at 1509 polling stations in the district. 8450 officers and employees will conduct the process of voting in the district. Durg parliamentary constituency covers six assembly constituencies of the district and two partial assembly constituencies of Bemetara



Collector interacting with polling parties at distribution centre.

and Saja. Voting in Durg district will commence at 07:00 hrs and conclude at 18:00 hrs on May 07. Elaborate security arrangements have been made to conduct the elections peacefully. Collector and District Election Officer Richa Prakash Chaudhary reached the material distribution centers and took stock of the distribution works and arrangements. She spoke to polling personnel and extended best wishes for successful completion of the election work.

## Collector & District Magistrate issues prohibitory orders

Collector and District Magistrate Richa Prakash Chaudhary, with the aim of conducting smooth, fair and peaceful elections in the district, has issued restrictive orders under Section 144 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973. Office bearers / party workers engaged in election campaigns who are not voters of that constituency have been

### HIGHLIGHT

- 8450 officials to conduct polling at 1509 centres.
- Collector inspects polling material distribution centres.

restricted from moving in the concerned area till the end of polling. No

group dinner / cooking will be organized by any candidate or political party. Guest houses and dharamshalas would be kept under vigilance to ensure that they are not being used by political parties or candidates to influence voters. Use of loud speakers is strictly prohibited during the period of 48 hours till the end of polling.

## Second Large Group Interaction on ABP-2024-25 organised

Central Chronicle News

Goals set by the Board of Directors of SAIL for the company in 2024-25, challenges and their solutions were discussed under the ABP initiative.

**BHILAI:** Bhilai Steel Plant's Business Excellence Department (BE) organised the second Large Group Interaction Session on Annual Business Perspective (ABP)-2024-25, at Mahatma Gandhi Kala Mandir. Anirban Dasgupta, Director I/c (SAIL-BSP), and Executive Directors addressed a cross-section of employees, congratulating them for their performance and motivating them to perform better in the current financial year 2024-25.

During the Large Group Interaction (LGI), Executive Directors were present along with CGM I/cs, CGMs, GMs, OA representatives, and other Senior Officials in large numbers.

The goals set by the Board of Directors of SAIL for the company in 2024-25, challenges and their solutions were discussed under the ABP initiative. Presentations centered on the ABP

2024-25 were given by various departments, followed by an interaction session with BSP employees.

Anirban Dasgupta congratulated everyone present for achieving ABP targets of Financial Year 2023-24. Special attention should be paid to adhering to the safety protocols at all places. We must set higher goals

### FASTFACTS

- Presentations centered on the ABP 2024-25 were given by various departments.
- Special attention should be paid to adhering to the safety protocols at all places.

for this year. My best wishes to the SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant Collective for even better results in the Financial Year 2024-25, Dasgupta said.

The LGI was opened for participants to express their views on issues related to performance in their respective shops and units, and pose questions to the Senior Management regarding such issues. The Director I/c, along with Executive Directors present responded to their queries, and share insights on such issues.

### MEETING

Elaborate arrangements made to ensure law and order



**BHILAI:** Election Observer Shrikesh Lathkar, Police Observer Anupam Sharma and Expenditure Observer Prasanna V Pattanashetty chaired a meeting of the officials regarding the law and order preparations in the district. They directed the concerned officials to maintain law and order in every situation and take prompt action on serious matters. They asked the security personnel to remain alert while the officers of the Central Armed Forces were instructed to conduct patrolling on the polling day in coordination with the police and administration officials. Expenditure Observer Prasanna V Pattanashetty said that works affecting the election should not be tolerated. Police Observer Anupam Sharma said that the Central Armed Forces will be present in every booth.

### RESTRICTIVE ACTION

Hotel owners asked to submit daily report

**BHILAI:** Guest houses and dharamshalas are under vigilance to ensure that they are not being used by political parties or candidates. The outsiders (not residents of Durg District) who were involved in election campaigning are supposed to leave after the conclusion of the election campaign. The owners/managers of all the inns, dharamshalas, hotels and lodges falling within the revenue limits of Durg district have been instructed to submit written daily information about the people staying in their inns, dharamshalas, hotels and lodges to the concerned police station in-charge.

### TIGHT SECURITY

CRPF and BSF deployed with police and state armed forces

**BHILAI:** Tight security arrangements have been made for peaceful conduct of polling. Superintendent of Police Jitendra Shukla informed that 1829 officers / personnel have been deployed for the successful conduct of the election. 1070 uniformed personnel, 439 special police officers and 320 paramilitary forces have been deployed in eight assembly constituencies. CRPF and BSF have also been deployed in the district. Forces are being made available in the booths as per requirement. Police personnel have been positioned in each booth. Armed central forces have been deployed at the sensitive polling stations. Police officials have ensured complete preparation for the election. The police officers inspected the sensitive polling stations and ensured necessary arrangements.

## Traffic Police makes plan to avoid jams at Strong Room

Central Chronicle News

A vehicle parking plan has been chalked out to avoid traffic congestion and jams around the Strong Room at Shri Shankaracharya Professional University in Junwani.

**BHILAI:** On the instructions of Superintendent of Police Jitendra Shukla, the Traffic Police has made an elaborate traffic and parking plan for the Strong Room where the polling parties would deposit the EVMs, Control Units and other material. Vehicles of Observers, RO, PRO and senior officers will enter from the main gate of the college (Gate No 1). All the officers / employees engaged in collecting ballot boxes, who have already been issued passes, will enter their vehicles from Gate

No 2 and park their vehicles in the college parking located on the left side. All sector officers will park their vehicles in the ground in front of D Mart and walk to the campus. No vehicles will be parked on the route from Junwani Chowk to Chikhali Chowk and the bypass road. Entry of heavy vehicles in this area will be completely banned on May 07.

The family members coming to pick up the officers / employees engaged on polling duty will park their vehicles behind D Mart. Bus facility will be available for the officers / employees engaged in polling duty to reach Manas Bhawan, Science College and Polytechnic College to pick their personal vehicles. Buses with polling parties coming from Dhamdha, Ahiwara will enter from Karhidih Chowk and park their vehicles in front of D Mart.

## Air Force jawan duped of Rs 6 lakhs

**BHILAI:** A jawan of Indian Air Force was duped of Rs 6 lakh by cyber frauds in pretext of earning through online tasks. The victim had come home on holiday. The thugs contacted him on telegram and lured him to complete some simple online tasks to make a handsome earning. Jamul Police informed that the victim Air Force jawan Nitin Yadav is posted in Nasik Maharashtra. He came to his native place in Bhilai on a leave of 12 days. On April 29, he received a message on telegram regarding the online task. The fraud sent a few links and offered Rs 50 per link after clicking the links. Meanwhile, the thug lured him to pay Rs 3000 for better returns. Gradually, the victim paid Rs 6 lakh to the thugs. Police have lodged an offence and investigations are on.

## BSP's Cricket Team wins the semi-final by 3 wickets

Central Chronicle News

Cricket team of Bhilai Steel Plant made its place in the final match by defeating Plate Combined Team by 3 wickets.

**BHILAI:** The Cricket team of SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant made its place in the final match by defeating Plate Combined Team by 3 wickets in the Inter District T-20 Senior Cricket Tournament organized by Chhattisgarh State Cricket Association at Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh International Cricket Stadium, Raipur. Put into bat, while chasing the target Amandeep Khare performed brilliantly and scored a century while playing the captaincy innings. Khare was the star of the semi-final match, scoring 105 runs in the stipulated 59



Cricket team of SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant.

### FASTFACTS

- Amandeep Khare performed brilliantly and scored a century while playing the captaincy innings.
- Under the guidance of captain Amandeep Khare and coach Raja Banerjee, the BSP team ensured Plate Combined reached home.

balls with 11 fours and 5 sixes. Winning the toss, Plate Combined opted to bat first and scored 168 runs for 9 wickets. After 20 overs, Amit Yadav scored 50, while Ashutosh Singh scored 42 runs. In its bowling innings, BSP Team's Vijay Sharma took 3 wickets, Dev Aditya Singh took 2 wickets, while Aishwarya Maria and Saurabh Khairwar took 1 wicket each for Bhilai Steel Plant's Cricket

Team. BSP's batting prowess shone through as Amandeep Khare scored 105 runs in 59 balls with 11 fours and 5 sixes, while Shubham Murya scored 20 runs.

Bowling for Plate Combined, Arion David took 2 wickets, Satyam Dubey took 2 wickets and Harsh Yadav took 2 wickets. BSP team performed under the guidance of the BSP Team's captain Amandeep Khare.

### TRAINING INITIATIVE

## Three month long Jute Handicraft Training at Camp-1, Bhilai

Central Chronicle News

**BHILAI:** The Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Department, of SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant, in association with the Chhattisgarh Handicraft Development Board, is organizing a 3-month long 'Jute Handicraft Training Camp' at Labourers' Camp-1. BD Babu, GM I/c (Plant Garage) inaugurated the 'Jute Handicraft Training Camp'.

Chief Guest appreciated the training camp initiative by the CSR Department under the guidance of JY Sapkale, CGM (TSD&CSR), and Shivrajan, GM (CSR), and stated that Women have played a significant role in the progress of this country.

They are capable of executing every task efficiently, using their innate management skills. This training initiative shall financially



Women participant at the inaugural ceremony of the camp.

empower women to become self-reliant so that they can also contribute to the economic

development of their families and inspire other women to do the same, he said.

CS Kehri, Coordinator (CG Handicrafts Dept Board), in his address, stated the objective and significance of organising the training camp.

Under this initiative, women undergo three-month-long training under expert handicraft trainer Bhuvaneshwari Sahu, and learn the art of making various handicrafts from Jute. The training is aimed at making them self-reliant so that they may con-

tribute to their family's livelihood. Each trainee



"Women are capable of executing every task efficiently, using their innate management skills"

BD Babu  
GM I/c (Plant Garage)

tribute to their family's livelihood. Each trainee

woman shall receive a monthly honorarium of Rs 3,000, during this 3-month long Training.

At the outset, SK Kamde, Sr Mgr (CSR), gave the Welcome Address and presented a brief report on the departmental activities. The Inauguration function was compered by Rajni Rajak from CSR, while Kamal Kant Verma, Dy Mgr (CSR) proposed the Vote of Thanks.



भारत निर्वाचन आयोग  
Election Commission of India



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States/UTs

**93**  
Parliament  
Constituencies

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Chhattisgarh - 7  
Goa - 2  
Gujarat - 25  
Karnataka - 14  
Maharashtra - 11  
Madhya Pradesh - 9  
Uttar Pradesh - 10  
West Bengal - 4  
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# Baghel rallies Cong support: Optimistic for Lok Sabha win

Baghel energized Congress supporters, highlighting achievements and rallying for victory.

Central Chronicle News

**LAWAN:** Former Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel was greeted with exuberance upon his arrival at Kasdol Nagar Panchayat in Janjgir Champa Lok Sabha constituency. Despite a slight delay, the fervour of Congress workers, led by District President Hitendra Thakur, soared as they showered him with flowers, marking a grand welcome.

In a spirited address to the assembled crowd, Baghel passionately urged voters to cast their ballots in favour of the Congress candidate for Janjgir Champa Lok Sabha, Shivkumar Dahria.

"Every section is upset with the BJP government," declared Baghel, asserting that Congress is poised to secure victory in all four Lok Sabha seats in the upcoming second phase of elections.

Reflecting on the achievements of the previous Congress government in Chhattisgarh, Baghel cited a multitude of welfare measures and development initiatives. From farmer loan waivers to affordable electricity schemes and increased procurement prices for agricultural



Former CM Bhupesh Baghel addressing huge gathering in Kasdol, Nagar Panchayat, of Janjgir-Champa LS constituency.

produce, he painted a picture of inclusive governance and tangible progress.

Underlining the rich cultural heritage of the state, Baghel reminisced about various festivals and events celebrated during the Congress regime, showcasing Chhattisgarh's vibrant cultural tapestry. He also highlighted infrastructural projects and efforts to preserve historical sites, demonstrating the party's commitment to both development and cultural preservation.

## Congress challenges Modi's decade-long rule, calls for change

Former Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, accompanied by Kasdol MLA Sandeep Sahu and Bilaigarh MLA Kavita Pran Lahere, spearheaded a rally against the BJP's decade-long governance. Baghel spotlighted the stark contrast between pre-2014 BJP protests over fuel prices and the current skyrocketing rates,

### HIGHLIGHT

● **BJP's pre-2014 dharnas over fuel prices contrast sharply with current skyrocketing rates.**

● **Congress vows to tackle inflation, unfulfilled housing pledges, and unemployment under Modi's tenure.**

emphasizing public discontent. He criticized unmet housing promises and rising unemployment, asserting that the public no longer falls for the BJP's rhetoric. Congress pledges to address inflation and deliver on housing and employment fronts. Alongside Baghel, several Congress members, voiced their support for change.

## Chaubebandha bridge deteriorates, imperiling commuters

Chronic neglect plagues the vital Rajim Parswani Chaubebandha bridge, echoing broader issues of infrastructure decay in Chhattisgarh.

**RAJIM:** Rajim Parswani Chaubebandha bridge, a once-promising link between Gariaband and Dhamtari districts, now marred by neglect and decay. Constructed in 2000 and inaugurated by former Chief Minister Dr. Raman Singh, this vital artery, conceived to reduce travel time and foster connectivity, now stands as a testament to administrative oversight and indifference.

The passage of heavy sand-laden vehicles over the years has taken a toll, causing rebar rods to protrude through the bridge's surface, rendering it treacherous for commuters. What was once a symbol of progress has become a hazard, with joints resembling makeshift speed breakers, posing dangers to two-wheeler riders and pedestrians alike. The disintegration of the bridge has led to the dispersal of ballast and cement, creating hazardous conditions reminiscent of a cratered lunar landscape. Despite serving as a life-

line for more than 50 villages in Dhamtari district and facilitating the flow of commerce and education, the Rajim Parswani Chaubebandha bridge languishes in disrepair. The road leading to it mirrors the neglect, making travel arduous for those dependent on it. Calls for action from the administration have fallen on deaf ears, leaving the populace to navigate through clouds of dust and debris. Even during the annual Rajim

### FASTFACTS

● **Rebar rods protrude, turning joints into makeshift speed breakers, endangering commuters on the deteriorating Rajim bridge.**

● **Despite serving 50 villages, the neglected bridge underscores administrative apathy, leaving commuters navigating hazardous conditions.**

Kumbh Mela, when foot traffic swells, attention to maintenance remains scant. The fair, a bustling hub of activity, highlights the bridge's critical role in facilitating movement to and from major cities. Yet, the government's lackadaisical approach persists, with the bridge's structural integrity eroding with each passing day.

### NEWSLINE

#### DISRUPTED TRAFFIC

**Pithora grapples with disrupted traffic on Gaurav Path**



**PITHORA:** The construction of Gaurav Path by a negligent contractor disrupts traffic and inconveniences citizens. The quality of work is overlooked, causing difficulties for hundreds of people accessing government offices and the local post office daily. Despite repeated complaints to the engineer and demands for prioritized construction, progress remains sluggish. Citizens call for higher officials, including the District Collector, to investigate and supervise the delayed and mismanaged construction, which spans from Thana Chowk to Janghora Marg, affecting crucial city infrastructure.

#### ELECTION DEPLOYMENT

**Collector flags off polling parties for Katghora assembly**



**MARWAHI:** Collector and District Election Officer Leena Kamlesh Mandavi has launched 226 polling parties to ensure the smooth conduct of Lok Sabha elections in Katghora assembly constituency. The teams, comprising 18 buses and 226 polling parties along with 152 reserve units, depart from the Collectorate complex. These parties will facilitate voting across various polling centers in Korba assembly constituency on May 7th, from 7 am to 6 pm.

#### AWARENESS RALLY

**Scouts and guides lead voter awareness rally in Kharora**



**KHARORA:** The scouts and guides of Bharat Dewangan Government Excellent Hindi Medium School orchestrated a voter awareness rally on May 5th. Their mission is to bolster 100% voter turnout in the forthcoming General Lok Sabha elections scheduled for May 7th, 2024. Led by school vice-principal Harish Dewangan and scout guide in-charge Shahina Parveen, the rally canvassed door-to-door, urging citizens to exercise their voting rights.

## Voter awareness rally energizes NTPC Korba community

Central Chronicle News

NTPC Korba orchestrates a spirited voter awareness rally under SVEEP directives.

**KORBA:** An impactful voter awareness rally unfolded at the NTPC Korba Residential Complex on May 5th, adhering to directives from the District Election Officer. Spearheaded by Project Head Sarit Maheshwari, the event commenced at 6:15 am under the ambit of SVEEP (Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation).

Embarking from the vicinity of Ambedkar Bhawan, adorned with the Indian flag, the rally wound through key locales, culminating its journey back to the starting point, near Ambedkar Bhawan, now christened as the 'More

NTPC Korba Selfie Point'. Aimed at achieving 100 percent voter turnout, the rally drew participation from Project Head NTPC Korba, alongside General Managers, Human Resource Heads, Chief Medical Officers, Department Heads, CISF Commandant, Union and Association officials, and a multitude of officers, employees, and CISF personnel, all enthusiastically endorsing the cause. Post-rally, all participants solemnly pledged to exercise their voting rights. NTPC Korba, in alignment with the District Election Officer's vision, remains steadfast in its commitment to bolster voter participation. Through an array of banner posters strategically positioned in residential complexes and informative video clips disseminated for voter education, the corporation continuously champions the cause of democratic empowerment.

## Korea gears up for peaceful Lok Sabha elections

**KOREA:** Preparations are complete for the third phase of voting on May 7th in Korea district. Collector Langeh oversees distribution of voting materials, ensuring a smooth process. Over 16 lakh voters from 8 assembly constituencies will participate.

Polling officers, equipped with materials, will conduct voting for over 2 lakh voters across Baikunthpur and Sonhat. With 278 polling stations in Baikunthpur and 28 in Sonhat, special provisions like model and women-only polling stations are set up, ensuring inclusivity and accessibility. Facilities for the disabled are also arranged, promising a fear-free and peaceful voting experience.

## MPWS concludes summer fiesta in joyful

Central Chronicle News

MPWS bids farewell to summer with a vibrant conclusion to its enriching Summer Fiesta.

**BILASPUR:** As the sun sets on another vibrant season of learning and fun, Mother's Pride World School bids adieu to its Summer Fiesta on 4th May. The camp, brimming with a plethora of engaging activities, culminated in a grand finale celebrating talents and camaraderie nurtured during the event.

From exhilarating skating sessions to captivating Abacus activities and enthralling Robotics demonstrations, the Summer Fiesta provided students with ample opportunities for learning, growth, and skill showcasing. Soulful songs and dynamic



### FASTFACTS

● **Diverse activities from skating to robotics showcased talents, fostering a vibrant community at MPWS.**

● **Closing pool party created lasting summer memories, embodying the spirit of fun and camaraderie.**

dance performances by both junior and senior stu-

dents enriched the event, embodying the vibrant spirit of the school community.

Undoubtedly, the highlight of the closing ceremony was the eagerly awaited pool party, where students splashed and played, creating cherished summer memories. Principal Vandana D'Souza's inspiring words echoed pride and accomplishment, while Chairman Sabino D'Souza empha-

sized holistic development and talent nurturing. Vice Chairman Ramkumar Arya, along with society member Meena Arya, extended warm wishes to students for their future endeavors. Distinguished guests, including Ms. Prachi Dehrani, Ms. Savita Nagdev, Ms. Siya Tharwani, and Ms. Riya Kotwani, graced the evening, adding to the festive ambiance with their warmth and enthusiasm.

### SCHOOLS IN DISREPAIR

## Dilapidated schools await children in new academic session

**MUNGELI:** The plight of dilapidated government schools persists in Mungeli, as funds for repairs remain mismanaged and unutilized. Despite receiving allocations, the repair work lingers incomplete, leaving children to study amidst crumbling infrastructure. A staggering number of 542 schools were earmarked for repairs under the Chief Minister School Jatan Yojana, with funds totaling Rs 15

crore 63 lakh 48 thousand. However, bureaucratic inefficiencies and misappropriation of funds have marred the progress, with only 324 schools repaired thus far.

The sorry state of these schools underscores the negligence of government agencies and administrative lapses. Despite the urgency posed by the impending new academic session, 182 schools are still in



progress, while repair works for 36 schools haven't even commenced.

Compounding the issue is the misallocation of funds, where resources meant for crucial repairs

were diverted to other projects, exacerbating the structural deficiencies plaguing these insti-

tutions. Consequently, issues like leaking roofs, crumbling plaster, and hazardous conditions

persist, endangering the safety and well-being of students. The sluggish pace of repairs reflects a dire lack of coordination and accountability between departments, further exacerbated by bureaucratic red tape. Despite having adequate resources and personnel, the Rural Mechanics Service (RES) has failed to expedite the repair process, prolonging the ordeal for affected schools.



**The repair work of dilapidated schools is handled by RES. They provide repair information.**

CK Dhritalhare  
DEO Mungeli



## QUOTE FROM THE QUOTABLE

First they ignore you, then they laugh at you, then they fight you, then you win.

[Mahatma Gandhi]

## Comment

## India aspires to be in top slot in semi-conductor sector

By the end of this decade, Indian policymakers are ambitiously aiming to propel the country to the forefront of the semiconductor sector. This endeavor is crucial, given the challenges posed by the evolving global economy, the rise of artificial intelligence, and the complex geopolitical landscape in the post-industrial era. However, achieving this goal entails a myriad of formidable tasks, each demanding strategic planning and concerted efforts to meet the designated deadline.

At the heart of this aspiration lies the imperative to bolster national security by reducing dependency on imported chips. Presently, a substantial portion of the world's chip production, approximately 68%, is concentrated in Taiwan. Heightened concerns over potential disruptions to the semiconductor supply chain, exacerbated by geopolitical tensions, have prompted a reevaluation of sourcing strategies by major technology companies. The specter

of a Chinese invasion looms large, prompting a shift in investment preferences towards safer regions like Vietnam and India. Notably, Apple has already signaled its intention to relocate a significant portion of its manufacturing operations from China to India, a move indicative of the shifting dynamics in global supply chains.

However, merely attracting a handful of production units will not suffice. Achieving silicon independence necessitates the establishment of benchmark-quality infrastructure, the cultivation of a skilled labor force, and the seamless integration of auxiliary supplies. India's nascent foray into the semiconductor industry presents inherent challenges, particularly during the initial phase where substantial financial investments yield no immediate returns. Overcoming these challenges requires a strategic approach, one that acknowledges the long-term nature of the endeavor and prioritizes sustainable growth over short-term

gains.

In pursuit of this objective, legislative measures mandating the utilization of locally manufactured chips by domestic businesses may be warranted. Additionally, rather than striving to match the cutting-edge technology of established players, India should focus on honing expertise in the fabrication of 28-nanometer chips, commonly used in consumer electronics and automotive applications. Despite the seemingly antiquated nature of this technology, its widespread adoption underscores its enduring relevance in modern manufacturing processes.

To realize this vision, India must cultivate a robust ecosystem that fosters innovation and collaboration across the semiconductor value chain. While the country currently boasts a significant presence in chip design, with over 125,000 professionals comprising 20% of the global workforce, continued investment in other critical areas of the supply chain is imperative. This includes semiconductor

fabrication facilities, research and development centers, and educational institutions that nurture the next generation of talent in semiconductor engineering and related fields.

Ultimately, the success of India's silicon independence campaign hinges on the collective commitment of both the government and the private sector. The allocation of financial resources and the willingness to invest in the long-term viability of the semiconductor industry will determine the trajectory of India's journey towards self-reliance. As the global landscape undergoes profound transformations, India stands at a pivotal juncture, poised to carve out a niche for itself in the highly competitive semiconductor market. Through strategic planning, unwavering determination, and sustained investment, India can emerge as a formidable player in this critical sector, safeguarding its technological sovereignty and driving economic growth for years to come.



Arka Goswami

Author is a writer from Durgapur, West Bengal

## OUR VIEW |

## Changing issues in campaign make LS contest interesting

As the third phase for Lok Sabha elections, has reached its accomplishment, it is high time to discuss the major issues, that effected the campaign so far. The issues have been changing in every phase of this election. The first phase of voting, which started with the issue of Modi's guarantee and misuse of central agencies, has moved to the distribution of resources in the second phase and reservation in the third phase. BJP and Congress are attacking each other with claims of abolishing SC, ST and OBC reservations.. Obviously, new issues may be introduced in the election campaign in the next four phases. Soon after the Election Commission announced seven-phase Lok Sabha elections, BRS chief was the first in the Delhi Excise Policy scam. The opposition had made the arrest of Kavita and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal a big issue. After the end of the first phase of elections, Rahul Gandhi, while holding a press conference in Telangana, raised a new issue of caste based census as well as nationwide survey and distribution of property. Explaining this in detail, Overseas Congress President Sam Pitroda advocated policies like inheritance tax for equitable distribution of resources. Going a step further, citing the reservation given to Muslims from OBC quota in Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka, BJP termed Congress as the real opponent of SC, ST and OBC reservation and also gave a guarantee to maintain the reservation. Prime Minister Modi made it clear that no one can snatch reservation during his tenure. On the contrary, BJP is alleging that reservation will be in danger if India coalition government comes to power. Prime Minister Narendra Modi immediately made it a big issue for the middle class and linked it to snatching of Mangalsutra from women and taking two rooms in a four-room flat and giving it to someone else. Till the second phase of voting, there was a dispute between the leaders of BJP and opposition parties on this issue and Priyanka Gandhi, citing the martyrdom of Rajiv Gandhi, responded by Sonia Gandhi's sacrifice of her Mangalsutra for the country.

## GUEST VIEW |

## Pranksters of 'bomb threat' causing panic to schools

Bomb scare threw over 100 schools in Delhi and the National Capital Region(NCR) out of gear disrupting classes. The perverted minds that sent emails to schools failed in creating chaos although a sense of fear prevailed among the children and parents. Moreover, it is nigh on impossible to plant bombs in more than 100 schools at a time. Earlier, too, there were bomb threats to schools in the national capital and elsewhere in India including in Bengaluru. And, not one, was found to be a genuine threat. By now, the school managements and the law enforcing agencies would have accustomed themselves to threat perceptions, and ways to tackle them. Such emails have complicated origins and are never traced with pin--point precision. The schools, however, reacted to the situation with utmost restraint and dignity after an early, and understandable, panic. Even the police who descended on the schools were quick to ensure the safety and security of children, parents and teachers. Parents, too, though ruffled seem to have learnt from last examples while silently collecting and carrying their wards to a point of safety.



Dr Ganapathi Bhat

The intersection of tobacco consumption and tuberculosis (TB) poses a significant public health challenge, demanding urgent recognition and concerted intervention. Tobacco stands as the leading preventable cause of death globally, while TB remains a persistent threat in high-burden countries, maintaining its status as the deadliest infectious disease despite the overshadowing presence of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Within this landscape, Indonesia emerges as a focal point, grappling with the dual burdens of TB and tobacco use. According to the World Health Organization's (WHO) Global TB Report 2023, Indonesia ranks second globally in TB burden, trailing only behind India. The statistics are staggering: in 2022 alone, over 1 million Indonesians fell ill with TB, with a significant proportion of cases attributed to tobacco smoking - an estimated 303,000 individuals. Tragically, TB claims the lives of nearly 141,000 Indonesians each year, disproportionately affecting marginalized communities and those entrenched in poverty.

Compounding Indonesia's TB crisis is the perva-

sive culture of smoking, which serves to exacerbate the epidemic. Data from the Global Adult Tobacco Survey underscores the scale of the challenge: in 2021, the prevalence of tobacco use among Indonesian adults stood at 34.5%, with an estimated 70 million smokers - a substantial increase from a decade prior. Notably, approximately two-thirds of adult males in Indonesia are smokers, with a staggering 96.7% prevalence observed among male TB patients. This alarming

trend positions Indonesia as a global epicenter for tobacco consumption, with far-reaching implications for public health, including the TB epidemic. The lethal synergy between TB and smoking is well-documented, with tobacco exerting profound effects on respiratory health and immune function. Smokers face heightened susceptibility to TB infection, with compromised lung function facilitating disease transmission and progression. Moreover, individuals who smoke

and contract TB are more likely to develop active disease and experience severe complications, leading to prolonged illness and elevated mortality rates. The toxic chemicals present in tobacco smoke further impair the immune system's ability to combat TB bacteria, exacerbating the severity of the disease.

In response to this dual crisis, global health initiatives such as the WHO End TB Strategy and the United Nations General Assembly

High-Level Meeting on TB have underscored the imperative of integrating tobacco control and TB management efforts. By aligning strategies at the primary care level, policymakers can leverage synergies to address both epidemics effectively.

Government commitment is paramount for driving progress in TB and tobacco control, necessitating robust policy development, implementation, and monitoring mechanisms. Efforts to eliminate tobacco smoking among TB patients represent a critical step towards advancing TB elimination goals. By prioritizing comprehensive tobacco cessation interventions within TB care settings, policymakers can mitigate the adverse effects of smoking on TB outcomes and improve patient outcomes.

Beyond policy interventions, public awareness and education campaigns play a pivotal role in shifting societal norms and reducing tobacco use prevalence. Community engagement initiatives, tailored to address the unique challenges faced by marginalized populations, can empower individuals to make informed choices about their health and well-being.

## Combatting TB and Tobacco epidemic

Tobacco is the single-largest cause of death worldwide and TB continues to be the deadliest of infectious diseases in high burden countries. by Dr Tara Singh Bam-CNS



Unlocking the secrets of sleep: How brain connections reset during rest. | Photo AP

## YOUR LETTERS

## Controversy in Bengal

A Raj Bhavan employee complained of molestation against West Bengal (WB) governor C V Ananda Bose recently, introducing an element of the unprecedented turn of event, in Bengal politics and pitting the Trinamool government and the governor's office in direct conflict in the middle of the election season. Not saying governor Bose did touch the cheek of the 29 years old girl. Most probably it's a Trinamool Congress (TMC) trick to distract people from Sandeshkhali, the Teachers' exam scam, and so many financial scams.

Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee

## Be unbiased in campaign

Contesting from Wayanad as well as Rae Bareilly is not a good sign for Rahul Gandhi, the BJP leaders are saying in their election campaign. But contesting from Vadodara as well as Varanasi was definitely an act of "supreme bravery". Relentless stalking of the maligned image of Rahul Gandhi, every step he undertakes and consistent character assassination of him provide direct testimony actually who is in relentless fear of Rahul Gandhi. If Sonia Gandhi's adoption of the Rajya Sabha route proves her "escapist" mindset.

Kajal Chatterjee, Kolkata

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 build a much stronger tractor portfolio to cater to a wide range of farming applications

Antony Cherukara  
MD VST Zetor

## Kuwait international 2024 Expo



Visitors inspect a boat at the Kuwait international 2024 Expo at Kuwait International Fairgrounds in Kuwait City.

# 'Service activity growth in April among fastest in 14 yrs'

The seasonally adjusted HSBC India Services Business Activity Index fell from 61.2 in March to 60.8 in April, highlighting one of the strongest growth rates seen.

Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI:** India's services sector growth eased slightly in April but growth of new business and output remained sharp and among the fastest in 14 years amid favourable economic conditions and strong demand, a monthly survey said on Monday. The seasonally adjusted HSBC India Services Business Activity Index fell from

61.2 in March to 60.8 in April, highlighting one of the strongest growth rates seen in just under 14 years. Survey members attributed the latest upturn in output to favourable economic conditions, demand strength and rising intakes of new work. In the Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) parlance, a print above 50 means expansion, while a score below 50 denotes contraction. "India's

NUMBER

50

● India's service activity rose at a slightly softer pace in April.

● In PMI parlance, a print above 50 means expansion, while a score below 50 denotes contraction.

service activity rose at a slightly softer pace in April, backed by a further rise in new orders, with a notable strength in domestic demand," said Pranjul Bhandari, Chief India Economist at HSBC. In addition to buoyant domestic demand, firms noted new business gains from several parts of the world, which collectively underpinned the second-quickest upturn in international sales since

the series started in September 2014. On the job front, a few service providers in India showed an increased appetite for new hires in April, amid rising inflows of new business. However, several companies indicated that payroll numbers were sufficient for current requirements, and the rate of job creation was marginal and softer than that seen at the end of the previous fiscal year.

| UPI PAYMENTS |

## ICICI Bank enables UPI payments for NRI customers

Press Trust Of India

With this facility, our NRI customers residing in 10 countries do not need to switch to an Indian mobile number to pay using UPI.

**DUBAI:** ICICI Bank on Monday announced that it has enabled instant payment facility UPI for its non-resident Indian (NRI) customers in India through their international mobile numbers. According to the bank, this will significantly enhance convenience of making everyday payments. "With this facility, the NRI customers of the bank can make payments for their utility bills, merchant and e-commerce transactions with their international mobile number registered with their NRE/NRO bank account held with ICICI Bank



ICICI Bank building in Mumbai.

FACTFILE

● Earlier, NRIs had to register an Indian mobile number with their bank accounts to make UPI payments across 10 countries

in India," a statement released here by the bank said. According to the statement, the bank has

made this service available through its mobile banking app iMobile Pay. Earlier, NRIs had to register an Indian mobile number with their bank accounts to make UPI payments across 10 countries, namely, the USA, UK, UAE, Canada, Singapore, Australia, Hong Kong, Oman, Qatar and Saudi Arabia. NRI customers of the bank can make

UPI payments by scanning any Indian QR code, send money to a UPI ID or any Indian mobile number or Indian bank account. "With this facility, our NRI customers residing in 10 countries do not need to switch to an Indian mobile number to pay using UPI," Sidhartha Mishra, Head - Digital Channels and Partnerships, ICICI Bank, said.

| BRAND INDIA |

## 'Brand India now more mature, fearless brand'

Press Trust Of India

**SANTA CLARA:** India has made its mark as the startup capital of the world and "Brand India" has emerged as a more mature and fearless brand than it used to be two decades ago, a top marketing leader has said. India has made its mark in the startup nation category. So many

great startup companies have come out of it and they have gone on to become mature businesses, Ajay Mangalani, a seasoned marketing leader in the rapidly evolving technology and SaaS industries, told PTI in an interview.

"Brand India is passionate. Brand India is still hungry to make things, to build things,



to create things. Brand India is also much more mature now..." said Mangalani, also the chief marketing officer of TiE Silicon Valley, on the sidelines of the TiECon, the largest gathering of tech entrepreneurs in the world.

As many as 30 Indian startups participated in the recently concluded TiECon, organized by

TiE Silicon Valley. "I envision the next generation of Indian entrepreneurship will be much more focused around research and will be risk takers... That level of grit and passion that the Indian community has, I have no doubt that it is going to move in that direction of strong leadership as a startup nation," Mangalani said.

## BizBriefs

BEST OF THE REST

4G LAUNCH

### State-owned BSNL to launch 4G services across India in August

**NEW DELHI:** State-owned BSNL will start rolling out 4G services across the country from August, using completely indigenous technology in line with the government's "Atmanirbhar" policy, according to official sources. BSNL officials claimed to have recorded peak speed of 40-45 megabit per second on the 4G network which has been rolled out in the premium spectrum band of 700 megahertz (Mhz) as well as in 2,100 Mhz band during the pilot phase. The company has rolled out 4G services in Punjab using indigenously developed technology by IT company TCS and state-run telecom research organisation C-DoT-led consortium and onboarded around 8 lakh subscribers. "The 4G core developed by C-DoT is performing very well in the BSNL network in Punjab. It was installed in July last year. PTI

INDICATORS

Share MARKETS

Market	Close	%chg
Sensex	73,895	+0.02
Nifty	22,442	-0.15
Nifty, MidCap	50,662	-0.54
Nifty SmallCap	16,683	-1.50
Nifty Bank	48,895	-0.06

Closing rates as on May 6, 2024 at 5:30p.m. (IST)

Forex RATES

Foreign currency Vs Rupee

US Dollar	83.49	↗
Euro	90.03	↗
Chinese Yuan	11.58	↗
UAE Dirham	22.73	↗
Pakistan Rupee	0.30	↗
Sri Lanka Rupee	0.28	↘

On May 6, 2024

World INDICES

Stock	Value	% chg
Dow Jones (US)	38,863	+0.49
FTSE 100 Index	8,213	+0.51
Nikkei 225 (JPN)	38,236	-0.10
CSI 300 (CHN)	3,657	+1.73

Index at 05:30 p.m. (IST, May 6, 2024)

How Markets behave today

### Sensex closes flat, Nifty slips on profit taking by investors



**MUMBAI:** Benchmark Sensex closed almost flat in a range-bound trade on Monday as investors booked profits in index heavyweights amid high valuation concerns.

The 30-share BSE Sensex edged up 17.39 points or 0.02 per cent to settle at 73,895.54. The barometer hit a high of 74,359.69 and a low of 73,786.29. The broader NSE Nifty declined 33.15 points or 0.15 per cent to close at 22,442.70.

From the Sensex basket, Kotak Mahindra Bank jumped 5 per cent after the company reported a 25 per cent growth in its March quarter net profit at Rs 5,302 crore, limited by a

drop in the core income due to narrow interest margins.

The domestic indices traded in a range-bound manner, said Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services. "The broader indices also witnessed major selling pressure due to valuation concerns and profit-booking," he added.

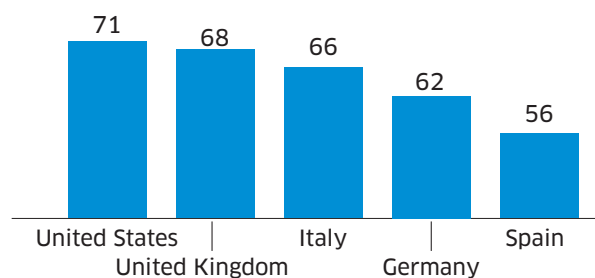
**MAJOR GAINERS:** Kotak Mahindra Bank, TCS, Hindustan Unilever, M&M, Sun Pharma, Tech Mahindra and IndusInd Bank.

**MAJOR LOSERS:** Titan, State Bank of India, NTPC, Power Grid, Bajaj Finance and Larsen & Toubro.

The Day's NUMBERS

AMAZON DOMINATES BOOK SALES EVERYWHERE

Share of respondents in selected countries who brought printed books from Amazon in the last 12 months (in %)



Source: Statista

NEW LAUNCH

### APL Apollo SG TMT steel bar is engineered to deliver superior strength

**MUMBAI:** SG Mart, India's Premier One-stop Shop for Building Materials has launched its latest steel offering APL Apollo SG TMT in the Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Vidarbha Region Of Maharashtra, Jhansi and part of Odisha. The new TMT bars promises unparalleled strength and durability, meeting the highest industry standards. With its innovative design and superior quality, APL Apollo SG TMT is set to revolutionize infrastructural projects in the region. As a trusted brand, the company is known for delivering high-quality products that meet industry standards and cater to the evolving needs of its valued customers. Talking about the launch, Mr. Shiv Bansal, Joint Managing Director of SG Mart Ltd., "In the dynamic landscape of the Indian construction sector, we understand the evolving needs of our customers. APL Apollo SG TMT is more than a steel product; it is a symbol of trust, innovation, and strength.

BULLION

### Gold climbs Rs 230; silver jumps Rs 700 amid jump in precious metal



**NEW DELHI:** Gold prices climbed Rs 230 to Rs 72,250 per 10 grams in the national capital on Monday amid jump in precious metal rates in the international markets, according to HDFC Securities. The yellow metal had settled at Rs 72,020 per 10 grams in the previous session. Silver prices also jumped Rs 700 to Rs 84,300 per kg. It had closed at Rs 83,600 per kg in the previous close. "Spot gold prices (24 carats) in the Delhi markets are trading at Rs 72,250 per 10 grams, up Rs 230, taking positive cues from the overseas markets," Saumil Gandhi, Senior Analyst of Commodities at HDFC Securities, said. PTI





Cong treated tribals as vote bank  
**Arjun Munda**  
Union Minister



A huge amount of "unaccounted" cash which was recovered by ED from premises of Sanjiv Lal.

## ED recovers huge cash during raids in Ranchi

Veerendra Kumar Ram, posted as chief engineer in the Rural Works Department in Ranchi, had generated proceeds of crime in the name of commission from contractors

**Press Trust Of India**  
**RANCHI:** The Enforcement Directorate on Monday claimed to have recovered a huge amount of "unaccounted" cash during searches at the premises of a domestic help allegedly linked to the secretary of a Jharkhand minister, official sources said. Videos and photos shared by the sources showed officials of the central probe agency taking out wads of currency notes from large bags in a room. Some central force security personnel were also seen. The premises are alleged to be of the domestic help of Jharkhand

Rural Development Minister Alamgir Alam's personal secretary Sanjiv Lal. ED sources said the cash was being counted to ascertain the exact amount which could range between Rs 20-30 crore. The cash is largely in the denomination of Rs 500 and some jewellery has also been recovered, the sources said. Alam (70), is a Congress leader and represents the Pakur seat in the Jharkhand assembly. The searches are linked to a money laundering case against the former chief engineer of the rural development department, Veerendra

### HIGHLIGHT

- ED said the cash could range between Rs 20-30 cr
- Searches are linked to a money laundering case against the former CE

Kumar Ram, who was arrested by the ED last year. "Veerendra Kumar Ram, posted as chief engineer in the Rural Works Department in Ranchi, had generated proceeds of crime in the name of commission from contractors in lieu of allotment of tenders to them," the agency had alleged in a statement

issued last year in April after it attached assets worth Rs 39 crore of the officer. "The proceeds of crime thus generated were used by Veerendra Kumar Ram and his family members to live a very lavish lifestyle," it said. The money laundering case against Ram stems from a complaint of the Jharkhand anti-corruption bureau (ACB). Responding to the raids, Alam said it would not be right to comment since the probe agency is still investigating the case. "Sanjiv Lal is a government employee. He is my personal secretary. Sanjiv Lal has already been a personal secretary

of two former ministers. There are several government employees and we usually appoint personal secretaries based on experience. It is not right to comment on the raids before the ED investigation is completed," he said. "Corruption is not ending in Jharkhand. This money during elections indicates that there is a plan to spend this money in the elections. The Election Commission should take action on this," said Jharkhand BJP spokesperson Pratul Shahdev. Another ED team is conducting raids in the Bariatu, Morhabadi, and Bodia areas.

## Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

### TRIBUTE

#### Preparatory meeting in Sri Basudev Temple for Shri Jagannath Kathamrit

**PARADIP:** A final preparatory meeting was held in the courtyard of Sri Basudev Temple, Kusunpur, on behalf of Basudev Foundation Trust, Kusunpur. Trust secretary Prasanna Kumar Beura, Trustee Prafulla Kumar Beura, Pramod Kumar Beura, Pratap Kumar Beura, and Praveen Kumar Beura were present and various intellectuals discussed about Mahaprabhu's divine teachings. As the first death anniversary of their late mother Shrimati Pramila Beura falls on the Rukmini Amavasya Tithi of the next Baisakh month, it was decided to hold the spiritual enlightenment program of Mahaprabhu for the purpose of wishing and paying tribute to the mother as a worthy child. The grand program will have a kathamrit service with the recitation of Vishnu's Shasra Nama by the charans of Puri members of an international charan goshthi. **PTI**

### CRIME

#### Cars parked outside Cong office in Amethi vandalised



**AMETHI:** About a dozen vehicles parked outside the Congress office in the Gauriganj area here were allegedly damaged by some miscreants, the party said on Monday. Congress district spokesperson Anil Singh accused the ruling BJP of orchestrating the incident that took place on Sunday night and claimed that some people sitting inside the cars had sustained injuries. Six people came in a car and damaged the vehicles. **PTI**

### SWIFT ACTION

#### Authorities demolish houses of two accused, tractor owner held by police



**SHAHDOL:** Authorities have demolished the houses of two persons accused in a case of crushing a policeman to death by a tractor-trolley transporting illegally mined sand in Madhya Pradesh's Shahdol district, an official said on Monday. The police also arrested the absconding tractor-trolley owner, Surendra Singh, late Sunday night, Superintendent of Police Kumar Prateek told PTI. Surendra Singh's son Ashutosh Singh, who was piloting the tractor, and vehicle driver Raj Rawat were arrested earlier in connection with the incident which took place on the

intervening night of Saturday-Sunday in Badoli village under Beohari police station limits. A proposal to give an assistance of Rs 1 crore to the family of the deceased assistant sub-inspector (ASI), Mahendra Bagri, will be sent to the Election Commission for approval (in view of the model code of conduct in force), the Chief Minister's Office said. ASI Bagri, posted at the Beohari police station, was going along with two colleagues to arrest a person in some case. On the way, they saw a sand-laden tractor-trolley coming towards their direction and tried to stop it, SP Prateek said on Sunday. **PTI**

## Hemant Soren moves SC against bail rejection

**NEW DELHI:** Former Chief Minister Hemant Soren moved the Supreme Court on Monday against rejection of his bail plea by the Jharkhand High Court in a money laundering case linked to an alleged land scam. Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for Soren, mentioned the matter before a bench headed by Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud seeking urgent listing of his plea.

## Houses damaged as storm hits Khasi Jaintia Hills

Press Trust Of India

Meghalaya CM said the district admn is working on a war footing to provide relief.

**SHILLONG:** Several houses were damaged and more than 400 people affected as a storm accompanied by heavy rains lashed several villages in Meghalaya's Khasi Jaintia Hills region of Meghalaya on Monday. The IMD has forecast heavy to very heavy rainfall in the region for another 48 hours, they said. "At least 427 people were affected as their homes were destroyed or partially destroyed in at least 13 villages of Khasi Jaintia Hills region of Meghalaya on Sunday," a senior

### NATURAL CALAMITY



A house damaged by cyclonic storm and hailstones in remote Kharang village.

### FACTFILE

- At least 427 people in at least 13 villages are affected due to storm.

disaster management official told PTI. Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K Sangma said the district administration is working on a

war footing to provide relief to the affected people. "Due to strong winds and heavy rains in some parts of the state, many houses have been damaged. Have asked the administration to immediately provide relief," the CM posted on X. The district deputy commissioners have been directed to remain alert and to provide relief whenever required, a Home Department official said.

### LOYALTY SHIFT

## 'TDP quitting NDA not a mistake'

Gopavajhala Diwaker

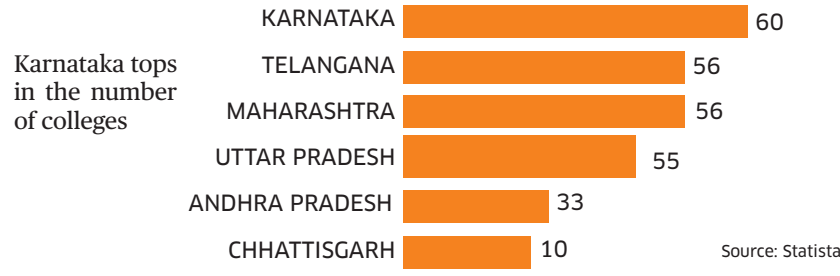
**VISAKHAPATNAM:** Telugu Desam Party quitting NDA in 2018 was not a mistake, senior party leader and former Civil Aviation Minister P Ashok Gajapathi Raju has said. The regional party rejoining the alliance (NDA) was justified as BJP is saying it would do "something" for Andhra Pradesh, he added. The scion of the Vizianaga-



ram royal family said he did not retire from politics, but only chose not to contest the

ongoing polls due to health reasons. His daughter Aditi is vying for the Vizianagaram Assembly seat taking on the present YSR Congress legislator Kolagatla Veerabhadra Swamy. Aditi is likely to face headwinds to some extent as former TDP MLA Meesala Geetha is contesting as an independent after being denied ticket by the former Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu-led party.

### The Day's NUMBERS



### PEACE

#### Altaf Bukhari offers prayers inside Srinagar's Jamia Masjid

**SRINAGAR:** Apni Party leader Altaf Bukhari on Monday became the first mainstream politician in three decades to offer prayers inside Srinagar city's historic Jamia Masjid, once a citadel of separatist politics in Jammu and Kashmir. Accompanied by Apni Party candidate for Srinagar Lok Sabha seat Mohammad Ashraf Mir, Bukhari and his entourage offered prayers inside the 14th century mosque in Nowhatta area of the city where Hurriyat Conference chairman Mirwaiz Umar Farooq delivers the Friday sermon. Asked about his visit to Kashmir's grand old mosque, Bukhari said that he had come to offer voluntary prayers at the mosque. "The credit for peace goes to people. No doubt the administration of the day also makes efforts but in the end, it is the people who do it," he added. Bukhari, who was campaigning for Mir in downtown Srinagar, said that it was wrong to depict the Jamia Masjid as the place for mobilization of election boycott in Kashmir. **PTI**

### LEGAL

#### SC grants anticipatory bail to Umar Ansari in MCC violation case

**NEW DELHI:** The Supreme Court on Monday granted anticipatory bail to Umar Ansari, son of gangster-politician the late Mukhtar Ansari, in a case of alleged violation of the model code of conduct during the 2022 Uttar Pradesh assembly elections. A bench of Justices Hrishikesh Roy and PK Mishra asked Umar Ansari to appear before the trial court which will enlarge him on bail. During the hearing, senior advocate Garima Prashad, appearing for the Uttar Pradesh government, said Ansari has not been appearing before the trial court in the case. **PTI**



### Classifieds

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Central Chronicle

CISCE results: Girls outshine boys yet again

The pass percentage for Class 10 is 99.47, while it is 98.19 for Class 12.

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Girls outshone boys yet again in Class 10 and 12 board exams conducted by the Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations (CISCE), while the pass percentage for both the classes recorded an increase. The results were announced Monday morning.

The pass percentage for Class 10 is 99.47, while it is 98.19 for Class 12. Last year, the respective pass percentage was 98.94 and 96.93. "In Class 10, the pass percentage of boys is 99.31 per cent while that of girls is 99.65 per cent. Similarly, boys have achieved a pass percentage of 97.53 per cent in class 12 exams while the pass percentage of girls stood at 98.92 per cent," CISCE Chief Executive and Secretary Joseph Emmanuel said.

"We have discontinued the practice of issuing merit lists for board exams from this year to avoid unhealthy competition among students. The move is aimed at avoiding unhealthy competition among students," he added. The CBSE had last year stopped the practice of announcing merit lists for the both these board classes.



Students celebrate after announcement of ICSE Board's Class 10th results.

During the pandemic, when board exams were not conducted due to closure of schools and students were marked using alternative evaluation methods, both CBSE and CISCE had not issued any merit list. However, the practice was resumed after the schools reopened. In Class 10, the best-performing schools abroad are from Indonesia, Singapore and Dubai with a pass percentage of 100.

During the pandemic, when board exams were not conducted due to closure of schools and students were marked using alternative evaluation methods, both CBSE and CISCE had not issued any merit list. However, the practice was resumed after the schools reopened. In Class 10, the best-performing schools abroad are from Indonesia, Singapore and Dubai with a pass percentage of 100.

LG recommended NIA probe against CM Arvind Kejriwal

Delhi Lt Governor V K Saxena had recommended an NIA probe against Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal for allegedly receiving political funding from the banned terrorist organisation 'Sikhs for Justice', Raj Niwas sources said on Monday.

AAP alleged that the recommendation is "yet another conspiracy" against Kejriwal at the

HIGHLIGHT

AP alleged, "yet another conspiracy" against CM.

Complaint refers to a video released by Khalistani terrorist Panun.

behest of the BJP. In a letter to the Union Home secretary, the Lt gov-

ernor's secretariat said Saxena had received a complaint that the Kejriwal-led AAP allegedly received USD 16 million funding from extremist Khalistani groups for facilitating the release of Devendra Pal Bhullar. Bhullar, who is in Amritsar Central Jail, was convicted in connection with the killing of nine people in a bomb blast in 1993 in Delhi.

Pakistan not wearing bangles: NC leader Farooq Abdullah

Press Trust Of India

Pak has atom bombs, and unfortunately, that atom bomb will fall on us.

SRINAGAR: Responding to Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh's remark, "PoK will be merged with India," Jammu and Kashmir National Conference leader Farooq Abdullah said on Sunday that Pakistan is not wearing bangles and also has atom bombs that will fall on us. "If the defence minister is saying it, then go ahead. Who are we to stop? But remember, they (Pakistan) are also not wearing bangles. It has atom bombs, and unfortunately, that atom bomb will fall on us," he said.

Earlier in April, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said that considering the development taking place in India, the people of Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) will themselves demand to be with India. "Don't worry. PoK was, is and will remain ours," Singh said, addressing a rally at West Bengal's Darjeeling, where the BJP had nominated sitting MP Raju Bista.

"India's power is increasing. India's prestige is increasing around the world, and our econ-

omy is fast progressing. Now our brothers and sisters in PoK will themselves demand to come with India," Singh further said. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Sunday said that Pakistan-occupied Kashmir is part of India and added that there is a resolution of the Indian Parliament which states that PoK is part of the country.

He noted that people were made to forget about PoK, however, it

FASTFACTS

MEAsaid, PoK has never been out of this country.

Rajnath said, people of PoK will demand to be with India

is now back in the consciousness of the people of India. Asked about India's plans for PoK during an interactive session in Cuttack, Jaishankar responded, "PoK has never been out of this country.

It is part of this country. There is a resolution of the Indian Parliament that PoK is very much a part of India. Now, how did PoK, how did other people get control? You know, when you have someone who is not a responsible custodian of a house, someone steals from outside.

NEWSLINE

MUMBAI

Maharashtra Gov inaugurates seminar



Maharashtra Governor Ramesh Bais inaugurated a National Seminar organised by the Institute of Cost Accountants of India on the occasion of International Management Accounting Day at Y B Chavan Auditorium in Mumbai on Monday (6 May). The theme of the Seminar was "Navigating the New Frontier: Management Accounting in the Era of Real-Time Insights, Sustainable Growth and Cybersecurity". The inaugural session was attended by Prof Manoj Tiwari, Director, IIM Mumbai, CMA Ashwin Dalwadi, President, Institute of Cost Accountants of India (ICMA), CMA B B Nayak, Vice President, Chairman Management Accounting Committee CMA Neeraj Joshi, CMA Dr Ashish Thatte, CMA Chaitanya Mohri, members and students.

NEW DELHI

Court denies bail to BRS leader K Kavitha



A court here on Monday dismissed the bail applications filed by BRS leader K Kavitha in corruption and money laundering cases being probed by the CBI and ED in connection with the alleged excise policy scam. Special Judge for CBI and ED, Kaveri Baweja, dismissed the applications, saying prima facie there appeared to be sufficient material against the accused. "In the light of the discussion, based form the seriousness of allegations, this court is not inclined to admit the applicant on bail at this stage".

WAR OF WORDS

Hemant Soren quotes couplet, takes dig at BJP

Central Chronicle News

Soren was arrested by the ED on Jan 31 in connection with land scam.

RANCHI: Jailed former Jharkhand chief minister Hemant Soren on Monday quoted a couplet by renowned poet Nafas Ambalvi to take an apparent dig at the BJP, asserting that it might think his "flight is short" but he believed otherwise. Soren posted the couplet and his photographs on 'X', sporting a white kurta and pyjama with a beard, before going to his ancestral village Nemra in Ramgarh.

The Jharkhand High Court had on Friday denied bail to Soren, dis-



Hemant Soren attends the last rites of his uncle under police custody.

FASTFACTS

HC denied bail to Soren, dismissing writ petition challenging his arrest.

SC will listen to Soren's bail plea on May 7.

missing his writ petition challenging his arrest by the Enforcement Directorate (ED), but allowed him to attend uncle Rajaram Soren's last rites on May 6 in police custody. "Use gumman hai ki meri udaan kuch kam hai, mujhe yakin hai

ki ye aasman kuch kam hai' (They think my flight is short, but I believe the sky is a little less)," Soren posted on X. In the photographs, Soren is seen with family members, including his father and JMM supremo Shibu Soren, mother and wife.

5 medical students drown in sea

Press Trust Of India

Three students, part of the group, are being treated at a govt hosp.

KANNIYAKUMARI: Five students of a private medical college in Tiruchirappalli drowned in the sea off the coast of Kanniyakumari on Monday, police said.

Expressing grief, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin conveyed his condolences and sympathies to the kin of the deceased and said necessary assistance would be provided to the bereaved families

after getting the Election Commission's permission.

A group of MBBS students doing their house surgeonship in the Tiruchirappalli college went to the Lemur Beach at Rajakkamangalam and a huge wave dragged several of them into the sea. "Two women and 3 men drowned," Kanniyakumari police superintendent E Sundaravathanam said.

To a question, the police official said the students were told by local people to avoid going to the beach in view of official warnings of sudden 'swell waves.'

No breakthrough in terror attack

JAMMU: A breakthrough eluded the security forces in the Poonch terrorist attack on a convoy of Indian Air Force even as a massive search operation in a vast area of the Jammu and Kashmir district entered the third day on Monday, officials said. More than 20 persons were detained for questioning as the security forces are gathering clues to neutralise the terrorists who fled into nearby dense forests after carrying out the ambush near Shahsitar in Surankote area on Saturday evening.

Woman stabs brother-in-law

THANE: A 34-year-old woman allegedly stabbed her brother-in-law to death after a petty argument and attempted suicide by slitting her wrist at her home in Maharashtra's Thane district, police said on Monday.

Advertisement for Chhattisgarh Lok Seva Aayog, mentioning the 2023 exam results and providing contact information.

Advertisement for Bank of Baroda, including a notice regarding a loan account and contact details for the Bilaspur branch.

Large advertisement for Bank of Baroda, including a possession notice and details for the regional office in Raipur.

"I was watching TV and Khushi goes to the bathroom, and I hear this scream, like she has screamed like I don't know what has happened."  
**Janhvi Kapoor**  
 Actress



# & Glitters

## OTT Watch



### The Boys: season 4 trailer

Prime Video debuts 'The Boys' season four trailer. Premieres June 13 with new episodes weekly until July 18. Adapted from a best-selling comic, the series follows vigilantes combating abusive superpowered individuals.



### Salaar: Japan premiere on July 5

Salaar: Part 1 - Ceasefire premieres in Japan July 5. Directed by Prashanth Neel and produced by Hombale Films, the Telugu film stars Prabhas and Prithviraj Sukumaran. Hombale Films announced the release on Instagram.



### Superstar Singer 3: Bucket challenge fun

'Superstar Singer 3' contestants take on a bucket challenge with host Haarsh Limbachiyaa. Neha Kakkar tasks Miah Essa Mehak and Haarsh in 'Summer Holiday Special'. Hilarious face-off between teams ensues.



### Kaagaz 2: Streaming now!

"Kaagaz 2" with Anupam Kher and Satish Kaushik now streams on Prime Video, after its theatrical release two months ago. Satish Kaushik bids farewell, promising a captivating cinematic journey. Dive in!



### Madgaon Express: May 17th

"Madgaon Express": Kunal Khemu's directorial debut, a comedy-drama starring Divyenndu, Pratik Gandhi, Avinash Tiwary, Nora Fatehi, Upenendra Limaye, and Chhaya Kadam. Full of laughter, watch it on Disney Plus Hotstar from May 17th.

CLOSE UP

# Alaya F unveils her vision to revolutionize Indian cinema

Alaya F advocates for fairness in Bollywood, urging equal treatment for all actors. Her plea for respect resonates, challenging gender biases and hierarchical norms in the industry.

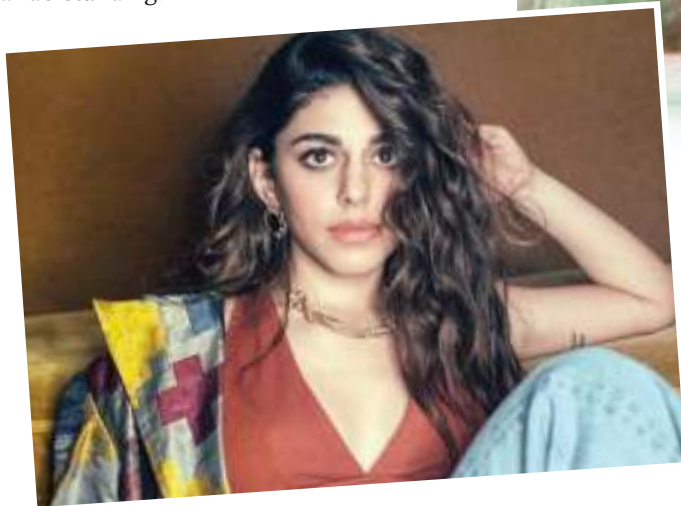
Central Chronicle News

Amidst Bollywood's spotlight, Alaya F champions equality, demanding respect and fairness for all actors.

Alaya F, the vibrant talent acclaimed for her candidness since her debut in "Jawani Jaaneman," recently vocalized her earnest desire for a more equitable environment within the Indian film industry. In an enlightening conversation with Puja Talwar, she explored the pervasive issue of unequal treatment of actors on film sets, emphasizing the critical need to extend fundamental respect to all involved in filmmaking. Alaya's impassioned plea for fairness resonated deeply, echoing her advocacy for an industry culture that transcends gender biases and hierarchical structures. She highlighted the necessity of fostering an environment where every member, regardless of status or gender, receives equal dignity and consideration. Drawing attention to instances of unnecessary inconvenience and disregard faced by actors, Alaya underscored the imperative of fostering a culture of mutual respect and understanding.



Alaya F reveals one thing she would like to change in Bollywood.



### Alaya's upcoming project and challenges

In her unwavering commitment to authenticity, Alaya continues to push boundaries and challenge norms within the industry. Set to star in Tushar Hiranandani's "Srikanth," alongside esteemed actors Rajkumar Rao, Sharad

Kelkar, and Jyothika, she exemplifies her profound impact on both screen and society. Through her dedication to equitable treatment and her relentless pursuit of fairness, Alaya stands as a beacon of change, inspiring others to advocate for a more inclusive and respectful film industry.

HOLLYWOOD

# Madonna's biggest-ever concert transforms Rio's Copacabana beach into a massive dance floor

Central Chronicle News

Madonna electrified Copacabana beach with her largest-ever concert, transforming the iconic Rio de Janeiro coastline into a pulsating dance floor filled with her adoring fans. The free concert marked the grand finale of The Celebration Tour, her first retrospective tour, which commenced in London in October. The "Queen of Pop" commenced the spectacle with her iconic 1998 hit "Nothing Really Matters," igniting waves of cheers from the tightly packed crowd. As she mesmer-

ized the audience with her classic hits like "Like A Virgin" and "Hung Up," Madonna's performance

### HIGHLIGHT

● Madonna's free concert on Copacabana beach, the last of The Celebration Tour, honored AIDS victims and boosted the local economy with 293M reals, drawing fans worldwide.

was nothing short of magical, underscored by the breathtaking backdrop of Rio's ocean and mountains. Joining her on stage were Brazilian stars Anitta



and Pablo Vittar, adding local flair to the global icon's performance. The concert, estimated to have drawn a staggering 1.6 million attendees, surpassed all previous records for a Madonna concert, cementing its status as a historic event in her illustrious career. Madonna's transformative presence on Copacabana beach epitomized her enduring impact on both the music industry and society at large. As the concert concluded, it left an indelible mark on Rio's cultural landscape, reaffirming Madonna's status as a legendary figure in the realm of pop music.

## CineBriefs

BEST OF THE REST

Web series

### Chaudhary & Khan: stars of Disney+ Hotstar's new series

In an exciting update from the entertainment world, Gurmeet Chaudhary and Iqbal Khan are set to grace the screens in a brand-new web series exclusively on Disney+ Hotstar. This eagerly anticipated series revolves around the enigmatic Commander Karan Saxena, with both actors taking on significant roles. Gurmeet Chaudhary, renowned for his memorable performances in "Ramayan" and "Punar Vivah," brings depth and charisma, while Iqbal Khan's versatility promises to enthrall audiences once more. Stay tuned for further updates on this highly anticipated project!

### Bollywood hot pair

### Sidharth Malhotra & Kiara Advani: a romantic reunion



Speculations abound as Sidharth Malhotra and Kiara Advani tease a potential romantic film venture following their magnetic pairing in 'Shershaah.' With their undeniable chemistry, fans eagerly anticipate their on-screen reunion, envisioning a narrative that mirrors their real-life bond post-marriage. Malhotra's cryptic revelations about upcoming projects, coupled with their confirmed rom-com, ignite excitement. Enthusiasts eagerly await the unveiling of the storyline, poised to be captivated once more by this beloved couple's on-screen charm and post-marital dynamics.



Fashion

### Sonakshi's style stunner: Co-ord craze & statement bling!

Sonakshi elevates her fashion game with a chic co-ord set and bold accessories. The Bollywood sensation, recently dazzling in 'Heeramandi: The Diamond Bazaar', showcased her latest style on Instagram. Sporting a delightful baby pink top paired with a sky blue coat adorned with vibrant leaf prints, she exuded charm. Completing the ensemble with wide-legged pants, Sonakshi opted for subtle makeup, accentuating her features. Statement rings and earrings added the perfect finishing touch to her effortlessly elegant look.

## Trending on Insta

@tiscaofficial

### Glamour in Dubai: Tisca Chopra's sparkling style statement

Embracing Dubai's glamour, Tisca Chopra dazzles in bling, showcasing her style with chunky sunglasses and luxury accessories on Instagram.





Discover the cultural heart of Chhattisgarh in Rajim, home to a majestic ancient temple steeped in history.

# Excursion

CELEB TALK

## Bollywood royalty retreat: Janhvi Kapoor's childhood home on Airbnb

Sridevi, renowned for her impeccable taste, lavishly adorned the home with treasures and artworks collected from across the globe.



Indulge in the allure of Bollywood by renting the childhood home of Janhvi Kapoor, now available for stays on Airbnb. Situated in Chennai, this historic residence was the first purchased by her late mother, the legendary Sridevi, and is now featured in Airbnb's exclusive "Icons" category. Decorated with treasures collected worldwide, the mansion underwent a stunning renovation overseen by Boney Kapoor, offering guests a glimpse into the Kapoor family's rich his-



tory and impeccable taste. Stepping into this abode, guests are greeted with a lavish living area adorned with Sridevi's earliest paintings and a "secret room" waiting to be discovered. The property also houses Boney Kapoor's office, adding a touch of authenticity to the experience. Personal touches abound, including a dedicated memorabilia wall showcasing cherished family photographs and artwork by Janhvi and her sister Khushi. Entertainment options abound, with a dedicated TV room perfect for indulging in classic Bollywood movies or



**Stepping into my childhood home on Airbnb feels surreal. Every corner holds memories of my mother's legacy and our family's journey.**

Janhvi Kapoor  
Bollywood Actress

catching up on Janhvi's latest releases. Even the bathroom is a testament to tasteful design, ensuring a luxurious stay for guests.

While specific details about guest accommodations and amenities remain undisclosed, the opportunity to reside in a property with such rich history and personal connection to a beloved star is undeniably thrilling. Only a select few Airbnb users will have the chance to secure this unique stay, making it a truly once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for fans of Janhvi Kapoor, Sridevi, and Bollywood alike.



A look inside Sridevi's first home in Chennai.

| WILDLIFE ADVENTURE |

## Immersive wildlife safaris: Luxury adventures in India's untamed wilderness



A tiger at Ranthambore National Park.

The luxury suite tent at Sawai Shivr Ranthambore.

### HIGHLIGHT

● Indulge in private safaris, bush dinners, and forest spas as you step into a realm untouched by time. Here's your guide to experiencing India's wildlife with unmatched style.



turn unveils a new marvel of nature. Alternatively, immerse yourself in the enchanting ambiance of Bandhavgarh, where luxury meets wilderness in perfect harmony.

Unwind with private and shared safaris, birding trails, and nature walks led by expert guides, immersing yourself in the rich biodiversity of the region. As the day draws to a close, savor the tranquility of sundowners amidst the wilderness, accompanied by captivating birdwatching sessions. In an era where travelers seek authentic and sustainable experiences, these luxury wildlife safaris offer a harmonious blend of conservation, community engagement, and unparalleled luxury. Whether you're a wildlife enthusiast, a nature lover, or simply seeking an escape from the ordinary, these immersive experiences promise to ignite your spirit of adventure and leave you with memories to last a lifetime.

## WindowView

WHAT TO WATCH



### Chitrakote Falls

#### Unveiling nature's splendor

Discover the enchanting allure of Chitrakote Falls, a crown jewel among Chhattisgarh's treasures. Tucked away in the Bastar District, a stone's throw from Jagdalpur, this horseshoe-shaped wonder cascades over 100 feet, earning comparisons to India's famed Niagara Falls. Embraced by verdant foliage, its cascading waters weave a mesmerizing tapestry, serenaded by the thunderous roar echoing through the surroundings. Nourished by the Indravati River, the falls unveil their splendor during the monsoon months, from July to October. Easily accessible via train or flight to Jagdalpur.



### Bhoramdeo temple

#### Chhattisgarh's architectural gem

Embrace the captivating allure of Chhattisgarh with a pilgrimage to the Bhoramdeo Temple, a masterpiece echoing the architectural grandeur akin to the renowned Konark Sun Temple and Khajuraho. Crafted under the patronage of King Ramachandra from the Nag dynasty between the 7th and 11th centuries, this sacred site honors Lord Shiva with Nagar-style opulence. After seeking blessings, wander through the temple's tranquil environs, where history whispers tales of ancient mystique, inviting you to explore and discover its timeless charm.



### Barnawapara wildlife sanctuary

#### Exploring Chhattisgarh's natural haven

Explore the renowned Barnawapara Wildlife Sanctuary in Chhattisgarh, situated 100 kilometers from Raipur and 45 kilometers from Mahasamund City. Named after the Bar and Nawapara forest communities within, its predominantly flat terrain hosts diverse wildlife, including the intrepid Indian bison or "Gaur." Encounter nilgai, wild boar, sambhar, cheetal, and over 150 bird species. Witness the enchanting barking deer amidst the sanctuary's scenic landscape, offering an unforgettable wildlife experience in the heart of Chhattisgarh's natural splendor.



### Chirmiri

#### Exploring Chhattisgarh's enchanted hill town

Nestled in Chhattisgarh's Koriya district, the scenic hill town of Chirmiri, often dubbed the "Jannat/Heaven of Chhattisgarh," beckons travelers with its lush vegetation, majestic mountains, and meandering rivers. Renowned for its coal mines and dotted with temples and scenic spots, Chirmiri offers an ideal retreat for relaxation and exploration. Accessible via road and rail, the town sits at an elevation of 579 meters along the banks of the Hasdeo River, a notable tributary of the Mahanadi, boasting verdant forests and diverse wildlife amidst a delightful climate year-round.



### Madkudweep

#### Chhattisgarh's historical oasis

Nestled in Bilaspur district, Chhattisgarh, lies the scenic Madkudweep island, adjacent to the tranquil Shivnath River, aptly named for its resemblance to a frog. Spanning 24 hectares, it boasts lush vegetation and holds historical and archaeological significance, adorned with ancient temples. Archaeologists have unearthed prehistoric stone tools, epigraphs, and coins, alongside stone inscriptions dating back to the third century BC, inscribed in Shankha and Brahmi scripts, adding to the island's mystique and allure.

# Sports



Ravindra Jadeja is such a versatile player, which makes him so effective.  
**Aaron Finch**  
Former Australia skipper



Indian men's 4x400m relay team members Muhammed Anas Yahiya, Muhammed Ajmal, Arokia Rajiv and Amoj Jacob pose for photos after qualifying for Paris Olympics. Photo PTI.

## Indian relay teams secure Paris Olympics qualification

**Press Trust Of India**  
**NASSAU:** Indian men's and women's 4x400m relay teams secured their spots for the Paris Olympics, finishing second in their respective heats at the World Athletics Relays in Nassau. The women's team comprising Rupal Chaudhary, M R Poovamma, Jyothika Sri Dandi, and Subha Venkatesan, clocked 3:29.35, while the men's team, featuring Muhammed Anas Yahiya, Muhammed

Ajmal, Arokia Rajiv, and Amoj Jacob, finished with a time of 3:03.23. Despite not achieving their best timings, their focus remained on securing Olympic qualification. The Indian men's team, renowned for breaking Asian records, secured their berth after a fantastic anchor-leg run by Amoj Jacob. Their journey towards Paris included impressive performances at the Tokyo Olympics and the 2023 World Championships. The women's team,



despite finishing fifth in the first-round qualifying heat, rallied to secure their place for Paris.

India's participation in the mixed 4x400m relay was uncertain due to Rajesh Ramesh's absence after suffering muscle cramps. Ramesh's versatility had him competing in both the mixed and men's relays on Sunday. The women's 4x400m team will make a return to the Olympics after missing out on Tokyo, marking their eighth appearance since 1984. For the men's team, this will be their fourth Olympic participation since Sydney 2000.

## Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

### IPL CRICKET

#### Bumrah's versatility shines: Franklin highlights impact regardless of role

**MUMBAI:** Sunrisers Hyderabad bowling coach James Franklin does not read much into the debate around how the bowling skill of Jasprit Bumrah has been utilised this season by Mumbai Indians, saying the pacer anyway makes 'big impact' on contests. MI have usually saved Bumrah for the second half of the innings, allowing him only one over or so in the power-play this year, which has raised questions on skipper Hardik Pandya's use of the most successful bowler. Bumrah has been the only bright spot for the five-time IPL winners Mumbai Indians who are all but out of the race for the playoffs. They are languishing at the bottom of the table with only three wins in 11 matches. Franklin said contending with someone as explosive as South Africa's Heinrich Klaasen following up the formidable top order, has been a 'daunting challenge' for SRH's opponents this year.

### PREMIER LEAGUE

#### Liverpool outlasts Spurs 4-2 victory with last minute drama

**LIVERPOOL:** The smile is back on Jurgen Klopp's face - even if his Liverpool players seem intent on testing his nerves right to the end. The Premier League title may be all but beyond the Merseyside club, but that doesn't mean the drama is over for Klopp, who will step down at the end of the season. Last week he was arguing on the sideline with Mohamed Salah as Liverpool effectively dropped out of the title race. And while Salah opened the scoring in a 4-2 win against Tottenham at Anfield on Sunday, it was Harvey Elliott who appeared to bring the broadest smile to Klopp's face with a wonderful long-range goal in what looked like being a cakewalk for Klopp's team. Elliott's strike, after goals from Salah, Andy Robertson and Cody Gakpo, fired Liverpool into a 4-0 lead before the game had even reached the hour mark.

### MADRID OPEN TENNIS

#### Rublev overcomes fever and praises doctors after winning Madrid Open



**MADRID:** Despite sleepless nights struggling with a fever, Andrey Rublev found a way to fight back and win the Madrid Open for the first time. Rublev was feeling sick all week but rallied to beat Felix Auger-Aliassime in three sets on Sunday and clinch his second Masters 1000 title. Rublev won 4-6, 7-5, 7-5 after Auger-Aliassime double-faulted on the last point of the final at the clay-court tournament in the Spanish capital. "I would say this

is the most proud title of my career," Rublev said. "I was almost dead every day. I was not sleeping at night. The last three, four days I didn't sleep." Rublev gave "full credit to the doctors," who were "doing some tricky things" just to make sure he could play. "I have no words," the eighth-ranked Rublev said. "If you knew what I had been through in the past nine days you would not imagine that I would be able to win a title."

### PCB promised \$100,000 reward for T20 WC victory

**LAHORE:** Each member of Pakistan's T20 World Cup squad will get USD 100,000 if the team wins the ICC event in June in Americas, the country's cricket board announced on Sunday. The announcement was made by the PCB chief Mohsin Naqvi after spending nearly two hours with the players here before their departure for the away T20 series against Ireland and England on Monday night. Naqvi also said that the prize money held no importance compared to lifting the trophy, expressing the hope that the team would raise the Pakistan flag. He also told the players "not to care about anyone" but to just play for Pakistan and demonstrate teamwork, and, "God willing", victory will be gained by the team.

## We are losing tosses but we are winning games that matter: Iyer

**Press Trust of India**

**LUCKNOW:** Kolkata Knight Riders have lost majority of the tosses in the IPL so far but have still managed to win the games that matter, said skipper Shreyas Iyer following Sunday's victory that took them to the top of the points table. Iyer lost his eighth toss in 11 games but that did not have a bearing on the team's performance as KKR amassed 235 for six after being put in to bat by Lucknow Super Giants. The Iyer-led side then shot out the hosts for 137 to continue their march towards the play-offs. "The last 6 matches in the dressing room



Kolkata Knight Riders player Varun Chakaravarthy with captain Shreyas Iyer celebrates. Photo PTI.

### FACTFILE

- KKR beat LSG by 98 runs at Lucknow's Ekana stadium on Sunday.
- Narine stars with the bat while bowlers bowl exceptionally to give KKR top spot in the points table.

there has been havoc, teammates are coming in and asking skip what's happening, we are losing tosses, but we are winning games that's what matters," said Iyer at the post-match presentation. Opener Sunil Narine

smashed an unbeaten 81 off 39 balls before the bowlers did their job to script a big win. LSG need to win their remaining three games to push for a play-off spot and the do or die situation will help his team, insisted skipper KL Rahul.

### The Day's NUMBERS

#### TOP FIVE GOLFERS' EARNINGS IN MILLIONS AS OF DECEMBER 2023

Tiger Woods	\$50-70
Phil Mickelson	\$40-60
Rory McIlroy	\$30-50
Dustin Johnson	\$25-45
Brooks Koepka	\$20-40

### SOCCER

#### Aston Villa's Champions League hopes dashed: Slips up with 1-0 loss

**LIVERPOOL:** A bad week for Aston Villa got worse on Sunday after a surprise 1-0 loss at Brighton in the race for the top four in the Premier League. Unai Emery's team lost 4-2 at home to Olympiakos in the first leg of their Europa Conference League semifinal on Thursday. And on a day when Villa could have secured its place in next season's Champions League, it suffered another setback. Joao Pedro's 87th-minute goal at the Amex Stadium gave hope to fifth-place Tottenham in its pursuit of Villa in fourth. Tottenham played Liverpool at Anfield later Sunday with the chance to move within four points of Villa with a game still in hand. Villa would have been certain of a top-four finish if it had won at Brighton and Spurs had gone on to lose against Liverpool. But after Pedro saw his late penalty saved by Robin Olsen, he was alert enough to head home from the rebound.

### JUNIOR WOMEN'S HOCKEY

#### Jyoti to lead Indian junior women's hockey team for Europe tour

**NEW DELHI:** Defender Jyoti Singh was on Monday named the captain of the Indian Junior Women's team by Hockey India with midfielder Sakshi Rana as her deputy in a 22-member squad which will tour Europe from May 21 to 29. India will play six matches across three nations against Belgium, Germany and two club teams in the Netherlands - Bredase Hockey Vereniging Push and Oranje Rood - from May 21 to 29. "There's great camaraderie in the squad. All of us have gotten to know each other pretty well during the camp.

### SUPER TOURNAMENT

## AICF planning to host more intl tournament in India: Narang

**Press Trust of India**

**CHENNAI:** All India Chess Federation (AICF) plans to host more international tournaments in India to ensure its top players get enough world class competitions, its president Nitin Narang said on Sunday. Narang said since all the top players in the country cannot get the opportunity to play in

every big tournament every year, the AICF will soon start its own international 'Super Tournament', though he did not divulge the details. "It (Super Tournament) will have a reservation of a certain number of Indian players, while we will also be inviting overseas players to participate, thus allowing these players to get the same amount of expo-



### Super Tournament will have a reservation of a certain number of Indian players

Nitin Narang AICF President sure with less expenditure," Narang told in an interview. Narang said the federation plans to host the maximum num-

ber of AICF-rated tournaments going forward. AICF is investing Rs. 65 crore into the sport as per its recent announcement, which will be the biggest planned budget in the federation's history. Asked how the AICF will mobilise the planned budget, Narang disclosed that an early commitment was already in place for an initial Rs 25 crore from the sponsors.

# Sports News



Rajasthan Royals players in action. | Photo: PTI



Delhi Capitals cricketer Rishabh Pant and David Warner during a warm-up session | Photo: PTI

## All eyes on Fraser-McGurk and Pant Vs Royals

Press Trust of India

The Capitals have been inconsistent so far, winning five and losing six of their last 11 games.

**NEW DELHI:** Delhi Capitals would require Rishabh Pant's killer instinct and Jake Fraser-McGurk's unbelievable flair in their bid to stay alive in the IPL playoff race when they square off against a rampaging Rajasthan Royals in a must-win game here on Tuesday.

The Capitals have been inconsistent so far, winning five and losing six of their last 11 games.

far, winning five and losing six of their last 11 games. While winning the remaining three games is a must for Pant's men, even that will only take them to 16 points which might not be enough to qualify for the last four stage of the tournament.

Apart from KKR (16 from 11 games) and RR (16 from 10 games), there are at least three teams, namely Chennai Super Kings (12 from 11), Sunrisers Hyderabad (12 from 10 games) and Lucknow Super Giants (12 from 11 games), who can go beyond the 16-point

mark. Given the situation, DC's best might not be enough for qualification, but Pant would look to only "control the controllables," a policy advocated by his mentor Mahendra Singh Dhoni. On a flat Feroz Shah Kotla deck, the challenge will be two-fold for the DC skipper. At one end, he would want the Khaleel Ahmeds, Ishant Sharmas and Kuldeep Yadavs to restrict the Yashasvi Jaiswals, Sanju Samsons, and Riyan Parags to a manageable level but then with barely 60-metre bound-

### HIGHLIGHT

Given the situation, DC's best might not be enough for qualification, but Pant would look to only "control the controllables," a policy advocated by his mentor Mahendra Singh Dhoni.

ary on one side, it will be a challenge to stop a team, whose jersey's colour (Pink) resembles their overall health.

With 380 runs to his credit and three impactful half-centuries in his kitty, Pant would like to once again perform, especially when his

team has been pushed to the wall. He will have new Aussie sensation Fraser-McGurk, who has gone off the boil in the last couple of games. These two batters can individually change the complexion of a game, but DC will be wary of the Royals' bowling attack, which will pose a very different challenge at the Kotla compared to Sawai Man Singh. Facing spinners of Yuzvendra Chahal and Ravichandran Ashwin's calibre isn't easy, and in veteran Sandeep Sharma, RR has a bowler, who can take pace off the deliveries.

## Bowling woes and looming threats: DC against RR

**NEW DELHI:** The bowling performance of both Delhi Capitals (DC) and Rajasthan Royals (RR) has been under scrutiny in the IPL. While Rajasthan's bowling attack has managed to maintain a decent economy rate, DC's bowlers have struggled to contain opposition batters, with only Axar Patel and Kuldeep Yadav showing consistency in halting the opposition's momentum.

### HIGHLIGHT

Pressing need for Khaleel Ahmed and Mukesh Kumar to step up and deliver more consistent performances.

There is a pressing need for Khaleel Ahmed and Mukesh Kumar to step up and deliver more consistent performances for DC. Additionally, South African

pacers Lizaad Williams and Anrich Nortje have failed to make a significant impact so far in the tournament.

The upcoming clash between DC and RR holds significance as it marks a rematch since their previous encounter in Jaipur. In that match, DC lost control during the second half of their bowling innings, allowing RR's Riyan Parag to play a crucial innings.

IPL

## Jadeja's versatility makes him class act: Finch

Press Trust of India

Aaron Finch praises Ravindra Jadeja's versatility and Sunil Narine's explosive batting prowess in the IPL.

**NEW DELHI:** Former Australia skipper Aaron Finch has termed India all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja a "class player" because of his versatility which brings in a lot of balance in all the teams that he represents. Jadeja scored 40-odd runs and took three wickets in Chennai Super Kings' victory over Punjab Kings on Sunday.

"Ravindra Jadeja is such a versatile player, which makes him so effective. With the ball, he would have loved more wickets," Finch told Star Sports.

"He's been economical, going at under eight per over throughout the tournament. Leading



### HIGHLIGHT

Aaron Finch lauds Sunil Narine's explosive batting for Kolkata Knight Riders, acknowledging his remarkable form in IPL.

with three wickets today (Sunday), he showed he is an absolute class player." Finch was impressed that Jadeja returned with fine figures of 3/20 in his full quota of four overs while defending a not-so-big total of 169. "Three wickets for just 20 runs when the Punjab Kings were chasing a total of 170 odd

runs is just superb. It just shows why he's one of the best players in the world," the Australian said. Finch also spoke highly about Kolkata Knight Riders' Sunil Narine. The 2021 World T20-winning Australian skipper feels that it is extremely difficult to contain Narine for a long period of time.

"It's truly remarkable, isn't it? I mean, seeing Sunil Narine stride out to open the batting.

"Before this season, you're thinking, if we can just keep him quiet for a couple of balls, he'll try and do something and play a big shot."

## India defeat Bangla by 56 runs via D/L method

**SYLHET:** India continued their dominant run against Bangladesh with a 56-run win via Duckworth-Lewis method in the rain curtailed fourth women's T20 here on Monday. A late start and then over an hour-long delay due to persistent rain and hail meant that the contest had to be shortened. Harmanpreet Kaur (38) and Richa Ghosh (24) shared a 44-run stand to help India post 122 for 6 against Bangladesh after persistent rain reduced the contest to 14 overs a side. The hosts had to chase 125 in 14 overs under the DLS method to secure their first win of the series. But the batters, barring opener Dilara Akter (21), Rubya Haider (13) and Shorifa Khatun (11 not out), failed to reach double digits as they kept losing wicket in clusters. India handed a maiden debut to 33-year-old leg spinner Asha Shobhana, who returned with figures of 2/18 in three overs.

## We are focused on following template set by Gautam Gambhir: Harshit Rana

Press Trust of India

**LUCKNOW:** Young pacer Harshit Rana feels Kolkata Knight Riders are reaping the rewards by following the winning template set by two-time IPL winner and current mentor Gautam Gambhir as they continued their sensational run to grab the top position in the IPL points table.

Gambhir had led KKR to the IPL crown twice

### HIGHLIGHT

Kolkata Knight Riders attribute their success to Gautam Gambhir's winning blueprint and mentorship.

with the team also qualifying for the playoffs five times during his stint from 2011 to 2017. He had also guided KKR to the finals of the now-defunct Champions League



T20 in 2014. However, in the last seven years, KKR could reach the playoffs only twice. Gambhir's return to the KKR camp as a mentor this year turned things around as the Kolkata-based fran-

chise moved to the top of the table with 16 points following a dominating 98-run over Lucknow Super Giants -- 8th win in 11 games -- on Sunday night. "Not only this match, this entire season we have been focussing a lot on the style of cricket that Gautam Gambhir wants us to play. He has a lot of knowledge on how to turn games in our favour and it helps us a lot in the middle," Rana said.

## Mbappe plays final CL game with PSG

Press Trust of India

**PARIS:** Mbappé plays his final CL game in Paris with PSG. But it's the defence that is back in the spotlight.

No doubt Kylian Mbappé will be greeted with loud cheers and applause when he takes to the Parc des Princes pitch on Tuesday night.

It will be his final Champions League match in the French capital in a Paris Saint-Ger-



main shirt. Mbappé is leaving the club this summer after a seven-season stint, hoping the journey con-

cludes with a Champions League triumph in Wembley on June 1.

But first things first, as Mbappé tries to engineer

a fightback in the second leg of their semi-final against Borussia Dortmund, trailing 1-0 from the first leg in Germany last week.

The France striker was a disappointment in the first leg and PSG now expects a strong reaction from the club's all-time leading scorer to overturn the deficit, especially after he failed to score in his last two appearances against Dortmund.

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## Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

### SPAIN-ART-CARAVAGGIO

#### Spain's Prado Museum confirms rediscovery of lost Caravaggio

**MADRID:** Spain's Prado Museum on Monday confirmed that a painting that was due to be auctioned in Madrid in 2021 is in fact a work by Italian Baroque master Michelangelo Merisi da Caravaggio that was considered lost. It will be unveiled to the public for the first time in the museum later this month.

The Prado said in a statement on Monday the work titled "Ecce Homo" (Latin for Behold The Man) will go on display from May 27 until October as a special one-piece exhibition following an agreement with its new owner, who has not been identified.

"Since its reappearance at an auction three years ago, Ecce Homo has represented one of the greatest discoveries in the history of art," the museum said. **PTI**

### AUS-INDIA-ENVOY

#### Indian envoy Baglay and Aus Foreign Minister Wong discuss bilateral ties



**CANBERRA:** Indian High Commissioner to Australia Gopal Baglay met Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong on Monday and held substantial discussions on the entire range of matters in bilateral cooperation between the two countries.

The comprehensive strategic partnership between India and Australia is set to touch new heights, the High Commission of India in Canberra posted on X. **PTI**



Indian-origin astronaut Sunita Williams who will fly into space for the third time on Tuesday as the pilot aboard Boeing | Photo: PTI

# Astronaut Sunita Williams set to fly into space for a 3rd time

Boeing's Starliner will blast off for the International Space Station from Cape Canaveral in Florida. Starliner will carry Williams, 58, and Butch Wilmore to the International Space Station.

### Press Trust Of India

**WASHINGTON:** Indian-origin astronaut Sunita Williams is ready to fly into space for the third time on Tuesday as the pilot aboard Boeing's Starliner spacecraft in its first crewed test flight. Boeing's Starliner will blast off for the International Space Station from Cape Canaveral in Florida. Starliner will carry Williams, 58, and Butch Wilmore to the International Space Station, marking what could be a momentous and long-awaited victory for the beleaguered Boeing programme. The scheduled lift-off is set for 22:34 local time on

Monday (8:04 am IST on Tuesday)

"We are all here because we are all ready. Our friends and family have heard about it and we've talked about it and they are happy and proud that we are part of the process to fix it all," the BBC quoted Williams as saying. The mission has been delayed for several years because of setbacks in the spacecraft's development. If it is successful, it will become the second private firm able to provide crew transport to and from the ISS, alongside Elon Musk's SpaceX. Such a scenario – with both SpaceX's Crew Dragon and Starliner

### HIGHLIGHT

- The mission has been delayed for several years because of setbacks in the spacecraft's development.

- Such a scenario – with both SpaceX's Crew Dragon and Starliner flying regularly – is one for which the US space agency NASA has long waited.

flying regularly – is one for which the US space agency NASA has long waited. "Design and development is hard – particularly with a human

space vehicle," said Mark Nappi, vice president and Starliner programme manager at Boeing, during a Thursday news briefing. "There's a number of things that were surprises along the way that we had to overcome. ... It certainly made the team very, very strong. I'm very proud of how they've overcome every single issue that we've encountered and gotten us to this point," Nappi said.

"This is history in the making," NASA Administrator Bill Nelson said of the upcoming Starliner mission during a March 22 news conference. "We're now in the golden

era of space exploration." This is Boeing's second flight to the International Space Station and third Starliner flight test overall, following a second Orbital Flight Test, the uncrewed mission also known as OFT-2, in May 2022. Boeing also completed pad abort demonstration in November 2019, according to NASA.

As the final flight test for Starliner, NASA's Boeing crew flight test will validate the transportation system, including the launch pad, rocket, spacecraft, in-orbit operational capabilities, and return to Earth with astronauts aboard, it said.

## Chad holds presidential election after military rule

**N'DJAMENA (CHAD):** Voters in Chad headed to the polls on Monday to cast their ballot in a long delayed presidential election that is set to end three years of military rule under interim president, Mahamat Deby Itno. Deby Itno seized power after his father who ran the country for more than three decades was killed fighting rebels in 2021. Last year, the government announced it was extending the 18-month transition for two more years, which provoked protests across the country. There are 10 candidates on the ballot, including a woman. Analysts say Deby Itno is expected to emerge among the front runners. The main opposition figure Yaya Dillo, the current president's cousin, was killed in February.

### Press Trust Of India

#### China's President Xi Jinping arrived at the French presidential palace on Monday for a two-day state visit.

**PARIS:** Xi's visit is expected to focus both on trade disputes and diplomatic efforts to convince Beijing to use its influence to move Russia toward ending the war in Ukraine.

In Paris, Xi first joined a meeting with French President Emmanuel Macron and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen meant to address broader EU concerns. Macron said in his introductory remarks the meeting would first



French President Emmanuel Macron, right, welcomes China's President Xi | Photo: PTI

address trade issues and how to ensure "fair competition", then the wars in Ukraine and the Middle East. "We are at a turning point in our history" as the Europe-China relationship is faced with challenges, Macron said.

The talks are aimed at sharing "both our shared

positions and our concerns, to try to overcome them, because the future of our continent will very clearly also depend on our ability to develop balanced relations with China", he said.

Macron, a strong advocate of Europe's economic sovereignty, wants to raise

### FASTFACTS

- "We are at a turning point in our history" as the Europe-China relationship is faced with challenges, Macron said.

French concerns about a Chinese antidumping investigation into cognac and other European brandy, and tensions over French cosmetics and other sectors. In a recent speech, he denounced trade practices of both China and the United States as shoring up protections and subsidies. At the start of the meeting in Paris, Xi said "the world today has entered a new period of turbulence and change".

### UK-POLITICS-SUNAK

## United Kingdom facing 'disaster' of hung Parliament

### Press Trust Of India

**LONDON:** Prime Minister Rishi Sunak warned on Monday that an analysis of the local election results shows the country is headed for a hung Parliament led by the Opposition Labour Party, which "would be a disaster for Britain". The 43-year-old British Indian leader told "The Times" in the wake of

a debacle for the governing Conservative Party, who lost hundreds of local council seats and key mayoralities across England in results over the weekend, that he was bitterly disappointed but determined to fight back. He sought to paint a less bleak picture for party rebels, demanding a change of political course to win back voters in time for a general



election, expected later this year. "These results suggest we are heading for a hung parliament with Labour as the largest party," Sunak told the newspaper.

"[Labour Leader] Keir Starmer propped up in Downing Street by the SNP [Scottish National Party], Liberal Democrats and the Greens would be a disaster for Britain.

### From around the world

#### Danish King Frederik and his Australian-born wife visit Sweden on their first official trip abroad



**COPENHAGEN:** Denmark's King Frederik X arrived in Stockholm on Monday with his Australian-born wife Queen Mary, as they begin their first official visit abroad as new Danish monarchs. The 55-year-old Frederik was proclaimed king on Jan 14 after his 83-year-old mother, Queen Margrethe II, who was Europe's longest-reigning monarch, abdicated.

In the Swedish capital, Frederik and Mary were first greeted by Crown Princess Victoria and her husband Prince Daniel, who boarded the Danish royal yacht Dannebrog.

They then took the gilded Swedish Royal Barge to shore and were wel-

comed there by King Carl XVI Gustaf, Sweden's longest-reigning monarch, and German-Brazilian-born Queen Silvia.

The welcome also included a cannon salute and music by Sweden's Royal Guards, lined up on the quay at the foot of the Swedish royal palace.

Relations between the two royal houses are close. Frederik's grandmother, Queen Ingrid who died in 2000, was a Swedish princess.

The May 6-7 visit includes meetings with Swedish Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson and the speaker of the Swedish Parliament. A visit to a military facility is also scheduled. **PTI**

### The Day's NUMBERS

#### CRIMINALS WHO SPENT LONGEST TIME ON FBI MOST WANTED FUGITIVES LIST IN US

Victor Manuel Gerena	32
Donald Eugene Webb	25
Glen Stewart Godwin	19
Robert Fisher	19
Alexus Flores	14

Source: Statista

### PAK-SC-IMRAN-PARTY

#### Pak's apex court suspends high court verdict

**ISLAMABAD:** In a relief to jailed former premier Imran Khan's party, Pakistan's Supreme Court on Monday suspended a high court verdict denying the Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC) reserved seats for women and minorities in the national and provincial assemblies.

The Peshawar High Court (PHC) had rejected a petition of the SIC, which came to the fore after Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) backed independently elected lawmakers joined it, regarding its claim on reserved seats. **PTI**

### AUS-UNIVERSITIES-RED TAPE

#### Red tape is stifling innovation at Australian public universities

**GOLD COAST (AUSTRALIA):** Australian public universities tout themselves as bastions of innovation and driving forces behind economic growth, but their cultures are getting in the way. There was simply no individual, telephone contact or email address publicly available. **PTI**

**सुयश**  
हॉस्पिटल

**हड्डी रोग विभाग**

- HIP (कुल्हा), Knee (घुटना) रिप्लेसमेंट एवं ज्वाइंट रिप्लेसमेंट
- ब्रेन एक्सीडेंट एवं ट्रामा
- सभी प्रकार के फ्रैक्चर
- पीठ दर्द या कमर दर्द (सायटिका)
- कमर में टेढ़ापन
- आर्थोस्कोपी द्वारा घुटने के लिगामेंट का पुनर्निर्माण

24 Hours Helpline  
**9926386660**

कोटा-गुदियारी रोड,  
होटल पिकाडली के पीछे, रायपुर

**डिप्लस**  
कॉस्मेटिक सर्जरी द्वारा गालों में स्थायी डिप्लस

कालड़ा बर्न एवं प्लास्टिक कॉस्मेटिक सर्जरी सेंटर

24 Hours Helpline  
**9926386660**

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होटल पिकाडली के पीछे, रायपुर