

# Central Chronicle

## 66.92 % cast vote in seven Lok Sabha seats

Polling was held between 7 am and 6 pm in seven LS seats of the state.

**Press Trust of India**  
**RAIPUR:** A voter turnout of 66.92 per cent was recorded till 6 pm in seven out of the 11 Lok Sabha constituencies in Chhattisgarh, where polling was held in the third and last phase of the general elections in the state on Tuesday, a poll official said.



Enthusiastic voters show their ink-marked finger after casting vote. | Photo: PTI

Polling was held between 7 am and 6 pm in seven seats - Raipur, Durg, Bilaspur, Korba, Jajpur-Champa (reserved for Scheduled Caste candidates), Surguja (reserved for Scheduled Tribe candidates) and Raigarh (ST). "A voter turnout of 66.92 per cent has been registered till 6 pm," the official said.

Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai and his family members voted in Bagia, their native village in Jashpur district in the Raigarh Lok Sabha constituency. Talking to reporters, Sai appealed to voters to exercise their voting right, and exuded confidence that the BJP will win all 11 Lok Sabha seats of the state. "The feedback of polling in the first two phases for four Lok Sabha seats, the huge response of people during the public rallies,

clearly indicate that we are going to win all 11 seats in the state," he said.

**HIGHLIGHT**  
● Raigarh recorded highest poll pc of 76.22%



**Confident of BJP's win in all 11 LS seats**  
Vishnu Deo Sai  
Chief Minister

## No relief for Kejriwal; Supreme Court reserves bail plea order

**Press Trust of India**  
Kejriwal has been accused of money laundering in a case linked to excise scam.

**NEW DELHI:** Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal failed to get any relief from the Supreme Court on Tuesday, with a two-judge bench rising without pronouncing an order on granting him interim bail to enable him to campaign in the Lok Sabha elections. Kejriwal has been accused of money laundering in a case linked to the alleged Delhi excise scam.

A bench of Justices Sanjiv Khanna and Dipankar Datta, which reserved its order on grant of interim bail earlier during the day and said it will be pronounced at 2 p.m., rose without delivering its verdict. The bench reserved its decision after hearing the arguments put forth by senior advocate Abhishek Singhvi and Additional Solicitor General S V Raju, who appeared for Kejr-

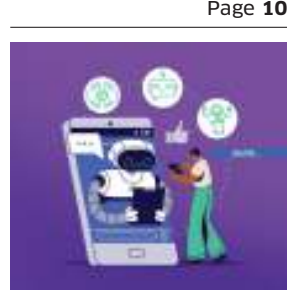
wal and the Enforcement Directorate, respectively. Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, who also appeared for the probe agency, staunchly opposed showing any leniency to Kejriwal on account of the Lok Sabha polls and said granting interim bail to the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) national convener would amount to creating a separate class for politicians. The bench has divided the hearing on Kejriwal's petition against his arrest into two parts. His main petition challenges his arrest by the ED and seeks it to be declared as illegal, while the second aspect pertains to grant of interim bail keeping in mind the ongoing Lok Sabha polls. The court has reserved the order on the issue of grant of interim bail.

Before rising for the day, the bench indicated that tomorrow the judges will be sitting in different combinations, and if the hearing on matters listed for Wednesday gets completed and the judges have time in hand, they would resume hearing Kejriwal's plea against his arrest by the ED.

### NEWSLINE

**NATION**  
Man stabbed to death over personal enmity

A 27-year-old man was killed and his friend injured in a knife attack outside a polling booth in Maharashtra's Dharashiv district, where polling is underway in the third phase of the general election on Tuesday, police said.



### COMMENT

Revolutionizing AI: GPT-5 and Llama-3

In recent times, considerable attention has been directed towards the upcoming upgrades to OpenAI's GPT-5 and Meta's Llama-3, both powered by large language models (LLMs).

### BATTLE'24

EC censures Andhra CM Jagan for flouting poll code

The Election Commission has censured YSRCP supremo and Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy and opposition leader N Chandrababu Naidu for violating the Model Code of Conduct (MCC), directing them to "remain careful during public utterances".



### SPORT

Target of women's 4x400m team is to break NR Olympics

The senior-most member of the Indian women's 4x400m relay quartet that booked a Paris Games berth in Bahamas, MR Poovamma feels that the team can produce the country's best-ever show in the Olympics and break the 20-year-old national record at the French capital in August.

### WAR OF WORDS

## Choose between 'vote jihad' and 'Ram Rajya': PM Modi

**Press Trust of India**  
Cong's intent is very dangerous and alleged it calls for 'vote jihad'



PM Modi shows his ink-marked finger after casting his vote. Amit Shah is also seen. | Photo: PTI

**KHARGONE:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday asserted India has reached a turning point in history and people have to decide in the ongoing Lok Sabha elections if "vote jihad" or Ram Rajya is the way forward for the country. Addressing an election rally in Madhya Pradesh's Khargone district, Modi hit out at the opposition Congress, saying its intent is very dangerous and alleged it calls for "vote jihad" were directed against him. "India is at a turning point in history; you have to decide if 'vote

Samajwadi Party (SP) leader Maria Alam, the niece of Congress leader Salman Khurshid, called for "vote jihad" in favour of Naval Kishore Shakya, the INDIA bloc candidate from the Farrukhabad Lok Sabha seat of Uttar Pradesh. The SP is an ally of the Congress and a key constituent of the oppo-

sition INDIA bloc. "INDI alliance partners are not bothered about the fate of masses...they are fighting elections to save their dynasty," Modi maintained, targeting the opposition. He sought to know whether a concept like "vote jihad" was acceptable in a democracy.

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## SC stays order to sack WB government teachers

**Press Trust of India**  
SC asked CBI not to arrest a suspect during the investigation.



**NEW DELHI:** The Supreme Court on Tuesday stayed the Calcutta High Court order invalidating the appointment of 25,753 teachers and non-teaching staff made by the state's School Service Commission (SSC) in state-run and state-aided schools. A bench comprising Chief Justice DY Chandrachud and Justices JB Paridwala and Manoj Misra, however, permitted the CBI to continue with its investigation and probe even members of the state cabinet.

The top court, however, asked the CBI not to take any precipitate action like arresting a suspect during the investigation. Earlier in the day, it

**FASTFACTS**  
● SC observed, this is systemic fraud.  
● SC mentioned, nothing remains if the faith of the public goes.

termed the alleged scam as a "systemic fraud" and said the state authorities were duty-bound to maintain digitised records pertaining to the appointment of teachers and non-teaching staff. The top court was hearing a batch of petitions challenging the Calcutta High Court's April 22 decision that invalidated the appointment of 25,753 teachers and non-teaching staff. "Public job is so scarce.... Nothing

remains if the faith of the public goes. This is systemic fraud. Public jobs are extremely scarce today and are looked at for social mobility. What remains in the system if their appointments are also maligned? People will lose faith, how do you countenance this?" the CJ asked the lawyers representing the state government.

The bench said the state government has nothing to show that relevant data was maintained by the authorities and asked about its availability. "Either you have the data or you do not have it.... You were duty-bound to maintain the documents in digitised form. Now, it is obvious that there is no data. You are unaware of the fact that your service provider has engaged another agency. You had to maintain supervisory control," the bench told the state government's lawyers.

### NEW RESEARCH

## Patna most vulnerable to floods in India: IIT study

**Press Trust of India**  
**NEW DELHI:** Patna experiences the worst floods in India, followed by West Bengal's Murshidabad and Maharashtra's Thane, according to a district-level flood severity index (DFSI) developed by researchers at

IIT-Delhi and IIT-Roorkee. The index takes into account the historical severity of floods based on the number of affected people, the spread and duration of floods. The researchers said the top 10 districts where flood severity is



**NUMBER**  
**30**  
● Among 30 districts facing the highest risk of floods, 17 are in the Ganga basin.

the highest are: Patna, Murshidabad, Thane, North 24 Parganas (West Bengal), Guntur (Andhra Pradesh), Nagpur (Maharashtra), Gorakhpur (Uttar Pradesh), Ballia (Uttar Pradesh), East Champaran (Bihar), and East Medinipur (West Bengal). These are followed by Muzaffargar, Lakhimpur, Kota,

Aurangabad, Malda, Rajkot, Prayagraj, Aurangabad, Bahraich, Ahmedabad, Jalpaiguri, Darjeeling, Dibrugarh, Azamgarh, Chamoli (Uttarakhand), West Champaran (Bihar), Amravati (Maharashtra), Medinipur (West Bengal), and Samastipur (Bihar).

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# Raipur



A large number of people have voted spontaneously in favor of BJP for state's development

**Kiran Singh Deo**  
President, State BJP

## Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

### POLLING

**Governor Harichandan and first lady cast votes, encourage voter turnout**

**RAIPUR:** Governor Vishwabhusan Harichandan, accompanied by First Lady Smt. Suprabha Harichandan, made their way to Model Polling Station 170 situated at Sihawa Bhawan Civil Lines on Tuesday to participate in the Lok Sabha General Elections 2024. Governor Harichandan emphasized the importance of voting, urging all citizens of the state to exercise their constitutional right. He underscored that strengthening democracy is a collective responsibility, and each voter plays a vital role in this endeavor. Following the voting process, the Governor and First Lady also posed for a photo in the designated selfie zone, encouraging others to fulfill their civic duty.



### EXAM RESULTS

**St. Xavier's students shine in ICSE and ISC exams of 2024**

**RAIPUR:** Students of St. Xavier's Raipur once again proved themselves by scaling new heights in this year's board examinations. The results were declared on 6th of May at 11:00 am and it proved to be a moment of pride for everyone at St Xavier's Raipur. The outstanding performances by the students have made the school proud. In ISC (Std 12) also the students have shown excellent performance. In Commerce stream, the first three positions have been bagged by Akshay Sadhwani with an overall score of 91.8% followed by Raj Bamliya scoring 91% and Ashpreet Kaur Hora standing third with 89.25%.



Voters waiting for their turn at the polling centre



Differently able persons, Young girls cast their votes



# Polling reached at its peak in city by afternoon hours

In Raipur the contest was between former MLA Vikas Upadhyay of Congress and Minister and MLA from BJP Brijmohan Agrawal.

Central Chronicle News

**RAIPUR:** There are total of 168 candidates, including 26 women, are in the fray in the third and final phase of elections in Chhattisgarh and in Raipur the contest was between former MLA Vikas Upadhyay of Congress and Minister and MLA from BJP Brijmohan Agrawal. In Raipur city the polling was held peacefully in all the polling booths and no untoward incident was reported. The polling started in all booths at 7:00 am and there was thin turnout at the beginning and slowly it gained

momentum as the weather was pleasant in the morning hours. Before noon, majority of people were found approaching their polling centres to cast their votes. The senior citizens and elders were seen in the morning hours, so as to avoid the sun and then the second half witnessed the presence of women, after completing of all the household works. The youths were present, both during the first and second half and in this there were many who were polling for the first time. The services of NSS, NCC and other volunteers was available outside each

### HIGHLIGHT

- The services of NSS, NCC and other volunteers was available outside each polling centre

- By second half the polling started were found with huge rush, as majority of the shops were closed in first half

polling centre, so as to carry the differently able persons and despite this many were found holding or supporting their near & dear ones with some or the other physical defor-

mity and took them to the polling centre and exercising their franchise. Those who could not walk were taken inside the booth in a wheel-chair provided and at all these places, ramp facility was provided.

By second half the polling started were found with huge rush, as majority of the shops and establishments in city remained closed in the first half, allowing their employees to exercise their franchise. Since it happened to be a holiday, many went early for voting and then went out for excursion to nearby place, enjoying the holiday. In the second half

the polling was bit less by peak of the afternoon, as the Sun was at its peak and people preferred to remain indoors.

But the working class finding a break in the middle and by late in the evening there was long queue seen in most of the polling centres and people had to wait for long to get their turn. All the voters who have entered the premises before 6:00 pm were allowed to exercise their franchise and this lasted till about 7:00 pm.

The winding up of day's election in city was with submission of EVMs in the Strong Room.

## Bhupesh appointed AICC senior observer for Rae Bareli

**RAIPUR:** In the midst of the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, the Congress party has bestowed another significant responsibility upon former Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel. Baghel has been appointed as the All India Congress Committee (AICC) senior observer for the Rae Bareli Lok Sabha constituency. His new role involves overseeing the election preparations for Rahul Gandhi, who is contesting from Rae Bareli along with Wayanad. Rae Bareli, along with Amethi, holds considerable importance for the Gandhi family in electoral politics. Currently, Congress has assigned Ashok Gehlot as the AICC senior observer for Amethi.

## GEMS Summer Carnival promises to be a fun filled affair as like its reputation.

**RAIPUR:** Once again, hot sweating summer has arrived and in between kids finding enough time to play their favourite games are also finding time to complete their summer assignments. But all this is not enough to engage them for almost 50 days of summer holidays. To make the holidays a fun filled affair, Shri Gujarati English Medium Higher Secondary School as like previous year hatched upon a unique idea to organise summer carnival so as to make kids experience a happening time. No sooner



Kids getting ready for Summer Carnival.

### FACTFILE

- The events are tailor made to ensure that the students enjoy the most.

voting day is over, from May 08 GEMS Summer Carnival will be inaugurated with a big bang and promise to tickle the nerves of participating kids. The events are

tailor made to ensure that the students enjoy the most. Among the events planned are Zumba and dance, music, spoken English, video editing and designing and most important Gujarati speaking and writing. It needs to be mentioned here, all these events are to be conducted by trained experts who have got expertise in their respective fields

and are capable of creating wonders. In this connection Principal of Shri Gujarati English Medium Higher Secondary School Dr Shailesh Sharma assured that students attending this carnival will remember it lifetime and even kids from different schools are invited to participate in this carnival and immerse themselves in the world of fun and masti.

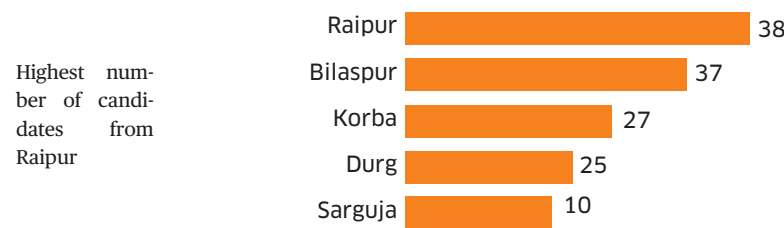
| CARNIVAL |

# Summer Carnival all set to tickle the nerves of students

Central Chronicle News

### The Day's NUMBERS

### NUMBER OF CANDIDATES FIELDIED FROM VARIOUS CONSTITUENCY



Source: Web

### FINE IMPOSED

**RERA imposes fine of 18.82 lakh on Real Estate Project Promoters in Chhattisgarh**

**RAIPUR:** In a significant development, the Chhattisgarh Real Estate Regulatory Authority (RERA) has levied fines totaling Rs. 18.82 lakh on promoters of real estate projects for violating provisions outlined in the Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act, 2016.

Under Section 4 (2) (I) (D) of the Act, promoters are obligated to deposit funds received from allottees into specified accounts and utilize them in accordance with RERA stipulations. However, investigations conducted by the Registrar, Chhattisgarh RERA, revealed non-compliance by promoters, prompting stringent action. The projects implicated in the violation include V.I.P. City Sector-01 Extension, V.I.P. City Sector-02, and others. Despite clear directives, the RERA specified accounts associated with these projects were found to be improperly operated. Subsequently, a case was registered against the non-compliant promoters on March 11, 2024, under Section 60 of the Act.

### RESULT

**RKC's Sakshi and Aryansh bring laurels in Humanities and Science**

**RAIPUR:** With the announcement of the results of class 12th's ICSE results, the students' list has also been brought forward by the school. In this, Sakshi Simour of Humanities stream and Science stream's Aryansh Jeeviash Tekram have brought laurels to the school.

Sakshi scored 97.5% in the humanities stream and has scored the highest marks in Political Science (100%), History (99%), and Geography (98%). She is preparing for CUET, which is a competitive exam for UPSC.

Apart from this, Sakshi has also participated in numerous debates and quizzes for her school and has also participated in a rifle shooting tournament. On the other hand, Aryansh has scored 95.25% in the science stream and he was the head boy of the school.



| VOTING SUPPORT |

# Sakshi Gajbhiye rallies for 100 per cent voting

Central Chronicle News

**RAIPUR:** In the ongoing 18th Lok Sabha elections, resident of Raipur, Sakshi Gajbhiye actively rallied support from the people to enthusiastically vote for the party of their choice. She held up posters and even encouraged everyone else to come and cast their vote in

the biggest festival of democracy. She went to vote on Tuesday at 7:00 am at Janta Colony, Tilak Nagar's Government pre-secondary school's booth number 70 and room number 7. She's participating actively in all the activities despite having 90% disability. Sakshi suffers from an ailment known as scoliosis that is a degen-

**To form a strong government at the centre and to strengthen our democracy, everyone must cast their votes**

**Sakshi Gajbhiye**  
Raipur resident



erative bone disorder and doesn't have much of a cure. It is usually a twisting of the spinal cord in an abnormal manner that leaves a person completely bedridden and on a wheelchair.

Meanwhile, this was Sakshi's first-ever Lok Sabha vote and she was all prepared to go to the booth and cast her vote for her choice of party.

## Raipur News

# Large voter turn-out marks festival of democracy

Polling stations of Raipur decorated in different themes

Central Chronicle News

**RAIPUR:** Polling stations in the district were decorated with themes in a bid to motivate the voters to come out in large numbers to exercise their franchise and provide them a pleasant experience of visiting polling stations. In some polling stations trampolines were arranged for voters' children while at other places beautiful selfie points were set up. Benches in the queues, the luxurious waiting room and the arrangement of drinking water attracted the voters a lot.

Tarun Tiwari, who came to vote, after seeing the decorations and arrangements, said that he did not feel that he had come to any booth, that too to vote. There is such a wonderful atmosphere as if a festival is being celebrated, he said. Another voter Shubham Chandravanshi says that it is feeling good that we have come to some festival, everything is going smooth.

The view of the polling station located in Forest Colony of North Assembly was different. A glimpse of Chhattisgarhi dialect and culture was visible in the polling booth of the area. To welcome the vot-



The polling station located at Sihawa Bhavan was set up on the theme of India's space mission.

ers, the welcome message 'Chunai Tihar ke Bera mein Parghvat Han' was written in Chhattisgarhi dialect at the reception gate of the polling station. It was decorated with Ashoka, Chitavar and Salfi leaves. Once inside, the voter waiting room was named 'Thirai Ke Thiha' and was decorated with Chitavar leaves. The selfie point was given the form of a hut. It is believed that Chitavar leaves provide coolness, hence Chitavar leaves were also used for providing shade.

Water conservation was the center of attraction in BP Pujari School. Posters were put up at various places in which it was told that rain water should be conserved so that the water level is maintained. Also, life depends on water and water conservation depends on you. With poster appealing to save tap water, people were urged to vote. Satpal

## With poster appealing to save tap water, people were urged to vote

Singh, a resident of Ravi Nagar, said 'I had come here to vote and it felt very good to see theme of water harvesting in the polling booth. This is inspiring us to save water. Polling station located at Sihawa Bhavan was set up India's space mission. The main door depicts the Satellite Launch Vehicle while the selfie point depicts the GSLV launch.

### HIGHLIGHT

- A kids zone was also created for children to play.
- BP and sugar tests were done in the District Panchayat polling centre, while arrangements for coolers were also made.

## Two arrested for hunting bear with potash bomb

Central Chronicle News

The anti-poaching team arrested two persons from Odisha border Kalimati for allegedly hunting bears with potash bombs in Udanti Sita River Sanctuary area.

**GARIABAND :** The arrest comes 25 days after the incident. Both arrested persons used to hunt bears by purchasing bombs from hunters of Madhya Pradesh. Gariaband Police Cyber Cell played important role in this action against boachers. The arrested persons are suspected to be involved in a big gang operating in Central India.

On Monday, confidential information was received that a bear has been hunted with a potash bomb under the hill in room number

1243 of Indagaon (Ghurvaturi) buffer zone. Acting on this information the anti-poaching team arrested Hazari, son of Tulsiram and Uttam, son of Khageshwar. The action was taken under the direction of Sudhir Agrawal, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife), Raipur Chhattisgarh, Vishvesh Kumar Jha, Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife), Field Director Udanti Sitanadi Tiger Reserve Raipur and Varun Jain, Deputy Director Udanti Sitanadi Tiger Reserve Gariaband. Both arrested persons were brought to the office of Assistant Director Udanti (Mainpur) for questioning. Both talked about hunting the bear with potash bombs.

They told that, a year ago, they purchased one potash bomb for Rs 500 from a person of hunter community who had come from Katni, Madhya Pradesh.

## Arrangements for blood testing in Ambedkar Hospital

**RAIPUR:** On the instructions of Additional Chief Secretary (ACS) Manoj Kumar Pingua, various blood related tests required for various diseases of the patients can be done at Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar Memorial Hospital affiliated to Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru Memorial Medical College.

The decision to conduct blood tests was taken after Additional Chief Secretary of the Health Department, Manoj Kumar Pingua held a meeting of the medical college and hospital management in the interest of the patients and instructed to make arrangements for blood testing as soon as possible.

As per the instructions of ACS, arrangements for reagents and medicines have been made and various types of tests can be conducted at Raipur Medical College Hospital.

## SECR Raipur Division releases 672 posts of ALPs

Central Chronicle News

SECRMC office bearers discuss on the problems of railway staff.

**RAIPUR:** With the efforts of NFIR/SECRMC Pointsman of the Operating Department will be benefitted from promotion up to L-4 and L-5. This benefit will be extended to nearly 80 thousand Pointsman across the country and about 400 in the Raipur Division.

The notification for the 672 ALP posts of Raipur Division has been released, providing an opportunity for all Level 1 & 2 employees of all departments, informs D Vijay Kumar, Divisional Coordinator SECRMC Raipur.

On May 05, the AGM of BMY Branch 3 was held in Charoda, where



AGM of SECRMC BMY Branch 3.

### EASTFACTS

- New scheme to benefit 80,000 Pointsman across the country.
- New office bearers elected in AGM.

Divisional Coordinator D. Vijay Kumar, Bhimrao Badalkar, B D Prasad,

## Sr DCM conducts inspection of Raipur Railway station

Central Chronicle News

It was found that men were seated in the open waiting area on the reserved platform designated for women.

**RAIPUR:** The South East Central Railway Raipur Division has designated a suitable location on the platform for waiting female passengers under the name 'Akshita,' where facilities for sitting during train waiting along with other necessary amenities have been provided for female travelers.

Senior Divisional Commercial Manager Avadhesh Kumar Trivedi conducted an unannounced inspection of the station in disguise and found that men were seated in the open waiting area on the reserved platform designated as the Akshita Safe Bubble for women. If men are found sitting in the waiting area designated for women, passengers are advised to immediately call 139 for notification.

As a step towards women empowerment and to provide a safe and secure feeling to solo female travelers during railway platform waiting, it was necessary to provide such a place where they feel safe. With this objective, South East Central Railway Raipur

Railway Division has designated such a place on its important stations like Raipur, Durg, and Bhilai, usually located in the middle of the platform, near Railway Protection Force posts, station masters' offices, etc. Here, CCTV cameras are mandatory, and facilities like water are nearby. Considering the above facilities at these stations, places were marked and barricaded to create a safe bubble. Female railway

### EASTFACTS

- Passengers are advised to call 139 for assistance.
- CCTV cameras are mandatory in female passenger area.

personnel of the Railway Protection Force continuously monitor these locations. Entry of male passengers is prohibited in this area, which allows solo waiting women to comfortably spend their waiting time on the platform without any hesitation. Due to being marked, the attention of every railway employee remains on this safe bubble, making it suitable for women from a security perspective. The Railway Protection Force Control Office continuously monitors this location through CCTV cameras.

### NEWSLINE

#### WEATHER

Rains lash capital, bring relief from heat



**RAIPUR:** Rains lashed the capital on Tuesday evening, bringing much needed respite from heat. The weather has once again taken a turn in Chhattisgarh with dense clouds hovering over sky in many districts of state since morning. Apart from Raipur, rains occurred with thunderstorms in several other parts of the state. Meanwhile, the Meteorological Department has issued a yellow alert for 18 districts of the state. According to the Meteorological Department, few parts in Balod, Balodabazar, Bemetara, Bilaspur, Dhamtari, Durg, Gariaband, Gaurala Pendra Marwahi, Janjgir-Champa, Jashpur, Korba, Mohla Manpur Ambagarh Chowki, Raigarh, Raipur, Rajnandgaon, Sakti, Sarangarh Bilaigarh, Surguja are likely to experience rain or thunderstorm with strong wind.

#### POLITICS

How much of deal finalized?: Baghel on Radhika joining BJP

**RAIPUR:** Former Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh Bhupesh Baghel has targeted Radhika Kheda for joining BJP. Radhika Kheda should tell how much of the deal has been finalized between her and BJP, Baghel said. Meanwhile, Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai has described Congress leaders as an extinct species. On this Bhupesh Baghel retorted saying that the Chief Minister was paying tribute to the voters. This reflects BJP's poor mental condition, he added.

#### ELECTION

Baij thanks the voters, says BJP will not even cross 150



**RAIPUR:** In the third phase of Lok Sabha elections, voting was completed today on seven Lok Sabha seats of Chhattisgarh. Polling was held in Raipur, Durg, Bilaspur, Korba, Raigarh, Surguja, Janjgir-Champa Lok Sabha constituencies. After voting, Pradesh Congress President Deepak Baij expressed his gratitude to the voters and said that the people of Chhattisgarh discharged their democratic duty by voting regardless of the scorching heat.

### POWER COMPANY

## 'All efforts be made to make Ch'garh among top five in PMSY'

Central Chronicle News

**RAIPUR:** The Chairman of Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) of Chhattisgarh State Power Company Limited Vivek Kumar Dewangan conducted review of progress in different schemes.

He directed to complete the works under different heads of PM Suryadhar Yojana and RDSS Scheme speedily and asked to launch special campaign to take this

scheme to domestic consumers. For the houses in urban areas, he asked the concerned to motivate people to install Solar panels and generate electricity, as this will reduce their billings.

The Chairman Chhattisgarh State Power Company's (CSPC) P Dayanand chaired this meeting at CSPC's head office in Daganiya. On this occasion MD duo Rajesh Kumar Shukla and SK Katiyar were spe-



cially present.

Dewangan said that he saw the presentation of PM Suryadhar Yojana and RDSS and conducted point-wise review. He hoped that on implementation of these two schemes, all efforts be made seriously to include Chhattisgarh among the top five states in the country.

The officers of the Power Company in the meeting informed that at present more than



**I saw presentation of PM Suryadhar Yojana and RDSS and conducted point-wise review. With implementation of both the schemes, Chhattisgarh will be among the top five states in country.**

Vivek Kumar Dewangan  
Chairman, REC of CSPCL

60 lakh power consumers are being provided electricity without any hindrance and out of these 42 lakh domestic consumers are being provided benefit of 'Half Bijili Yojana' upto 400 units and they have to pay just half the bill.

Under PM Suryadhar Yojana, they can even install solar panels atop their houses and this will further reduce their electricity consumer and it will benefit them directly.

# Bhilai



“With the active participation of electors, polling was conducted smoothly and peacefully in Durg”

Richa Prakash Chaudhary  
Collector, Durg

## Durg Lok Sabha Constituency records 67.34% voter turnout

Polling was conducted peacefully in all the assembly constituencies of Durg LS region.

Central Chronicle News

**BHILAI:** Great enthusiasm among people towards voting was witnessed in the entire Durg parliamentary constituency on Tuesday. Under the Lok Sabha General Election-2024, polling was completed peacefully across the district. Enthusiasm among people was visible in urban and rural areas. Voters spontaneously reached the polling stations to exercise their franchise. On one hand the new young voters were eager to vote, on the other hand the elderly and women were also not lagging behind. Elaborate security arrangements were made in polling stations of urban areas. Police officers and forces were continuously patrolling the entire district. Even in rural areas, enhanced security was provided to the polling parties.

According to information compiled by the District Election Office, 67.34 percent voting has been recorded in the district. The final data will be updated later on. Patan (62) Assembly Constituency recorded the high-



Enthusiasm was visible among young, middle aged and senior citizens after casting votes.

est 71.23 percent voter turnout, Durg Rural (63) registered 69.49 percent, Durg city (64) recorded 63.78 percent, Bhilai city (65) witnessed 59.86 percent voting, Vaishalinagar (66) recorded 63.84 percent; Ahiwara (67) recorded 68.48 percent voting; Saja (partial 68) recorded 69.01 percent voting; Bemetara (partial 69) recorded 71.33 percent voting while Navagarh (70) assembly constituency recorded 69.06 percent voting till 18:00 hrs.

### Top administrative officers cast their votes in polling stations

Bhilai: Divisional Commissioner Satyanarayan Rathore reached the Polling Booth number 171 to exercise his franchise. Collector and District Election Officer Richa Prakash Chaudhary and Inspector General of Police (Durg Range) Ram Gopal Garg with his wife exercised their franchise on Tuesday morning. Collector Richa Prakash

#### HIGHLIGHT

● Patan Assembly recorded highest 71.23 % voting

● Bhilai Nagar Assembly recorded lowest 59.86% voting

Chaudhary reached Polytechnic College and exercised their franchise.

After casting her vote, the Collector went to the selfie zone and took a selfie. The IGP also took a selfie in the selfie zone. Along with this, he also inspected and took stock of the arrangements at various polling stations in the district.

IGP Garg and his wife appealed to all the voters to exercise their franchise.

### Two including a juvenile arrested for bike lifting

Central Chronicle News

The notorious thief with the help of a 13-year-old juvenile lifted bikes and scooters from different places.

**BHILAI:** Superintendent of Police (Durg) Jitendra Shukla had provided video footage related to bike theft to the Anti Crime and Cyber Unit and had directed them to investigate. ASP Sukhnanandan Rathore informed that a joint team of ACCU and Supela Police Station examined the video footage and conducted investigation on the case.

On the basis of the video footage, the team searched for the child who was stealing the vehicle. Soon a 13-year-old boy of Khursipar was traced and taken into custody for interrogation.

The juvenile disclosed that one Rahul Mahanand, a resident of Servant Quarter Sector 09 Bhilai, had sent him to steal the vehicle.

On the instructions of Rahul Mahanand, the juvenile had stolen one Scooty from Akashganga Supela and given the stolen vehicle to Rahul Mahanand. On the basis of the statement given by the juve-

nile, police searched for Rahul Mahanand and took him into custody. During sustained interrogation, Rahul Mahanand confessed to committing vehicle thefts with the help of the 13-year-old juvenile. They had lifted eight bikes and scooters from Chhawani Police Station, Mohan Nagar Police Station, Supela Police Station and Ganj

#### FASTFACTS

● Eight stolen bikes worth Rs 3 lakhs recovered.

● Accused concealed the stolen vehicles at different parking lots.

Police Station Raipur areas. The accused had concealed the stolen vehicles in different motorcycle stands and parking lots. On the basis of the information provided by the accused, police recovered eight stolen vehicles from parking lots of JLN Hospital Sector 09; Supela; District Hospital, Durg; and Raipur Railway Station Motorcycle parking stand.

The accused Rahul Mahanand and the juvenile are habitual drinkers and drug addicts. They used to roam around together and commit vehicle thefts.

#### SCULPTURE

Bull artwork to be installed at Raipur airport



**BHILAI:** A 12 feet high bull artwork (Bastar art) made by the city's eminent sculptor Ashok Devangan will be installed at Raipur airport. It has been made at Ankush Shilpangan located in Maroda sector. It was first made from clay and then fibre casting was done in Bhilai. Pooranand Devangan, Rajendra Koliyara Killekoda, Vinod, Doman and Amit assisted in the creation of the artwork. Ashok Devangan is a famous artist of the contemporary Indian sculpture world, practicing art for the last 25 years. His timeless artworks from railway iron scraps is installed in many cities across the country. He is known as an artist who makes gold from waste. He is working as a technician in South East Central Railway Durg.

#### YOUNG VOTERS

Young voters partake in the great festival of democracy

**BHILAI:** A large number of young voters participated in the biggest festival of democracy and fulfilled their responsibility by exercising their franchise to elect their representative for the lower house of the parliament. A large number of young voters reached their respective polling centers of the district to cast their votes. Many of them were first time voters. After voting, the youth got their photos clicked at the selfie booths established in the polling stations and expressed happiness of fulfilling their responsibility towards the country.

#### FACILITATED

Senior Citizens facilitated with Voter Chariots



**BHILAI:** Voter Chariot facility was provided to the PwDs and senior citizen voters of above 80 years age. Senior citizen voters said that in view of the scorching heat, arrangements were made for cool drinking water, medical checkup and first aid facilities and other beverages in the polling stations. The elderly voters were very happy as they were able to exercise their franchise without any problem. Through a free transport facility, they were picked up from their residences and dropped back again after voting.

### Employees of Utilities Zone felicitated with Shiromani Awards

Central Chronicle News

Employees who demonstrate innovation to achieve the goals by following all the safety standards with the resources available in their work area are feted with Shiromani Awards.

**BHILAI:** Employees of the Utilities Zone of SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant were awarded the 'Pali Shiromani' and 'Karm Shiromani' Awards for their exemplary work performance, under the 'Shiromani Puraskar Yojana' by Bhilai Steel Plant. Anil Kumar Joshi, CGM (Utilities) was the Chief Guest on this occasion.

Manish Kumar Horo, AGM (WMD), was awarded the 'Pali Shiromani Award' for his excellent performance during the quarter

from January to March 2024, while Mohammad Paigambar, OCT (WMD), and Chain Das Tandon, Chief Master Operator (OP-II) were awarded the 'Karm Shiromani' Award for their commendable work performance.

Present in the program were Shailendra Kumar Chattree, GM (ACWE), M Venkatesh Babu, GM (PLEM), Utpal Dutta, GM (Water Mgmt), Md Nadeem Khan, GM (OP-II), and Sumanta Bhattacharjee, GM (CAS & CWP), and other Senior Officials. Mementos and Certificates were presented to the awardees, along with a Letter of Appreciation to their respective Spouses. During the programme, the awardees were appreciated for their achievements at the workplace.

Girish Kumar Madharia, Dy Mgr (Pers-P&E Zone) moderated the programme.

### Elderly and PwDs get assistance at polling



**BHILAI:** Elderly and People with Disabilities (PwDs) exercised their franchise at various polling centres. A 97-year-old woman, who resides in Lakshmi Heritage Colony in Borsi, reached the Borsi Higher Secondary School to cast her vote. The old lady said that she did not face any problem at the centre. Wheelchairs and volunteers were deployed at the polling stations to assist the elderly and PwD voters. The volunteers ensured that the elderly and PwDs did not face any problem in exercising their franchise.

Central Chronicle News

A voting day webcasting control room was established in the conference hall of the District Collectorate.

**BHILAI:** As per the instructions of Collector and District Election Officer Richa Prakash Chaudhary, a voting day webcasting control room was established in the conference hall of the District Collectorate. 50 employees from the district were positioned at this control room.

They monitored the voting taking place at all the polling centers of the district. The monitoring commenced at 5 am in the morning and continued till the end of voting. CHIPS Director Shruti Agrawal said that moni-

#### VOTING DAY WEBCASTING

## Polling stations monitored through webcasting



Voting activities being monitored through webcasting.

#### FASTFACTS

● 755 polling stations monitored live at Control Room

● 1510 cameras have been installed at 755 polling booths

toring was done in a total of 755 polling stations in the district. Tracking of EVM machines was

done through the Global Positioning System (GPS) and information about the routes of buses was also monitored. She said that nodal officers were appointed for various assembly constituencies for this task. She said that the places where there is a good internet network have been identified for camera booths. Each center has two cameras, one

inside and one outside. In all, 1510 cameras have been installed at 755 polling booths.

The responsibility of live telecast is upon the Information Technology Department. The District Election Officer, Assistant Returning Officers and the State Election Commission in Raipur watched the voting process live at these booths.

#### CULTURAL

## Tirumala Telugu Mahila Samaj celebrates Ugadi festival

Central Chronicle News

**BHILAI:** The Tirumala Telugu Mahila Samah celebrated Ugadi festival in Jagannath temple sector 4. The chief guest of the program was Pratiksha Baghel.

The program started with the lighting of the lamp by the guests. Ganesh Stuti was recited by B Usha and Ganesh Vandana by M Bhavani. The board and committee members

welcomed guests with bouquets. The chief guest appreciated the women of the community by saying "Miru Yalaga Unaru" in Telugu.

In the group dance competition that followed, Talpuri group stood at first position while Sector 4 got the second place. Charoda women' group stood at third position while Sector 1 stood at fourth position.



Winners of various competitions awarded.

In music competition, Shyamala Rao stood first, B Basavamma second, and Sheleja was third. Judge Dr Neha Gupta praised all the participants.

President T Jaya Reddy informed about Tirumala Telugu Mahila that works to make women financially strong.

The Tirumala Telugu Mahila Samaj organizes 4 programs every year, she said.



**Tirumala Telugu Mahila Samaj works for making women of the community financially strong**

T Jaya Reddy  
President, Tirumala Telugu Mahila Samaj

Haldi Kumkum in January, Ugadi in April,

Var Lakshmi Puja in August, Foundation Day in September. Apart from this, they go on picnics, pilgrimages, donate food, blankets to the poor, donate sarees, fruits and food in old age homes.

A large number of the members from Telugu community attended and made the program successful, for which the president T Jaya Reddy expressed gratitude.

# Battle'24



"I think the killing of Hemant Karkare should be investigated. It is a serious matter."

Shashi Tharoor  
Congress Leader

## Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

**KARKARE'S DEATH**  
**Whatever Wadettiwar said, about Karkare's death must be probed : Tharoor**

**PUNE:** Congress leader Shashi Tharoor on Monday said whatever his party colleague Vijay Wadettiwar said about the death of then Maharashtra ATS chief Hemant Karkare during the 26/11 terror attack must be investigated. Wadettiwar, the leader of opposition in the state assembly, had recently claimed Karkare, who was the Maharashtra Anti Terrorism Squad chief during the 26/11 terror attack, wasn't killed by Kasab's bullet but by one fired by a policeman affiliated to RSS. "I think whatever he said should be investigated. He is saying there is evidence that the bullet that killed Karkare was a police revolver bullet and not from Kasab. If such evidence is there and if it is proved, then it is a serious matter," Tharoor told reporters here. "But sitting here, I cannot simply say whatever (he) said was correct because I don't know (about it)."

**JOLT TO CONGRESS**  
**Former Cong leader Radhika Khera and Shekhar Suman join BJP**



**NEW DELHI:** Former Congress leader and spokesperson Radhika Khera along with film actor Shekhar Suman joined the BJP here on Tuesday amid the ongoing Lok Sabha election. Khera, the former national coordinator of the Congress's media department, resigned from the party's primary membership on Sunday, days after her altercation with another leader at the party's Chhattisgarh office.



BJP supporters during a public meeting of Prime Minister Narendra Modi for Lok Sabha elections, in Dhar, Madhya Pradesh on Tuesday.

# Opposition remembers people only during elections: Naveen Patnaik

Patnaik said BJP's "double-engine" has run out of fuel in many states while the "Naveen engine" was continuing to run for 24 years without fail.

Press Trust Of India

**BHUBANESWAR:** Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Monday alleged that his opponents remember the people of the state only during elections and have no sincerity towards them.

Addressing back-to-back election rallies in Bhawanipatna and Kharar in the Kalandahi Lok Sabha constituency, Patnaik claimed that they disappeared after the elections. "Leaders of the opposition party tell lies to the people and shed crocodile tears during elections. They are only seen during elections and then



they disappear," he said. He asked the people if his government's social welfare schemes were helping them, to which they responded with a loud "yes". Urging the people to vote

### HIGHLIGHT

- He asked the people if his gov't's social welfare schemes were helping them, to which they responded with a loud "yes".

- The Ayushman Bharat scheme is only for people of the BPL category while Odisha government's BSKY covers all, he said.

assembly elections, and said, "The Ayushman Bharat scheme is only for people of the BPL category while Odisha government's BSKY covers all. While share for Odisha under Ayushman Bharat is only Rs 300 crore per annum, the Odisha government spends Rs 300 crore every month on BSKY." Taking a dig, he said BJP's "double-engine" has run out of fuel in many states while the "Naveen engine" was continuing to run for 24 years without fail. He hoped that with the support of the people of Odisha he would gear up the remaining developmental projects after the elections and the people would be benefitted from the same.

ter was accompanied by his close aide VK Pandian, who claimed that Patnaik will take oath as the chief minister for the sixth time on June 9. He also criticised the BJP's manifesto for the

### IRREGULARITY IN ELECTION

**EC issues notices to two Beed candidates over irregularities in election expenses**



**CHHATRAPATI SAMBHAJINAGAR:** Election authorities have issued notice to Beed BJP candidate Pankaja Munde and NCP (SP) candidate Bajrang Sonavane over irregularities in their election expenditures, officials said. Munde and Sonavane are contesting Lok Sabha polls from Maharashtra's Beed constituency, which will go to polls on May 13. BJP's Beed candidate had provided a figure of Rs 2,73,038 as her election expenses from April 24 to May 2. However, according to the records with the expenditure inspector, the expenditure made by her in this period amounted to Rs 8,68,101,

an election official said on Monday. Irregularities of Rs 5,95,063 were found in her expenditure, the official added. The expenditure shown by Sonavane during April 22 to May 2 is Rs 3,53,165. But the records of expenditure inspector show his expenses during this period as Rs 8,84,459, amounting to irregularities of Rs 5,31,294, the official said.

According to Section 77 of The Representation of The People Act, 1951, every candidate should provide the correct account of their expenditures from the date of filing nomination to the date of results, the official said.

**Election officer says 85 pc postal ballots cast in Andhra's Krishna district**

**MACHILIPATNAM:** A total of 12,650 postal ballots out of 15,500 were cast in Andhra Pradesh's Krishna district, according to District Election Officer DK Balaji. During the three-day period to cast the postal ballots that ended on Monday, 85.16 per cent or 12,650 votes were cast at postal ballot facilitation centres. Postal ballots allow registered voters to cast their votes by mail instead of physically going to a polling station. Members of the armed forces, paramilitary forces, and government employees deployed on election duty far from their home constituencies, absentee voters, electors on election duty and people under preventive detention, and those performing essential services covering polling-day activities are eligible to cast their votes via postal ballots.

## BJP's Sanjay Tandon calls Manish Tewari 'outsider'

Press Trust Of India

Highlighting the achievements of the BJP-led Centre, Tandon said Prime Minister Narendra Modi's dispensation provided relief to people by successfully establishing and running 21 metros across the country.

**CHANDIGARH:** The BJP's Chandigarh candidate Sanjay Tandon has lashed out at Congress nominee Manish Tewari, calling him an "outsider". He also alleged that Tewari did nothing for the people of Anandpur Sahib, which he represented in the previous Lok Sabha. Addressing a series of public meetings, Tandon said, "The



### FACTFILE

- On assuming power, the double-engine BJP government will help establish a metro in Chandigarh," he said.

Congress candidate represented Anandpur Sahib before being nom-

inated from Chandigarh. He didn't do anything for Anandpur Sahib." He also asked people not to expect Tewari to do anything for Chandigarh. "He is an outsider, beware of him," Tandon warned.

Highlighting the achievements of the BJP-led Centre, Tandon said

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's dispensation provided relief to people by successfully establishing and running 21 metros across the country. "Now, the 22nd metro will be set up in the 'City Beautiful'. I assure you that on assuming power, the double-engine BJP government will help establish a metro in Chandigarh," he said. Outlining his vision for Chandigarh, Tandon promised to build a new road from the city to the airport that will help commuters save time.

"On becoming the MP, I will expedite the work in this regard," he added. Tandon reiterated that the Modi government made people's lives easier by undertaking several development works.

VIOLATION |

## EC censures Andhra CM Jagan for flouting poll code

Press Trust Of India

**AMARAVATI:** The Election Commission has censured YSRCP supremo and Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy and opposition leader N Chandrababu Naidu for violating the Model Code of Conduct (MCC), directing them to "remain careful dur-

ing public utterances". The poll body recognised that both the leaders have violated the provisions of the MCC by attacking each other with derogatory personal attacks during public addresses while electioneering in the southern state over the past several days.

"Therefore, the Commission...strongly

**"The Election Commission... strongly censures Jagan Mohan Reddy, and asks him to remain careful.**

Avinash Kumar  
Principal Secretary, ECI



censures Jagan Mohan Reddy, president, YSRCP with the direction to remain careful in his public utterances in the future," said Avinash Kumar, Principal Secretary, Election Commission, in an order addressed to the chief minister. Kumar issued a similar order to Telugu Desam Party (TDP) supremo Naidu.

### The Day's NUMBERS

#### FIVE LONGEST SERVING UNION MINISTERS IN INDIA

Jagjivan Ram	29 yrs 5 months
Swarna Singh	23 yrs 6 months
Satya narayan Sinha	22 yrs 3 months
Raj Bahadur	21 yrs 5 months
PranaB m Mukherjee	20 yrs 4 months

Source: Agencies

**AAP GEARS UP CAMPAIGN**  
**AAP intensifies campaign asserts INDIA bloc will sweep Delhi's seven seats**

**NEW DELHI:** AAP party workers and office-bearers have intensified its campaign for the Lok Sabha elections and asserted that the INDIA bloc will complete a clean sweep of Delhi's seven seats. Senior leader Dilip Pandey said AAP has started using its campaign song "Jail Ka Jawab Vote Se" after it received approval from the Election Commission of India. He claimed in a press conference that the song was approved without any changes, alleging that the BJP wanted it to be banned. "We did not succumb to the BJP's pressure and the Election Commission gave official permission to our campaign song," he said. Pandey also took part in the "Play for Change" public outreach programme at Connaught Place on the issue of Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's arrest. The campaign also highlighted the Kejriwal government's performance in education, health, electricity and water supply, among others, through songs.

**SIT TO PROBE INTO SCANDAL**  
**SIT working impartially, says Karnataka CM Siddaramaiah**



**BENGALURU:** The Special Investigation Team constituted to investigate the allegations of sexual harassment against Hassan JD(S) MP Prajwal Revanna will conduct an independent and impartial investigation in which the state government will not interfere, Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said on Monday. In a statement, the chief minister rejected BJP leader and lawyer G Devaraje Gowda's allegation that the Special Investigation Team (SIT) is being controlled by the state government.

P Dayanand and his wife Shailja exercised their franchise in Devendra Nagar Raipur

P Dayanand Secretary to CM and PR Dept



# Chhattisgarh

## Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

### LOW VOLTAGE

#### Consumers troubled by low voltage and fluctuation

**RAJIM:** Electricity consumers of Chaubandha village adjacent to the city are facing acute problem of voltage fluctuations and problem of low voltage, due to which both heat cooling gadgets and paddy harvesting system is being affected. As per information, at present, paddy harvesting work is going on at a fast pace and people are busy bringing the produce from Rabi crop home and taking it to the market, thereby increasing the work timings. In such a situation, people are highly affected due to voltage fluctuations and non working of electrical gadgets is adding fire to the problem. In this regard, Sarpanch Dulichand Ande said that he had reported to the electricity department regarding the problem of low voltage, but the issue was not rectified and the situation continues to be so.

### PTM HELD

#### Parent teacher meeting concludes in Govt. HS School



**PANDARIA:** A parent teacher meeting was organized here under the chairmanship of Principal Basant Dore at the Govt. Higher Secondary Education Kodapuri of Pandaria Block, in which many parents, teachers and children appearing in the board examination of 2024 were present. During the meeting, Principal Basant Dore told that the school examination is only a test of one subject; as it is not a test of life, therefore, this result should not affect the well being of the student.

### MEETING OF MARAR PATEL SAMAJ

#### Monthly meeting of Marar Patel Samaj concludes

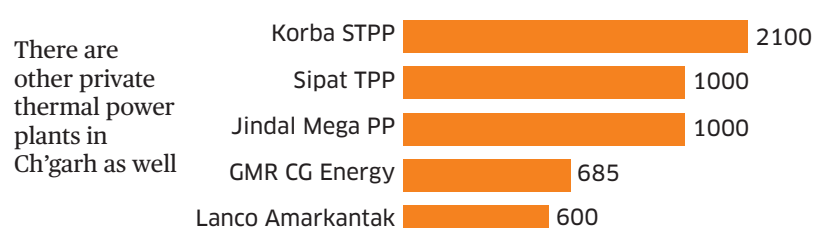


**RAJIM:** The monthly meeting of Marar Patel Samaj Rajim Tehsil was concluded here in which the main focus was to organize the society by holding meetings every month in every village of Rajim tehsil and to integrate the youth, women and employees in the mainstream of the society. Also emphasis on ideal marriage in the society, and more on value based education was given. Prominently present in the meeting were District President, State General Secretary Somnath Patel, Tehsil Patron Firdi Patel, Vinod Patel, President Nandkumar Patel, Raj Member Hemsing Patel, Tehsil Secretary Raju Patel, Director

Lakshminarayan Patel, Bhukhan Patel President Rajim Nagar, Murari Patel, Vimal Patel, Ramesh Patel and others. District President Somnath Patel said in his address that our society is a hard-working society and in the race of modernity, society should give priority to ideal marriage, so that wasteful expenditure can be curbed. If all people in the society adopt ideal marriage then an ideal will be established in the society, he added. Similarly Tehsil guardian Firdi Patel said that our society has a glorious history, from great warriors like Emperor Chandra Gupta Maurya, to great social reformers like Saint Mahatma Jyotimba Phule.

### The Day's NUMBERS

#### WHAT ARE DIFFERENT THERMAL POWER PLANTS IN CH'GARH?



### PARTNERSHIP

#### NTPC partners with NKH Hospital Korba to provide cashless treatment

**KORBA:** In a landmark initiative to bolster healthcare support for its workforce, NTPC has partnered with NKH Hospital Korba to offer comprehensive cashless treatment services for its employees. This collaboration aims to deliver seamless healthcare access across multiple departments, providing much-needed relief to employees. Under this partnership, NTPC employees can now avail themselves of a wide range of cashless treatment facilities at NKH Hospital, covering specialties like Orthopaedics, Gynaecology, Paediatrics, Internal Medicine, General Surgery, Neurology, Cardiology, Gastroenterology, Nephrology, Dermatology, and Psychiatry. This strategic move ensures that employees receive high-quality care without the financial burden of such extensive healthcare services. Moreover, NKH Hospital has extended its support to NTPC by offering free specialty clinics, designed to provide proactive healthcare advice and treatment.

### A REVIEW MEETING

#### Collector gives instructions for paddy lifting



**KHAIRAGARH:** On the instructions of District Collector Chandrakant Verma, a review meeting of committee managers and millers regarding paddy lifting was taken by Additional Collector Prem Kumar Patel in the meeting room of the district office. In the meeting, the Additional Collector directed all the millers of the district to lift the paddy in 3 days and also directed the managers and in-charges of all the 51 procurement centres of the district to supply paddy to the millers to dispose of the remaining paddy in the procurement centres as soon as possible.

## Tendu leave beneficiaries demand cash payment

Since Sukma district is a forest area as well as a highly sensitive Naxalite area and in this the main work is also plucking of tendu leaves, which is called rural green gold



A memorandum was submitted to the Sukma Collector for making cash payment for plucking of tendu leaves.

of more than Rs 50 crore to tendu leaf beneficiaries in Sukma district and had relieved the villagers from the hassle of visiting banks.

Sukma Nagar Palika Chairman Raju Sahu said that since Sukma district is a forest area as well as a highly sensitive Naxalite area, the main source of income of the tribal villagers of the area is forest produce, in which the main work is also the plucking of tendu leaves, which is called rural green gold, so the villagers give great importance to tendu leaves and pluck

### HIGHLIGHT

● The main source of income of the tribal villagers of the area is forest produce

● This year the payment of tendu leaves will be made through banks

them with the whole family, from which they get the things they need.

In all the committees including the highly sensitive areas of Sukma district like Jagargunda, Bodkel, Missiguda, Palachalma, Kistaram, Puspalli, Gugma, Pong-

abheji, a lot of tendu leaves are plucked. Tendu leaves are given more importance than paddy.

According to the information received, this year the payment of tendu leaves will be made through banks, since the bank is located at a few places on the main road, due to which the villagers have to travel from a distance of 100 kilometers and make rounds of the crowd in the banks for 4 to 5 days. Due to which the villagers are troubled. Their time and money

is also wasted. Therefore, a demand has been made to pay for tendu leaves in cash.

Last year also, tendu leaves worth more than 50 crore rupees were plucked in Sukma district, for which the villagers were paid in cash. This year also the villagers should be paid in cash for plucking tendu leaves.

Raju Sahu, while testifying in this matter, said that if the administration does not take our demands seriously, then in the coming time we will fight from the House to the streets.

### MEDICAL NEGLIGENCE

## During surgery, cotton piece left in woman's stomach

### Collector of Khairagarh-Chhuikhadan-Gandai and after investigation, have demanded strict action against the guilty doctor and compensation for the amount spent on treatment.

**KHAIRAGARH:** A case of gross medical negligence of doctors has come to light in the community health centre located at Chhuikhadan block headquarters of the district. According to information, complainant Sahaspur resident Pawan Janghel in his complaint submitted to District Collector Office



Cotton left in pregnant woman's stomach during operation.

### FACTFILE

● Unable to bear the cost and diagnosis of the stomach pain Janghel's wife was brought back to Ch'garh, where in a private hospital in Raipur, the woman was operated

alleged that his wife Champa Bai Janghel was admitted to Chhuikhadan Government Hospital for delivery back in December 2022, and the child was delivered through C Section as per the advice of doctors. But after 5 months post the operation, the new mother complained of stomach

pain, after which treatment was sought both at a private hospital in Raipur and Hyderabad city where Pawan Janghel was working as a daily wager. Meanwhile unable to bear the cost and diagnosis of the stomach pain Janghel's wife was brought back to Chhattisgarh, where in a private hospital in Raipur, the woman was operated on 29 September 2023. During the surgery, the cotton piece left in the woman's stomach during the C Section operation back in 2022 was removed. Though now the woman is healthy, but the family members have complained about the matter to the Collector of Khairagarh-Chhuikhadan-Gandai.

### CENTRAL CHRONICLE IMPACT

## Action against irregularities in govt liquor shop

### Collector of Khairagarh-Chhuikhadan-Gandai and after investigation, have demanded strict action against the guilty doctor and compensation for the amount spent on treatment.

**KHAIRAGARH:** The Excise Department took action against, irregularities in government liquor shop, here in the region after publication of news in Central Chronicle daily and two employees accused of irregularities have been suspended. According to information, the accused salesmen

used to misbehave with the liquor loving customers and did not return the change cash and also old stock liquor was sold at higher price, by them trespassing rules. The Excise Department has investigated the matter and taken action under the guidance of higher officials, and it was found that following the rules and orders of Chhattis-

**The print rate of old liquor is different but it is being sold as per the rate fixed as per the rules of the government.**

Tapan Sori ADEO- KCG



File Photo

garh Government, old liquor of the last financial year is being sold at a price higher than the print rate. Central Chronicle daily had prominently published the news of sale of liquor at a price higher than the print rate on May 5 and regarding the same, the officials of the Excise Department have clarified that this is happening only after new orders.

## Chhattisgarh News

# Confident Sai predicts NDA victory with clean sweep

After polling, CM Sai said that there is a lot of enthusiasm among people regarding PM.

Central Chronicle News

**JASHPUR:** Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai exercised his franchise along with his family members in his home-town in Gram Bagia at booth No.49 in a primary school. During polling, CM Sai was accompanied by his mother Jasmani Sai, wife Kaushalya Sai, son Toshendra Sai, daughter Smriti Sai, daughter-in-law Rajkumar Sai and other family members and stood in the queue.

After polling, CM Sai said that there is a lot of enthusiasm among people regarding PM Modi and BJP. For a developed India and developed Chhattisgarh, people are intensively voting in favour of the 'Lotus' symbol. On the 4th of June, NDA will cross mark of 400 seats and we will win all the 11 Lok Sabha seats in Chhattisgarh.

It is notable here that in the third leg of polling for LS polls 2024, polling for 93 seats including 7 seats of Chhattisgarh is in progress. With this, the Lok Sabha polls in Chhattisgarh will conclude. Today, the seven Lok Sabha seats for which polling was held in Chhattisgarh included, Raipur, Durg, Korba, Bilaspur, Surguja, Jajpur-Champa, and Raigarh



Chief Minister Sai along with his family members exercised his franchise in Gram Bagia.

Lok Sabha seats. The polling in the above 7 LS seats till 1:00 pm was Bilaspur-39.93%; Dug 46.68%; Janjgir-Champa- 43.14%; Korba 48.10%; Raigarh -55.87%; Raipur 40.59% and Surguja- 51.72.

On raising the issue of question of Vastu Shastra on Ram Mandir by Ramgopal Yadav, CM Sai said that all these are anti-Ram and they say anything wayward. He even refused the invitation for Ramlala's consecration and then what else can be expected from him.

## Dy. CM Sao casts vote in Bilaspur, setting civic participation example

**BILASPUR:** Dy. Chief Minister Arun Sao exercised his franchise along with his family members in Bilaspur at Shepherd School polling centre at 9:00 am today and fulfilled his responsibility towards the major festival of democracy. The people started going out for voting since morning hours.

Dy. CM Arun Sao after the polling informed that

### HIGHLIGHT

• This enthusiasm is in favour of the government. In the country there is pro-incumbency being felt all over.

• They are making their contribution in making India a developed nation.

there is long queue for polling outside the polling centres and people are enthusiastically coming out to exercise their votes. This enthusiasm is in favour of the government. In the country there is pro-incumbency being felt all over and people are voting intensively to make Narendra Modi as the PM for the third time.

## DFO office sealed by court order for not paying compensation

Central Chronicle News

The compensation amount was not being given by the department citing writing a letter to the government and going to the High Court.

**JAGDALPUR:** The office of Bastar Forest Divisional Officer has been sealed by the Court of District and Sessions Judge. In fact, in the year 2021, a villager named Kamal Kashyap had an accident with a forest department vehicle in Bhanpuri area. Kamal Kashyap died in this accident. The deceased wife was the sole heir of the two children and parents. In the year 2023, the court ordered to pay an amount of Rs 1 crore 84 lakh to Chhattisgarh government and Bastar forest division officer.

But the compensation amount was not being given by the department citing writing a letter to the government and going to the High Court. Finally, on 06 May 2024, the Jagdalpur Court expressed strong objection to this and issued an order to seal and confiscate the DFO office.

Court employees reached the DFO office late on Monday evening and the main working offices were sealed.

According to the

victim's lawyer Nitin Jain, the Forest Department was continuously showing reluctance in giving the amount and kept on holding departmental discussions but kept procrastinating in giving the amount. Sometimes the code of conduct was used as an excuse and sometimes the argument of going to the High Court was given. Expressing displeasure over this, Jagdalpur Court sealed the office. Now the vic-

### FASTFACTS

• According to the victim's lawyer Nitin Jain, the Forest Dept was continuously showing reluctance in giving the amount.

• Finally, on 06 May 2024, the Jagdalpur Court expressed strong objection to this.

tim's family will be compensated by selling the office contents.

DFO Uttam Kumar Gupta says that the court had given time till May 9. But the office was sealed 3 days ago and we have written a letter to the government. Because the code of conduct will remain effective till June 4, nothing can be done in the matter till then. However, we have corresponded with the government to allocate funds.

### NEWSLINE

#### PROHIBITED

**Use of draft animals is prohibited**



**JAGDALPUR:** There is a possibility of the temperature in the district being more than 37 Degrees Celsius every day from 12 noon to 3 pm in the month of May and June. During this period, placing materials on draft animals or transporting them may cause the animals to fall ill or die. Keeping this in view, the Collector Vijay Dayaram K has directed to impose ban on it, according to the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, Transportation and Prevention of Cruelty to Agricultural Animals Rules, 1965. This is applicable within the limits of Bastar district, all the means of transportation with the help of animals in which the work of carrying load or transportation of passengers is done.

#### ELECTROCUTED

**Young man died due to electric shock in Lalbagh**

**JAGDALPUR:** Youth Pintu Choudhary, a resident of Lalbagh under Kotwali police station area of the district, was taken to Maharani Hospital in a critical condition due to electric shock, where doctors declared him dead. On Monday, the body has been handed over to the family after post-mortem. According to the information received from the police, Pintu Choudhary, resident of Lalbagh Amaguda, S/o Ramu Choudhary, aged 40 years, during a family dispute in the house, Pintu's brother-in-law picked up the table fan in the house and threw it away. As soon as Pintu picked up the fan, it fell down. Due to the back part being open, he got electrocuted.

#### POLLING

**Polling underway at 242 centers as voters exercise democratic right**



**GAURELA:** In the third leg of polling in GPM district, polling in 306 polling centers is in progress since morning. From the law & order point of view, it comes under a sensitive polling center and a low network zone as well. In order to ensure peaceful, free & fair elections, 6 companies of CRPF and 5 companies of SSB have been deployed. In 64 polling centres of Bilaspur Lok Sabha and 242 polling centres of Korba Lok Sabha, a total of 76 teams of para-military forces have been deployed at the centers.

## ASP takes meeting with villagers to maintain peace

Central Chronicle News

About two hundred people of the village including Sarpanch and Panch public representative were present.

**JAGDLPUR:** The incident of murder had taken place two days ago in village Pakhanar of Kapanar out-post of Darbha police station of the district. After which, as per the instructions of Superintendent of Police Shalabh Sinha, to maintain law and order and peace, in the presence of Additional Superintendent of Police Maheshwar Nag, Sub-Divisional Officer Revenue Tokapal Subrata Pradhan, Sub-Divisional Officer Police Keslur Vishwa Deepak Tripathi, Police Station Incharge Darbha Keshari Sahu Out-post Incharge Pakhanar Piyush Baghel.

Today a meeting was organized in village Kap-

anar with the people of nearby villages. In which about two hundred people of the village including Sarpanch and Panch public representative were present. Everyone has given their consent to maintain peace in the village and has been asked to inform the police of any untoward situation.

In the meeting, Additional Superintendent of Police Maheshwar Nag directed the villagers to maintain law and order and peace and harmonious environment. He said that it is the responsibility of all of us to maintain peace and order in the village. Everyone should work together to earn a living in a peaceful environment and maintain peace and order. Do not get influenced by any kind of provocation or mischief. Do not take any such wrong action or wrong step otherwise strict punitive action will be taken.

## Bemetara MLA Deepesh Sahu cast his vote

**BEMETARA:** MLA Deepesh Sahu today waited for his turn in Ward No. 05 Model Polling Center, Boys High School Booth No. 13, waited for his turn and then voted. After this, he went to the selfie booth organized by the Election Commission and got his photo clicked. Along with this, Deepesh Sahu appealed to the people to participate enthusiastically in this great festival of democracy, they have appealed to vote as much as possible.

During this, MLA Deepesh Sahu, while talking to the media, said that on June 4, the result will cross 400 and all the voters of the state will vote. 11 seats will go to the Bharatiya Janata Party and claimed to be in the center again for the third time. On this occasion, former Municipality President Vijay Sinha, Rakesh Mohan Sharma, Monty Sahu Mandal President, Parmeshwar Sahu, were present.

## IRSM Football Tournery -24 kicked off at NTPC Sipat

Central Chronicle News

The ceremony commenced with a ceremonial ribbon cutting and a vibrant display of Chhattisgarhi heritage by the Gedi Dance group.

**SIPAT:** The IRSM Football Tournament 2024 kicked off on May 5, 2024, at Dr. B. R Ambedkar Stadium, NTPC Sipat. Five teams from Western Region-II gathered to exhibit their prowess over five thrilling days, promising spectators a riveting showcase of talent and sportsmanship.

The ceremony commenced with a ceremonial ribbon cutting and a vibrant display of Chhattisgarhi heritage by the Gedi Dance group, who escorted the esteemed guests to the venue. The lively



The IRSM Football Tournament 2024 kicked off on May 5.

### FASTFACTS

• The unveiling of the champion's cup and the ceremonial release of balloons marked the official opening.

inaugural ceremony, graced by V. K. Pandey, BUH, NTPC Sipat, and Sadhna Pandey, President, Sangwari Mahila

Samiti, alongside Sarit Maheshwari, BUH, NTPC Korba, and Rakhi Maheshwari, President, Maitri Mahila Samiti, set the tone for an unforgettable event. Shri. Surojit Sinha, GM(Operation) & President(Sports Council), GMs, HoDs, Members of Sangwari Mahila Samiti and Unions and Associations and families remained present.

The unveiling of the champion's cup and the ceremonial release of balloons marked the official opening, declared by BUH, NTPC Sipat.

In the opening matches Sipat Strikers emerged victorious against Korba Kings with 3-1 and Gadarwara Gladiators defeated Lara Lions with 3-1 to secure their first win.

### LOK SABHA ELECTIONS

## More than 60 percent voting on average in Bemetara district

Central Chronicle News

**BEMETARA:** Voting for Durg Lok Sabha constituency took place on Tuesday 7 May in the third phase of Lok Sabha elections. On an average, more than 60 percent voters exercised their franchise in Bemetara district. A total of 750 polling stations were set up for voting. Voting started at 7 am, in most of the centers there were long queues in the polling

stations in the morning, but as the sun got brighter the voting percentage slowed down. There was a surge once again in the evening.

According to the information received from the District Election Office, a total of 58.26 percent voting had taken place till 3 pm in Bemetara district. Which includes 57.58 male and 57.48 female voters. Whereas till 1 pm the total voting percentage was 45.55%.



In the initial phase till 11 am, total voting was 11.03 percent. The total number of voters in the district is 6.68 lakh. Out of which total 59.42 percent voting in Bemetara assembly constituency, total 56.91 percent voting in Saja assembly constituency and total 58.46 percent voting in Navagarh assembly constituency is reported till 3 pm.

Major political parties had set up pandals outside the polling sta-



**A total of 58.26 percent voting had taken place till 3 pm in Bemetra district.**

DEO

Bemetara



## QUOTE FROM THE QUOTABLE

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

[ Dr APJ Abdul Kalam ]

## OUR VIEW |

## The World is keeping an eye on LS polls in India

The Lok Sabha elections in India have become a special event for the rest of the world. There has been a big reaction from America regarding the Lok Sabha elections being held in India. US State Department has commented that America wants strong relations with India. Same is the case is with most of the other countries also. In fact, the whole world is keeping an eye on the general elections taking place in India. Meanwhile, a big diplomatic development has taken place in the USA, as the American Government has said that it is not going to send any election observer to India. America wants strong relations with India. For the last 75 years, India has been conducting elections as the largest democratic country in the world. The Lok Sabha elections starting in India are the largest in the world. This year election will create another history of the biggest democratic elections. The people of India will elect a new government in the second week of June. As America has been sending envoy previously, it will not be sending any observer this time round. US assistant Press Secretary Vedant Patel has also made it clear saying that amid the ongoing Lok Sabha elections in India USA government is not sending any election observer there. The US foreign side also said that it is eager to strengthen its cooperation with partners in India. We generally do not do this in the case of elections in advanced democratic countries like India. With such a development it is quite apparent that the India's position in the World map seems to have become stronger, as the World is now seeing with a hope that India will now play a larger role in the international relationship among different countries. Apart from USA, a delegation from as many as forty countries is touring India at the moment, to study the elections in different states. The delegation has so far expressed satisfaction over the way entire political contest is going on. With Election Commission ensuring free and fair polls, in the country, this year polls are definitely going to make a history of sorts for the rest of the World.

## GUEST VIEW |

## Fostering peace: World Red Cross & Red Crescent Day

The Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement assists people globally, boasting millions of volunteers, members, and staff spanning nearly every nation. Their invaluable aid extends to emergencies, conflicts, and disasters, often at personal risk. World Red Cross Day, observed annually on May 8th, underscores the fundamental principles of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement: humanity, impartiality, and unity. It reminds us to prioritize compassion and solidarity, fostering global unity during times of crisis. This occasion also pays tribute to Henry Dunant's birth, honoring the tireless efforts of millions of volunteers dedicated to easing human suffering. The Red Cross's job is to make life better for people who are suffering. Even with all the challenges in the world today, like natural disasters and conflicts, Red Cross volunteers work hard to bring peace and help where it's needed most. On World Red Cross Day, people do lots of things to celebrate and raise awareness. They donate blood, raise money, and do community projects to help others. These activities show how important volunteers are and encourage more people to get involved.



Dr. Krishna Kumar Vepakomma

# Comment

## World Red Cross Day: Celebration of Humanity's Noblest Ideals

Every year, on the 8th of May, a profound sense of unity resonates across the globe as people come together to commemorate World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day. This significant occasion serves as a testament to the enduring principles of compassion, solidarity, and service that form the cornerstone of the International Red Cross Movement. It is a day to reflect on the remarkable legacy of Henry Dunant, whose visionary leadership laid the foundation for one of the world's most esteemed humanitarian organizations.

Henry Dunant's journey began in the midst of chaos and devastation. Witnessing the horrors of the Battle of Solferino in 1859, he was moved by compassion and a deep sense of empathy for the suffering of wounded soldiers. This pivotal moment sparked a revolution in humanitarian action, leading Dunant to establish the International Committee of the Red Cross and pave the way for the Geneva Conventions. His tireless advocacy for the

rights of war victims and his unwavering commitment to the principles of humanity earned him the distinction of being the first recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize.

The theme designated for World Red Cross Day in 2024, "I give with joy, and the joy I give is a reward," encapsulates the essence of altruism and the profound sense of fulfillment that accompanies acts of giving. It serves as a poignant reminder that the true measure of generosity lies not in material wealth but in the joy experienced in uplifting others. As we celebrate this theme, we pay homage to the 97 million staff, volunteers, and members of the Red Cross Movement who tirelessly serve humanity with boundless compassion and dedication.

In an increasingly interconnected world fraught with challenges, the importance of international cooperation and solidarity cannot be overstated. Today, more than ever, the Red Cross Movement plays a vital role in bridging

divides and fostering understanding among nations. It is a beacon of hope in times of crisis, offering solace and support to communities ravaged by conflict, natural disasters, and humanitarian emergencies.

On Henry Dunant's birthday, we are reminded of the enduring significance of his legacy and the timeless values he espoused. The Red Cross Movement stands as a testament to his vision of a world guided by compassion, fairness, and respect for human dignity. On this special day, let us reaffirm our commitment to embodying these noble ideals, extending a hand of friendship and solidarity to those in need.

Despite the passage of time since its inception, the Red Cross Movement remains as relevant and vital as ever. Its global network of volunteers, united by a shared commitment to humanitarian service, serves as a powerful force for positive change in the world. Whether providing lifesaving medical care, distributing essential supplies, or offering

emotional support to those affected by crisis, Red Cross volunteers embody the spirit of selflessness and compassion.

World Red Cross Day is not only a time for reflection but also a call to action. It is a reminder of our collective responsibility to alleviate human suffering and promote peace and reconciliation. As we celebrate this auspicious occasion, let us recommit ourselves to the noble mission of the Red Cross Movement, working tirelessly to build a more just, equitable, and compassionate world for all.

The Red Cross Movement is more than an organization; it is a global community bound together by a shared commitment to humanity. It transcends borders, cultures, and languages, uniting people from all walks of life in a common purpose. As we celebrate World Red Cross Day, let us honor the countless volunteers and humanitarian workers who dedicate their lives to serving others, embodying the highest ideals of compassion, courage, and selflessness.



Dr. ARVIND NERAL

Professor & H.O.D.  
Department of Pathology Pt. J.N.M. Medical College Raipur ( C.G.)

## Revolutionizing AI: GPT-5 and Llama-3

Dive into the forefront of artificial intelligence as we explore the game-changing GPT-5 and pioneering Llama-3 advancements. by Abdul Sadka



GPT-5 and Llama-3 redefine AI capabilities, revolutionizing human-machine interaction."

In recent times, considerable attention has been directed towards the upcoming upgrades to OpenAI's GPT-5 and Meta's Llama-3, both powered by large language models (LLMs). These cutting-edge AI systems, inspired by the intricacies of the human brain, excel in generating text for chatbots and performing various language processing tasks. As the release of these enhanced versions approaches, anticipation mounts regarding the transformative potential they hold for human-machine interaction.

The technology underpinning these systems, known as large language models (LLMs), is rooted in artificial neural networks, designed to mimic the cognitive processes of the human brain. Through an intensive process of training on vast datasets, these AI systems acquire the ability to generate text across a multitude of domains, perform language processing tasks such as classification and translation, and exhibit a nuanced understanding of context and dialogue.

GPT-5, the successor to GPT-4, promises several advancements over its pre-

decessor. Building upon GPT-4's capabilities, GPT-5 retains its ability to comprehend both images and text, facilitating a seamless interaction experience for users. However, where GPT-5 truly shines is in its enhanced multilingual capabilities and improved contextual understanding. Non-English speakers can now communicate more effectively with the system, thanks to its superior language translation capabilities. Furthermore, GPT-5's heightened ability to inter-

pret dialogue nuances and analyze complex datasets enables more sophisticated problem-solving and decision-making. This leap in reasoning capabilities ensures that users receive more accurate and insightful information, making GPT-5 a valuable resource across various domains.

Moreover, GPT-5 boasts a higher level of emotional intelligence, enabling more empathetic interactions with users. This enhanced emotional awareness not only

improves user experience but also opens up new possibilities for applications in fields such as customer service and mental health support. Additionally, GPT-5's improved analytical capabilities allow it to process up to 50,000 words at a time, doubling the capacity of its predecessor, GPT-4. This expanded processing capability makes GPT-5 even better equipped to handle large documents and complex information, further enhancing its utility in diverse contexts.

Furthermore, GPT-5 is expected to exhibit improved compatibility with smart home devices and other IoT (Internet of Things) devices, enabling more seamless integration and interaction. By analyzing and interpreting data generated by these devices, GPT-5 can offer more personalized and contextually relevant responses, enhancing user experience and facilitating smarter living environments.

In terms of security, GPT-5 features more robust protocols to mitigate potential misuse and ensure user privacy and data security. This enhanced security framework not only safeguards against malicious use but also enhances trust and confidence in the system, making it a more reliable and trustworthy resource for users.

On the other hand, Meta's Llama-3 represents a formidable competitor to GPT-5, boasting several notable enhancements over its predecessor, Llama-2. With an impressive 400 billion parameters, Llama-3 surpasses Llama-2 in capacity, enabling it to handle larger and more complex datasets with greater efficiency.

## YOUR LETTERS

## NADA suspends Bajrang Punia

National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) has provisionally suspended Bajrang Punia four-time World Championships medalist and Tokyo bronze winner, for refusing to provide urine samples during recent selection trials. Now his case will be heard by NADA's anti-doping disciplinary panel (ADDP), represented by sports lawyer Vidushpat Singhania. Why was Bajrang Punia taking time off and trying to work for some political outfits, particularly against BJP's Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh. Finally, these political outfits used him and will dump him.

Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee, Faridabad

## Perverting Emails Cause Threat

The recent attempted chaos by sending perverted emails to Delhi and NCR schools failed. It's nearly impossible to plant bombs in over 100 schools simultaneously. Previous threats were hoaxes, and schools and police have grown accustomed to such situations. Schools responded calmly, and parents, though worried, acted responsibly. To deter future incidents, schools and law enforcement must cultivate fearlessness on campus. This will deter bomb "pranksters" from further attempts.

Dr Ganapathi Bhat, Akola

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



Company is targeting to deliver more than 10,000 apartments during 2024-25.

**Abhishek Lodha,**  
MD and CEO, Macrotech  
Developers

## Global Conference 2024



Elon Musk, co-founder of Tesla and SpaceX, speaks with Michael Milken, Chairman at Global Conference 2024 on May 6.

# 'Govt adopted pro-poor approach in GST execution'

In a post on X (formerly Twitter), Sitharaman said without GST, states' revenue from subsumed taxes from FY 2018-19 to 2023-24 would have been Rs 37.5 lakh crore.

Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI:** Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said the government has adopted "a pro-poor approach" while implementing Goods and Services Tax, and despite lower tax rates the revenues as a percentage of GDP have reached the pre-GST level. In a post on X (formerly Twitter), Sitharaman said without GST, states' revenue from sub-

sumed taxes from FY 2018-19 to 2023-24 would have been Rs 37.5 lakh crore. With GST, states' actual revenue amounted to Rs 46.56 lakh crore. "Despite the GST rate being less than the prescribed Revenue Neutral Rate and COVID-19 affecting the revenues, GST collections (as a percentage of GDP) have now reached the levels they were before GST (both net and gross). "This demonstrates that the Centre & States, collec-

NUMBER

37.5

- GST, which was rolled out on July 1, 2017, had subsumed 17 taxes and 13 cesses into a 5-tier structure.

- With GST, states' actual revenue amounted to Rs 46.56 lakh crore.

tively, through better tax administration, are able to collect the same revenue with a lower burden on our taxpayers," she said.

GST, which was rolled out on July 1, 2017, had subsumed 17 taxes and 13 cesses into a 5-tier structure, thereby simplifying the tax regime. The turnover threshold for registration rose to Rs 40 lakh for goods and Rs 20 lakh for services (from Rs 5 lakh on average under VAT).

GST also reduced 495 different submissions (challan, forms, declarations, etc) across states to just 12. Sitharaman in a detailed post on GST talked about the origin of GST and its role in streamlining the indirect tax system. She also penned down how GST has benefitted people through a pro-poor approach, while underscoring its role in promoting cooperative and fiscal federalism.

## BPCL, HPCL to consider bonus share issue this week

**NEW DELHI:** Oil refining and fuel marketing companies Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL) will this week consider issuing bonus shares to their shareholders. In separate filings to the stock exchanges, the two firms said their boards will meet on May 9 to consider and approve the issuance of bonus shares. A bonus issue, also known as a scrip issue or a capitalization issue, is an offer of free additional shares to existing shareholders. It increases a company's outstanding shares but not its market capitalisation. Companies issue bonus shares to make their stock more attractive for retail investors, provide an alternative to a cash dividend, and/or reflect a position of financial health. If approved, this would be the fifth bonus issue by BPCL, the last being in July 2017.

## Jio, Airtel, Vodafone in 96,317 cr spectrum auction

Press Trust Of India

The last auction held in 2022 had the Adani Group firm as a surprise bidder but there is no new name for the upcoming auction.

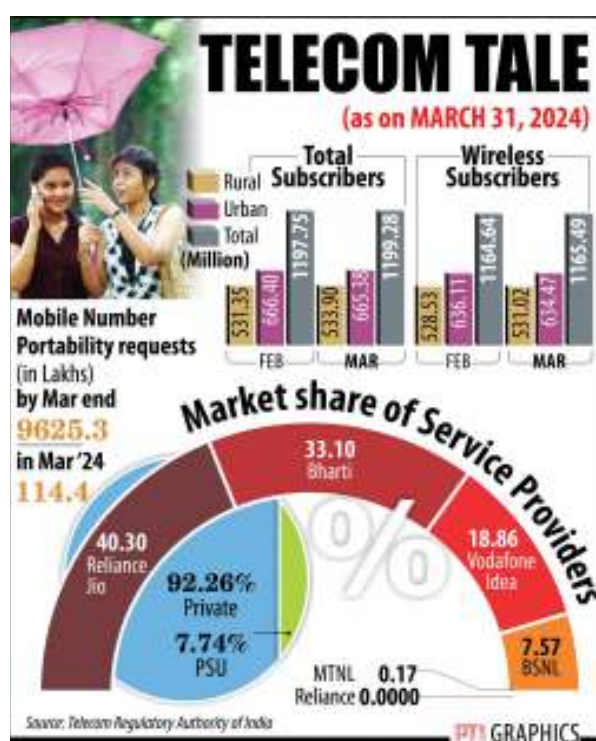
**NEW DELHI:** Telecom operators Reliance Jio, Bharti Airtel, and Vodafone Idea have submitted their application to bid for Rs 96,317-crore spectrum auction, which is scheduled to start from June 6, according to sources. The last auction held in 2022 had the Adani Group firm as a surprise bidder but there is no new name for the upcoming auction. "Reliance Jio, Bharti Airtel, and Vodafone Idea have submitted applications for spectrum auction," an official source said. The government will auction eight spectrum bands for mobile phone services at a base price

of about Rs 96,317 crore. All the available spectrum in the 800 MHz, 900 MHz, 1,800 MHz, 2,100 MHz, 2,300 MHz, 2,500 MHz, 3,300 MHz, and 26 GHz bands are part of the auction. The total frequencies being put under the hammer are valued at Rs 96,317 crore on base price. The spectrum will be assigned for 20 years and successful bidders will be allowed

FACTFILE

- The government will auction eight spectrum bands for mobile phone services at a base price of about Rs 96,317 crore

to make payments in 20 equal annual instalments. The DoT has provided an option to surrender the spectrum acquired through the upcoming



auction after a minimum period of 10 years. The DoT will publish ownership details of the applicants on May 10. The last

date for withdrawal of applications is May 17, and the final list of bidders is scheduled to be declared on May 20.

## BizBriefs

BEST OF THE REST

### Q4 RESULTS

## ArcelorMittal Q1 net income falls 10 pc to USD 900 million

**NEW DELHI:** Global steel giant ArcelorMittal posted 10 per cent fall in net income at USD 900 million for the first quarter ended March 31, 2024. It had posted a net income of USD 1 billion for the year-ago quarter, the company said in a statement.

Luxembourg-based ArcelorMittal is the world's largest integrated steel and mining company. It follows January-December fiscal year.

The company said it had a "net debt of USD 4.8 billion at the end of the quarter compared to a net debt of USD 2.9 billion on December 31, 2023. Over the past 12 months net debt has declined by USD 0.4 billion despite strategic growth capex investments of USD 1.6 billion and returns to shareholders totalling USD 1.7 billion." Capex in Q1 2024 includes USD 400 million on strategic growth projects, which are estimated to add approximately USD 1.8 billion to the company's EBITDA by the end of 2026. **PTI**

### INDICATORS

#### Share MARKETS

Market	Close	%chg
Sensex	73,511.85	-0.52
Nifty	22,302.50	-0.62
Nifty MidCap	49,674.45	-1.95
Nifty SmallCap	16,367.05	-1.89
Nifty Bank	48,285.35	-1.25

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

#### Forex RATES

##### Foreign currency Vs Rupee

US Dollar	83.48
Euro	89.97
Chinese Yuan	11.56
UAE Dirham	22.73
Pakistan Rupee	0.30
Sri Lanka Rupee	0.27

On May 7, 2024

#### World INDICES

Stock	Value	% chg
Dow Jones (US)	38,825.27	+0.46
FTSE 100 Index	8,325.67	+1.37
Nikkei 225 (JPN)	38,835.10	+1.57
CSI 300 (CHN)	3,659.01	+0.03

Index at 05:30 p.m. (IST, May 7, 2024)

### How the markets behave today

## Markets settle lower; HDFC Bank, Reliance, ICICI Bank major drags



**MUMBAI:** Equity benchmark indices declined on Tuesday dragged by HDFC Bank, Reliance Industries and ICICI Bank amid concerns over rich valuation of equities. Paring all its early gains, the 30-share BSE Sensex went lower by 383.69 points or 0.52 per cent to settle at 73,511.85. During the day, it tanked 636.28 points or 0.86 per cent to 73,259.26. The NSE Nifty declined 140.20 points or 0.62 per cent to 22,302.50.

In Asian markets, Seoul, Tokyo and Shanghai settled with gains while Hong Kong ended lower. European markets

were trading higher. Wall Street ended in the green on Monday. Global oil benchmark Brent crude climbed 0.23 per cent to USD 83.51 a barrel. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 2,168.75 crore on Monday, according to exchange data.

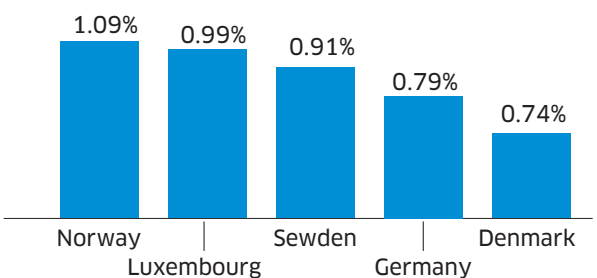
Major Gainers: Hindustan Unilever, Tech Mahindra, Nestle, ITC, Wipro, TCS and Kotak Mahindra Bank.

Major Losers: Power Grid, IndusInd Bank, Tata Motors, JSW Steel, NTPC, HCL Tech, Tata Steel, ICICI Bank, M&M, Axis Bank, HDFC Bank and Reliance Industries. **PTI**

### The Day's NUMBERS

#### ONLY FIVE OECD COUNTRIES HIT DEVELOPMENT AID TARGET

OECD countries with highest share of gross national income spent on official development assistance in 2023.



### HEALTHCARE

## More than 50% patients face delay in discharge due to mediclaim: Study

**NEW DELHI:** A new study from healthcare provider Pristyn Care found that 5 out of 10 patients face delays in discharge due to the time taken to process medical insurance claims. To alleviate the hassle experienced by health insurance policyholders, the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) is likely to introduce a 100% cashless hospital network that will include both empanelled and non-empanelled hospitals. According to PwC, the use of AI and ML in claims processing can reduce processing time by upto 90%, a report said. Commenting on the findings, Dr. Vaibhav Kapoor, Co-founder of Pristyn Care, said, "There is a huge gap between the intended ease of cashless health insurance and the reality experienced by policyholders. Despite 75% of survey respondents having cashless insurance, a significant number still face challenges during the claim process.

### RICE EXPORT

## India to export 14,000 tonnes of non-basmati white rice to Mauritius



**NEW DELHI:** The government on Monday permitted exports of 14,000 tonnes of non-basmati white rice to Mauritius. The export is permitted through National Cooperative Exports Limited (NCEL), the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) said in a notification. Though exports of non-basmati white rice have been banned since July 20, 2023 to boost domestic supply, exports are allowed on the basis of permission granted by the government to certain countries to meet their food security needs on request. "Export of 14,000 MT of non-basmati white rice to Mauritius has been permitted through NCEL," it said. **PTI**

### TRADING HOURS

## Sebi rejects NSE's proposal to extend trading hours

Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI:** Capital markets regulator Sebi has rejected a proposal by the National Stock Exchange (NSE) to extend the trading hours in the equity derivatives segment citing a lack of feedback from the stock brokers community. "Currently, there is no plan to extend the timings as Sebi has returned our applica-

tion as the stock brokers have not given the feedback that Sebi wanted. So, as of now, the extended time frame (plan) is shelved," NSE MD and CEO Ashishkumar Chauhan said in a post-earnings analysts call. This came after the NSE had urged Sebi to extend trading hours in the equity derivatives segment in a phased manner. This was aimed at potentially cur-



tailoring the overnight risk arising from global information flow. Sriram Krishnan, Chief Business Development Officer of NSE, had told PTI in September that the bourse was planning a session from 6 pm to 9 pm after a break from the closure of the regular session from 9.15 am to 3.30 pm. Based on the response, a gradual extension of the market timing till 11.55 pm

was proposed on the lines of commodity derivatives. To begin with, only index derivatives in phase 1 were proposed to be available followed by single stock options and others. In 2018, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) allowed stock exchanges to set their trading hours in the equity derivatives segment between 9 am and 11.50 pm.



Chandrababu using BJP to stall welfare schemes.  
Jagan Mohan Reddy  
YSR Congress Chief

## Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

**ALLEGATION**  
**BJP, Congress attack Kerala CM Pinarayi Vijayan over foreign trip**

**THIRUVANANTHAPURAM:** A day after Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan embarked on his journey to various foreign destinations, the BJP and Congress intensified their attack against the CM on Tuesday and sought answers on whether it was a sponsored trip.

The parties urged Vijayan to disclose his source of income for the international tour; in addition, Congress alleged that the Chief Minister was evading his responsibilities when a crucial general election is progressing in the country and the state has been reeling under an acute financial crunch. The saffron party wanted to know who the sponsor of the trip was and why CM Vijayan and his son-in-law and Public Works Minister P A Mohammed Riyas didn't hand over their official responsibilities to anyone. **PTI**

**EXCELLENCE**  
**Bethany Convent celebrates outstanding ICSE class 10 results**



**PARADIP:** In a remarkable display of academic excellence, Bethany Convent School, Paradip, has achieved a 100% pass rate in the ICSE Class 10 examinations. All 76 students who appeared for the exam have cleared it with flying colors. Amongst, M.D.Sahil secured the highest percentage of 98.2. The school is beaming with pride as 71 students secured first division, showcasing the dedication and hard work put in by both students and teachers. **PTI**

### Fire Safety Week

**Passengers and railway staff get information on fire extinguishing equipment and develop awareness**



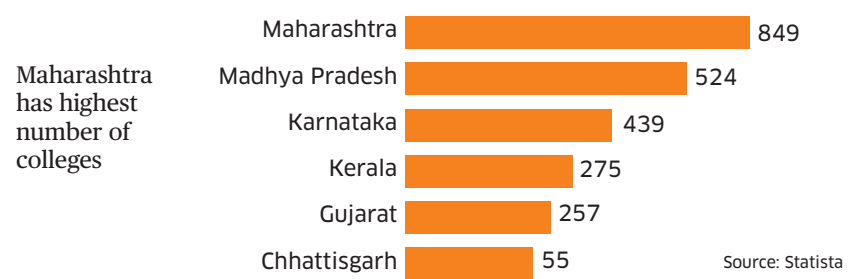
**BILASPUR:** As per the directives issued by the Railway Board, a fire safety week is being observed in all trains passing through the Bilaspur Division from May 1 to May 7, 2024. Passenger safety is the top priority of the railway. The Fire Safety Awareness Week reaffirms the commitment to creating a safe travel environment. Its main objective is to make passengers aware of the importance of fire safety during train travel and to reduce the risks of fire incidents through awareness campaigns.

In this regard, the Bilaspur Division is conducting awareness campaigns at the division's major railway stations

and on all trains passing through the division at the departmental level for fire prevention. Fire safety checks are being conducted in pantries and coaches. Additionally, checks on smoking, availability, and validity of fire extinguishing equipment are also being carried out in trains. Passengers are being informed about the importance of fire safety during train travel, and awareness is being raised against traveling with flammable items. Through announcement systems, passengers are being urged not to carry prohibited items onto trains. Furthermore, frontline railway employees are undergoing training campaigns. **PTI**

### The Day's NUMBERS

### ENGINEERING COLLEGES IN INDIA (AS ON 2023)



**CRIME**  
**15-year-old girl gang-raped in Palghar by two men she befriended**

**PALGHAR:** A 15-year-old girl was allegedly gang-raped by two men she befriended on social media in Maharashtra's Palghar district, police said on Tuesday. The district rural police on Monday arrested the accused from Talasari under section 376 (rape) and other relevant provisions of the Indian Penal Code and Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, an official said. Both men are in their mid-20s, the official said. One of the accused befriended the victim on Instagram, and on April 30, he took her to his house, where he raped her, he said. On May 4, the two accused repeatedly raped the girl at different locations, the official said. The duo had used fake names to identify themselves, but based on intelligence and technical inputs, the police zeroed in on them, he said. The accused have been remanded to police custody till May 9, and further probe is underway, the official said. **PTI**

**PASSENGER CONVENIENCE**  
**Extension of QR code facility for online payment at rly stations**



**BILASPUR:** To encourage digital ticketing mode, promote self-ticketing, and relieve passengers from the hassle of lining up for tickets, the Railway Administration has provided the facility of ATMs and UTS mobile app at stations.

In this series, with the aim of relieving passengers purchasing unreserved tickets from ticket counters from the hassle of change and further promoting digital payment, the QR code facility for ticket payment was practically made available at ticket counter number 07 of Bilaspur station. **PTI**

# 'Educate minors on 'virtual touch' and its dangers'

HC's observations came while dismissing a bail plea by a woman, Kamlesh Devi, accused of helping her son in sexually assaulting a minor girl after kidnapping her.

Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI:** Teaching minors about 'good touch' and 'bad touch' is not enough in today's virtual world and children must be educated on the emerging concept of 'virtual touch' and its potential dangers, the Delhi High Court has said.

This involves teaching them appropriate online behaviour, recognising warning signs of predatory behaviour and understanding the importance of privacy settings and online boundaries.

"This court is constrained to note that in today's virtual modern world where virtual space

has also become a breeding ground of alleged virtual affections between teenagers, they are not equipped to deal with the potential dangers of human trafficking for prostitution and other side of crimes which exists in the virtual world," Justice Swarana Kanta Sharma said on Monday. The high court's observations came while dismissing a bail plea by a woman, Kamlesh Devi, accused of helping her son in sexually assaulting a minor girl after kidnapping her and forcing her into prostitution.

The 16-year-old was allegedly kidnapped by Rajiv who befriended her on social media and

### HIGHLIGHT

• Teach children to develop critical thinking skills.

• Need of the hour is to send a message to stakeholders.

kidnapped her when she came to meet him. The girl was taken to Madhya Pradesh and confined there for several days. She was allegedly sexually assaulted by the man and others.

It was also alleged that the girl was forced to marry a 45-year-old man in exchange for money. The teen alleged that the accused persons would

bring various men to the premises where she was confined and she was forced to present herself to these men for sexual gratification.

"Traditionally, efforts to protect minors from harm have focused on teaching them about 'good touch' and 'bad touch' in the physical realm. However, in today's virtual world, it is crucial to extend this education to encompass the concept of 'virtual touch'. Minors must be equipped with the knowledge and tools to navigate online interactions safely and recognise potential risks lurking in cyberspace," the court said. It added that just as children

are taught to exercise caution in the physical world, efforts must be made to teach them to develop critical thinking skills to assess the credibility of online contacts and safeguard their personal information. "Moreover, parents, guardians and educators play a crucial role in fostering digital literacy and promoting responsible online conduct among minors. By fostering open communication channels and providing guidance on navigating the digital landscape, adults can empower children to make informed decisions and protect themselves from online threats," the court said.

## Man stabbed to death over personal enmity

**MUMBAI:** A 27-year-old man was killed and his friend injured in a knife attack outside a polling booth in Maharashtra's Dharashiv district, where polling is underway in the third phase of the general election on Tuesday, police said.

The attack was due to personal enmity and had nothing to do with the elections, an official said.

The incident occurred outside the polling booth in Patsangvi village of Bhoom tehsil around 11.30 am, he said.

The victim, Samadhan Nanasaheb Pawar, and his friend were standing outside the polling booth when they were attacked by the accused, Gaurav alias Lalya Naiknavare, he said. Pawar sustained serious injuries in the attack, he said. Pawar was rushed to a private hospital in Barshi, where he succumbed to injuries.

# ED arrests min's secretary, latter's domestic help

Press Trust Of India

The duo were taken into custody under the provisions of the PMLA following their overnight questioning.

**RANCHI:** The Enforcement Directorate (ED) arrested Jharkhand minister Alamgir Alam's personal secretary Sanjiv Lal and the latter's domestic help on Tuesday following a recovery of more than Rs 32 crore in cash from a flat linked to them, official sources said.

The duo were taken into custody under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) following their overnight questioning, the sources said.

They said the two did not co-operate in the



Massive cash unveiled in raids.

### FACTFILE

• Total cash recovery stands at Rs 35.23 crore.

investigation and were "evasive" to the questions asked by the ED officials.

As part of a money-laundering investiga-

tion into alleged irregularities in the state rural development department, the ED on Monday raided a two-bedroom flat in Ranchi that was allegedly occupied by Lal's domestic help, Jehangir Alam.

The agency unearthed more than Rs 32 crore in cash from the flat located

at the Gadikhana chowk, apart from Rs 3 crore from some other premises that were searched.

The total cash recovery stands at Rs 35.23 crore, the sources said.

Jharkhand Rural Development Minister Alam (of the Congress) has denied any wrongdoing on his part.

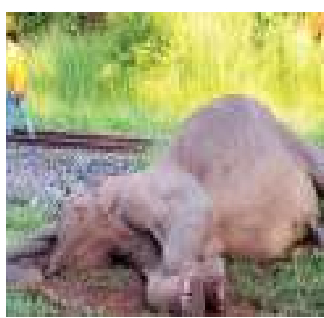
### MISHAP

## Female jumbo hit by train, dies

Press Trust Of India

**PALAKKAD:** An adult female wild elephant died late on Monday night near Kanjikode here after being hit by a train making it the second such incident within a month in the district.

Kerala Forest Minister A K Saseendran on Tuesday said that preliminary investiga-



tion suggests that the train exceeded the stipulated speed limit in that area and therefore, a case under relevant provisions of the Wildlife Act was lodged against the loco pilot. Earlier in the day, a senior forest official said that the stipulated speed limit in the area was 45 kilometers per hour (kmph).

## Classifieds

**किराये पर चाहिए**  
हासकीय, उद्योगिकीय  
ऑफिस हेतु फोर व्हीलर  
गाडी इन्वोवा, बुलेरो,  
रिविस्ट, स्कोटा अन्य  
माडिमेंटो की जरूरत है,  
जो कि मंथली किराया  
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"A comic was mimicking me in exceptionally poor taste... I expect this from trolls and faceless and nameless people but when your own industry can disrespect."

**Karan Johar**  
Director



# & Finally

CLOSE UP

## OTT Watch



### Manoj Bajpayee begins 'Family Man' S3

Manoj Bajpayee begins filming 'The Family Man' Season 3 directed by Raj & DK. Reprising his role as Srikanth Tiwari, the spy, the series also features Priyamani, Sharad Kelkar, and Samantha Ruth Prabhu.



### The Second Act teaser is out

Quentin Dupieux's 'The Second Act' Teaser: Léa Seydoux, Louis Garrel, Vincent Lindon star in a quirky French comedy premiering at Cannes 2024, introducing a hilarious tale of love, misadventure, and unexpected twists.



### Savi teaser is trending

Savi starrer Anil Kapoor, Divya Khosla Kumar, Harshvardhan Rane star in Abhinav Deo's thrilling movie's teaser reveals gripping plot with high-security prison break. Produced by Mukesh Bhatt, Bhushan Kumar, Krishan Kumar. Hits theatres on May 31, 2024.



### Humare Baarah: title change

Title change alert! 'Hum Do Humara Baarah' now 'Humare Baarah', starring Annu Kapoor and Parth Samthaan. It is Produced by Ravi S. Gupta and Birender Bhagat and releasing on June 7 by Viacom18 Studios.



### 8 AM Metro, ott release

Gulshan Devaiah and Saiyami Kher's much-anticipated film '8 AM Metro' is set for its OTT release on May 10, 2024, exclusively on Zee5. Don't miss the intriguing tale of Preetam and Iravati!

## Crew's success - Kareena Kapoor Khan's reflection on breaking box office norms

Recently, Kareena Kapoor Khan appeared in the film "Crew" alongside Tabu and Kriti Sanon. During a recent interview, the actress discussed the movie's success at the box office.

Central Chronicle News

**Kareena Kapoor, who played the role of Jasmine Kohli in Crew spoke about how women too can lead the film and the box office.**

Kareena Kapoor Khan, reflecting on her recent hit film "Crew," alongside Tabu and Kriti Sanon, expressed joy over its box office triumph. She emphasized how the movie shattered norms, proving that women-led projects could also dominate the box office. Kareena, portraying Jasmine Kohli in the film, highlighted its business of over Rs 150 crore, underscoring the evolving landscape of gender bias in cinema. In an interview with PTI, Kareena Kapoor Khan said that she is happy as Crew broke the box office norms and proved that women-led films can also be a box office hit. She said, "It's not about whether it's a hero or a heroine taking on a film. It's a person and (their) performance that takes the film and content (forward). We are going to keep trying to do that. I will always choose roles that are interesting but in the form of entertainment.



Kareena Kapoor Khan talks about her film 'Crew's success



**Kareena Kapoor praises crew's box office impact**  
Kareena's "Crew" not only entertains but also challenges stereotypes, showcasing women's prowess in the industry. Directed by Rajesh A Krishnan and backed by an impressive production team, the film

blends comedy and drama while boasting a stellar cast, including Diljit Dosanjh and Kapil Sharma. As Kareena gears up for "Singham Again," her success in "Crew" reinforces the narrative of inclusivity and empowerment in Bollywood.

| HOLLYWOOD |

## Beyond beauty: Kate Beckinsale's bold stand against ageism and unwanted scrutiny

Central Chronicle News

Actress Kate Beckinsale has boldly spoken out against the relentless scrutiny surrounding her appearance, particularly the incessant speculation about cosmetic procedures. In a candid Instagram post, she expressed her exhaustion with the persistent questioning and unveiled the truth behind her youthful glow. Sharing contrasting videos spanning two decades, Beckinsale eloquently addressed the unfounded accusations of cosmetic enhancements, emphasizing the damaging impact of such scrutiny on men-



tal well-being. Despite vehemently denying undergoing any surgical procedures, she continues to face unwarranted criticism, primarily from other women. Refusing to succumb to societal pressures, the 50-year-old actress courageously confronts ageism and

advocates for self-acceptance. Beckinsale candidly recounts her personal struggles with anxiety and the profound perspective gained from overcoming adversity, challenging the notion that aging is synonymous with decline. In a poignant reflection

HIGHLIGHT

Actress Kate Beckinsale expressed her exhaustion from constant inquiries about cosmetic procedures, citing feeling "bullied" for her youthful appearance.

on her journey, Beckinsale celebrates her evolution while debunking misconceptions about her appearance. From youthful innocence to seasoned wisdom, she embraces the natural progression of life, rejecting the narrow confines of conventional beauty standards.

## CineBriefs

BEST OF THE REST

BOLLYWOOD

### Bison Kaalamaan shoot commences with Dhruv Vikram

Mari Selvaraj's much-anticipated film, 'Bison Kaalamaan', starring Dhruv Vikram, has commenced filming. With a collaboration between Applause Entertainment and Neelam Studios, the movie promises a compelling narrative. An ensemble cast and a talented crew, including music composer Nivas K Prasanna and cinematographer Ezhil Arasu K, ensure an immersive cinematic experience. As excitement builds, fans eagerly anticipate another masterpiece from the dynamic duo of Selvaraj and Ranjith, set to captivate audiences with its poignant storytelling and powerful performances.

WEB SERIES

### "Queen of Tears" | wraps up as top buzzworthy drama

"Queen of Tears" continues its successful streak atop the buzzworthy drama charts, captivating audiences with its compelling storyline and stellar performances. As fans eagerly anticipate each episode, the drama's popularity shows no signs of waning. Meanwhile, "Lovely Runner" and "Chief Detective 1958" also garner acclaim, proving to be formidable contenders in the competitive K-drama landscape. With its gripping narrative and talented cast, "Queen of Tears" remains a force to be reckoned with in the realm of Korean television.

## THE BOLLYWOOD HOT PAIR

### Aditya Roy Kapur, Ananya Panday split after nearly two years: report



Aditya Roy Kapur and Ananya Panday ended their relationship nearly a month ago, surprising many, as they seemed "quite strong." Ananya is reportedly trying to move on, while Aditya is handling the situation maturely. The breakup came after almost two years of dating. Ananya's recent cryptic Instagram post

fueled speculation about their split. Last year, the couple made headlines with their vacation pictures. Ananya had jokingly referred to herself as "Ananya Coy Kapur" on a talk show. Regarding her personal life, Ananya stated, "As actors, we signed up for it... I can only control whatever is in my power."

FASHION

### Manushi Chhillar dazzles in glamorous gown and fur cape ensemble

Manushi Chhillar, known for her impeccable fashion sense, dazzled in an exquisite off-shoulder gown adorned with fur and delicate embroidery. Her recent Instagram post showcased her glamorous ensemble, leaving followers awestruck. Styled by celebrity fashionista Sheefa Gilani, Manushi paired the gown with a fur cape, diamond accessories, and a chic messy bun, exuding elegance effortlessly.



## Trending on Insta



@kajol

### Kajol's shared her hilarious mishaps on Instagram

Kajol marks World Laughter Day with a light-hearted tribute, sharing a compilation of her on-set mishaps and bloopers from her career on Instagram.

@kartikaaryan

### Kartik Aaryan's heartwarming moment with beloved pet katori

Kartik Aaryan shares heartwarming video with pet Katori on Instagram, showcasing their adorable bond. The actor melts hearts as Katori showers him with love and kisses.



"I prefer Indian (wear) because it is very comfortable for the summers. Just wear a nice Lucknowikurti with jeans and juttis. I love it."

**Mannara Chopra**  
Actress



# Bella



The Anti-Bride trend redefines wedding customs and encouraging couples celebrate their big day break free

CHILDREN DREAM ROOM

## Embodying the anti-bride trend: A modern twist on wedding celebrations

Modern couples are saying 'yes' to personal touches and 'no' to traditional expectations.

Delve into the captivating shift in wedding traditions with the Anti-Bride trend, a movement reshaping matrimonial celebrations with authenticity and individuality. Widely found across social media platforms and wedding forums, this trend champions unique love stories and challenges conventional norms. Reflecting on the significance of this movement, we explore the evolving landscape of wedding celebrations. The Anti-Bride trend offers couples the freedom to express themselves authentically, from unconventional attire choices to personalized rituals, infusing weddings with a refreshing twist of



originality. Intriguingly, this trend encourages brides and grooms to explore non-traditional attire options, breaking away from the confines of heavy bridal lehengas to embrace lighter, unexpected hues or even contemporary alternatives like jumpsuits and pant-suits. Moreover, the Anti-Bride ethos extends to curated

**HIGHLIGHT**

● Explore these expert insights to fully embrace the Anti-Bride ethos and craft a wedding celebration that authentically mirrors your distinct love narrative.



guest lists, where intimate gatherings take precedence over obligatory invites, allowing couples to share their special day with those who truly matter. Furthermore, couples are encouraged to choose unusual venues that hold personal significance, fostering a deeper connection to their wedding day. From rooftop bars to childhood homes, these unique settings enhance the overall experience, making the celebration truly memorable. With an emphasis on sustainability and repurposed materials, the Anti-Bride trend also promotes eco-consciousness in bridal fashion, offering brides the opportunity to align their values with their wedding attire.

## Unlock the health benefits of mangoes this summer



Indulge in the summer sweetness of mangoes for a myriad of health benefits. Low in calories yet high in fiber, they aid in weight loss and digestion. Packed with vitamins C and A, mangoes bolster immunity and enhance skin and eye health. Their potassium content promotes heart health, while tryptophan boosts mood. Antioxidants aid detoxification, supporting weight loss and gut health. So, trade sugary treats for this tropical gem and savor a healthier, happier summer. Incorporate mangoes into your diet and relish the sweetness of vibrant health all season long. With their delicious flavor and nutritional punch, mangoes are the perfect addition to your summer menu, offering both taste and health advantages.

**Myth or Truth: Optimal hydration for digestive health: timing and benefits**

Hydrating at the right times can significantly impact digestion and overall well-being. While drinking water immediately before meals is believed to aid digestion, it's best to hydrate 30 minutes prior to eating to stimulate enzyme production and promote satiety. Sipping water during meals supports

digestion and nutrient absorption, but excessive consumption can dilute digestive juices. Post-meal hydration should be moderate and delayed by 30-60 minutes to avoid disrupting digestion. Proper hydration also plays a crucial role in maintaining the balance of gut bacteria, essential for digestive health.

## DivuDazzle

BEST OF THE REST

Celebs

### Mouni Roy radiates summer elegance in polka-dot maxi dress

Mouni Roy exudes summer chic in an ivory polka-dot maxi dress from Self-portrait. Perfect for casual brunches or romantic dinners, the flowy silhouette and delicate spaghetti straps add a touch of femininity. With its tiered skirt and asymmetrical hemline, the outfit exudes playful elegance. Mouni pairs the dress with classic black heels and a Chanel bag, adding a luxurious touch. Her makeup is simple yet stunning, with glossy lips and Kohl-lined eyes. Whether it's a garden party or a rooftop gathering, Mouni's ensemble is the epitome of summertime sophistication, blending effortless style with contemporary flair.

Achiever

### Indian origin astronaut Sunita Williams set to fly into space again

Indian-origin astronaut Sunita Williams, known for her love for samosas in space, is gearing up for her next cosmic adventure aboard the Boeing Starliner spacecraft. Scheduled to launch from the Kennedy Space Center on May 7, 2024, Williams, a navy test pilot, will make history as the first woman to fly on a maiden mission of a new human-rated spacecraft. With a total of 322 days spent in space across two previous missions, Williams brings experience and excitement to her upcoming journey. Stay tuned as she prepares to embark on this milestone voyage, carrying the blessings of Lord Ganesh with her.

The Inspirors

### Empowering every child: Kareena takes on UNICEF India national ambassador role



Kareena Kapoor Khan, a prominent Bollywood figure, has been appointed as UNICEF India's National Ambassador. Her association with UNICEF dates back to 2014, focusing on issues like girls' education, gender equality, and child health. Expressing her gratitude, Kareena emphasized the importance of providing every child, regardless of gender or background, with essen-

tial rights like safety, education, and health. As a mother of two sons, she underscores the need for children to have a voice and be heard. Kareena advocates for nurturing children's confidence through various activities like sports and arts, recognizing their potential as the future of the nation. She looks forward to continuing her journey with UNICEF, ensuring every child gets a fair chance at life.

Wellness

### Empowering young adults: understanding cholesterol health



The prevalence of high cholesterol levels among young professionals highlights the need for early monitoring and lifestyle adjustments. Accidental discoveries during routine health checks emphasize the silent nature of this condition. With studies showing elevated LDL cholesterol levels in a significant portion of young adults, the importance of proactive screening becomes evident. Starting cholesterol tests at 25, with annual follow-ups for those at risk, lays the foundation for preventive care. Lifestyle modifications, such as dietary changes and weight management, offer initial strategies for those with borderline readings. Incorporating regular physical activity, including daily walks and moderate exercise, can further optimize cholesterol levels.

| FASHION |

## Saree Splendor: Elevating Your Summer Wardrobe with 2024's Must-Have Prints

Central Chronicle News

Step into the realm of fashion-forward elegance with the latest trends shaping the saree scene in 2024. From timeless classics to contemporary chic, this season's must-have prints promise to elevate your summer wardrobe with unparalleled style and sophistication. Embrace the rustic charm of block prints, where traditional meets trendy in a delightful fusion of bold geometric patterns and nature-inspired motifs. Opt for earthy tones like mustard yellow and forest green to infuse your look with a touch of understated



elegance. For those with a penchant for modernity, explore sarees adorned with contemporary prints and abstract designs. Let your individ-

uality shine with vibrant hues and bold graphic motifs, perfect for making a statement at any festive occasion. Indulge in the enchanting allure

of nature-inspired prints, capturing the serene beauty of landscapes and flora in breathtaking detail. Whether in soft pastels or vibrant hues,

**HIGHLIGHT**

Saree fashion trends 2024 transform your summer wardrobe with must have prints.

these sarees offer a timeless elegance that resonates with the splendor of the natural world.

Elevate your festive attire with temple-inspired elegance, as sarees adorned with intricate motifs and ornate borders exude regality and majesty. Choose luxurious jewel tones like deep reds and emerald greens to embody the grandeur of ancient architecture and add a touch of opulence to your celebrations.

## Divas on Insta



@Megan Fox

### Megan Fox

The Hollywood star recently flaunted a chic bob and brunette hair color on Instagram, bidding adieu to her grey and platinum blonde hues.

@Nia Sharma

### Nia Sharma

Actress Nia Sharma, known for her roles in supernatural dramas, shares her relatable morning struggle on Instagram.



# Sports



'Fatigued' Rohit Sharma needs break to freshen up ahead of T20I World Cup.

Michael Clarke  
Former Australia captain

## Target of women's 4x400m team is to break NR



The Indian quartet of Poovamma clocked 3 minutes and 29.35 seconds. | Photo: PTI

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**NEW DELHI:** The senior-most member of the Indian women's 4x400m relay quartet that booked a Paris Games berth in Bahamas, MR Poovamma feels that the team can produce the country's best-ever show in the Olympics and break the 20-year-old national record at the French capital in August.

"We wanted to better the timing but we could not do it. We will do it this season in the upcoming competitions," Poovamma told PTI.

ing competitions," Poovamma told PTI.

"This time, the target for the team in the Paris Olympics is to break the national record, reach the finals and better the earlier best. The national record is 20 years old and we have to better it.

This team can do it."

Poovamma said the Paris Olympics qualification of the women's 4x400m relay team should not be considered as a surprise result as the quartet was "sure" of achieving the feat.

### HIGHLIGHT

● India's best performance in the Olympics women's 4x400 relay event was the seventh place finish twice

"We knew that we had a good chance to qualify for the Olympics in men's and women's 4x400m relay. We were sure about it," said the 33-year-old athlete. She said the decision to reach one month before the event also helped in the

team's quest for Olympics qualification as the move gave them enough time to acclimatise to the conditions. "Because of visa issues, I could reach 20 days before competition but others reached here one month before the event. That really helped. For example, it is too windy here and you cannot suddenly come and do well here. It is good that we came here early and adapted to the conditions. "Even in food also, we were provided almost similar to Indian

food. I was thinking that it was like the food I used to get in Thiruvananthapuram (where the team trained before going to Bahamas)."

Poovamma said she continued full-time training during the two-year ban for a doping offence committed in 2021, before she finally returned to action during the Goa National Games last year.

"Had I taken break in training during the ban period, it would have been really difficult to come back.

## Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

### TABLE TENNIS

**Manika Batra stuns world no.2 from China, advances to Saudi Smash Pre-quarters**

**KAEC:** Indian table tennis star Manika Batra shocked World No. 2 Wang Manyu of China to secure the biggest win of her singles career and enter the pre-quarterfinals of the Saudi Smash here on Monday. Manika, ranked 39, beat the second-seeded Chinese 6-11, 11-5, 11-7, 12-10 in just 37 minutes. Though Manika lost the opening game against the Tokyo Olympics team gold medallist and 2021 World Champion, she fought back well to take the next two games quickly. The 25-year-old from China kept herself in the match until Manika, without giving her another opportunity, claimed the last two points to seal a famous win. The unseeded Manika, who accounted for Andreea Dragoman of Romania on Sunday, clashes with 14th ranked Nina Mittelham of Germany, in the round of 16 on Tuesday. The 28-year-old from India had lost 0-4 to Wang Manyu in the World Cup last month. **PTI**

### BOXING

**Five Indian youth boxers shine at ASBC Asian U-22 & Youth Championships**

**ASTANA:** Five youth Indian boxers Brijesh Tamta, Aryan Hooda, Yashwardhan Singh, Laxmi and Nisha put up impressive performances to clinch gold medals at the ASBC Asian U-22 & Youth Boxing Championships here on Monday. Brijesh gave India its first gold medal of the tournament with a unanimous 5-0 win over Tajikistan's Muminov Muinkhodzha in the men's 48kg final. Aryan (51kg) continued the momentum with an equally dominant 5-0 victory against Kyrgyzstan's Kamilov Zafarbek. Yashwardhan Singh (63.5kg) had to work hard against Gafurov Ruslan of Tajikistan as both the boxers showed great attacking intent but it was the Indian who ultimately clinched the contest with a 4-1 verdict. In the women's category, reigning junior world champion Nisha grabbed the yellow metal in the 52kg category as she outperformed Kazakhstan's Otynbay Bagzhan in a 5-0 win. **PTI**

## INDIAN PREMIER LEAGUE

**Dharamsala breaks ground with India's first 'Hybrid Pitch' innovation**



**DHARAMSALA:** India's first-ever 'hybrid pitch' was unveiled at the Himachal Pradesh Cricket Association (HPCA) stadium in a grand ceremony here on Monday. The event was attended by IPL Chairman Arun Dhimal and cricket dignitaries including Paul Taylor, a former England cricketer and SIS's international cricket director. "The introduction of hybrid pitches is set to revolutionize cricket in India, following their success in iconic venues like Lord's and The Oval in England," said Dhimal, who hails from Himachal Pradesh. The hybrid pitch, which com-

bines natural turf with synthetic fibres, promises enhanced durability and consistent playability, reducing the strain on ground staff and maintaining quality playing conditions. With only 5% synthetic fibres, the pitch ensures that the natural characteristics essential for cricket are preserved. Taylor expressed gratitude towards the HPCA for their collaboration on this pioneering project. "With the ICC's approval, we're excited to see the positive impact these pitches will have on the sport, starting with installations in Mumbai and Ahmedabad next," he said. **PTI**

## Palace rout demoralized Man United 4-0 in debut of RefCam

**LONDON:** A referee wore a camera for the first time in an English Premier League match as Crystal Palace beat up Manchester United 4-0. Footage from the device worn by Jarrod Gillett, dubbed the RefCam, was not broadcast live but will be wound into a program made by the league to show the ups and downs of refereeing at the highest level.

What it will also show is a closeup of United's woe-defending. Defenders backed off Michael Olise and allowed him to stride forward unchallenged and score the opener after 13 minutes.

Jean-Philippe Mateta made it 2-0 five minutes before halftime when he skinned Jonny Evans and hammered the ball into the roof of the net.

## KKR players return home after their flight diverted

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**KOLKATA:** Kolkata Knight Riders players returned home on Tuesday, ending a harrowing experience as they were forced to spend a night at Varanasi after their flight from Lucknow to Kolkata was diverted multiple times due to bad weather.

But the charter flight had to be diverted to Guwahati first and then to Varanasi after adverse weather conditions made it impossible to land the plane in Kolkata.

"Team has landed back in Kolkata, and checked into Team Hotel," said an update from KKR media team at 5.18pm on Tuesday. At Varanasi, some of the players, including Manish Pandey and Sherfane Rutherford, and



### FACTFILE

● At Varanasi, some of the players, including Manish Pandey and Sherfane Rutherford, and assistant coach Ryan Ten Doeschate paid a visit to Shri Kashi Vishwanath temple and the holy Ganges ghat during sunrise.

assistant coach Ryan Ten Doeschate paid a visit to Shri Kashi Vishwanath temple and the holy Ganges ghat during sunrise.

"On our adventitious trip to Varanasi, some of our cricketers and support staff took the opportunity to pay a visit to Shri Kashi Vishwanath temple and holy Ganga ghat during sunrise," it added.

## T20 WORLD CUP

## Mitch Marsh will be fit to bowl in T20WC: McDonald

Press Trust of India

**BRISBANE:** Australia coach Andrew McDonald on Tuesday said even though skipper Mitchell Marsh's progress is slower than expected, the all-rounder will be fit to bowl in the upcoming T20 World Cup in the Americas.

"He's (Marsh) progressing well. Prob-

bly a little slower than expected. But we've got plenty of time now that he has been ruled out the IPL. (Our) first game is just short of a month away now. So ample time for him to get ready," McDonald told reporters.

"You probably won't see him bowl in the next couple of weeks here. It'll probably happen the week before we leave.



And then he'll be able to ramp that up when we're over there. "We'll be able to cherry pick the moments during the tournament where he'll be useful with the ball, (and) we've got some all-round depth in the squad, which gives us good coverage anyway," he added. McDonald said there was no concern around Marsh's lack of

match practice over the last two months as Australia will play some practice games before their T20 World Cup opener against Oman on June 5.

"No real concern about match fitness. We've got a couple of practice games when we get to Trinidad in the support period. So he'll likely get plenty of match opportunities.

## The Day's NUMBERS

### BUMRAH CONTINUES HOLDING PURPLE CAP WITH 18 WICKETS

Player	Wickets
Jasprit Bumrah MI	18
Harshal Patel PBKS	17
V Chakaravarthi KKR	16
T Natarajan SRH	15
Arshdeep Singh PBKS	15

### WORLD CUP QUALIFIERS

**Stimac announces second list of probables, injured Jhingan misses out**

**NEW DELHI:** Injured central defender Sandesh Jhingan missed out as Indian senior men's team head coach Igor Stimac on Tuesday announced his second list of 15 probables for the Bhubaneswar camp ahead of the FIFA World Cup 2026 preliminary joint qualification round 2 matches against Kuwait and Qatar.

Key defender Jhingan, who sustained a right knee injury during India's Asian Cup group match against Syria in January, missed out of the list.

The 26 players from the first list will begin training in the Odisha capital on May 10. The 15 players from the second list, comprising players from Mumbai City FC and Mohun Bagan SG, who contested the ISL Cup final, will join the camp on May 15. A total of 41 players will take part in the national camp. The Blue Tigers will face Kuwait in Kolkata on June 6 before travelling away to take on Qatar on June 11 in their last two matches of Group A. **PTI**

### SOCCER

**Atalanta's comeback victory boosts Champions League aspirations**



**ROME:** Atalanta came from a goal down to beat Salernitana 2-1 in Serie A and improve its chances of a place in next season's Champions League. The Bergamo-based club rose above Roma and into fifth place. The top five qualify automatically for the Champions League. Atalanta rested some regular starters with one eye on Thursday's second leg of the Europe League semifinal against Marseille. It went behind after 18 minutes when Loum Tchaoua scored against the run of play. But Atalanta woke up in the second half. **PTI**

# Sports News

## Cyclists compete Giro d'Italia from Novara to Fossano



Cyclists compete during the third stage of the Giro d'Italia from Novara to Fossano, Italy. | Photo: PTI

# Rohit's presence will be key in T20 WC: Yuvraj

Press Trust of India

The opener is set to lead the 'Men in Blue' once again at the T20 World Cup in the Caribbean and USA, starting on June 2.

**NEW DELHI:** Rohit Sharma is a sensible captain who takes good decisions under pressure and his presence will be crucial for India, feels former all-rounder Yuvraj Singh who wishes to see his "close friend" win the elusive T20 World Cup next month.



Yuvraj Singh with the T20 World Cup trophy. | Photo: PTI

Besides reaching the final of the 50-over World Cup and the WTC Final last year, India made the semifinals of the 2022 T20 World Cup under Rohit's captaincy.

"(Rohit's presence is going to be) very cru-

cial. I think we need a really good captain, a sensible captain who takes decisions well under pressure. And he's the one to take them," Yuvraj, who is the T20 World Cup 2024

### HIGHLIGHT

• Besides reaching the final of the 50-over World Cup and the WTC Final last year, India made the semifinals of the 2022 T20 World Cup under Rohit's captaincy.

ambassador, told ICC.

The World Cup 2023 final loss to Australia saw India's quest for an ICC title stretch to 10 years with their last victory dating back to the Champions Trophy in 2013 under the leadership of Mahendra Singh Dhoni. Yuvraj feels

India needs someone with Rohit's expertise to lead the Indian team at the marquee event.

"He was the captain when we lost in the (Cricket World Cup) 50-over final (in 2023). He has won five IPL trophies as a captain. I think we need somebody like him to captain India." Recalling his first impressing of the flamboyant opener, Yuvraj joked "Very poor English."

"Very funny guy. From the streets of Borivali (in Mumbai), we always tease him. But a great guy at heart."

## A break could do wonders for fatigued Rohit: Clarke

### HIGHLIGHT

• Clarke said it is only a matter of time before Rohit gets back to his usual elements as a batter.

**MUMBAI:** Former Australia captain Michael Clarke does not read much into Rohit Sharma's string of poor scores, but suggests that the "fatigued" Indian skipper take a break to freshen up ahead of the T20I World Cup.

"Rohit, being the wise judge of his own performances, will undoubtedly be disappointed, especially considering his strong start. In my view, he might be feeling

a bit fatigued as well," Clarke told Star Sports.

"A break to freshen up could do wonders for him, but as the Indian captain and a key player for Mumbai Indians, you're not getting a break. He's going

to have to find form," Clarke continued.

"He was in a great mood. He's happy, which is a really good sign. He doesn't seem to be struggling with his timing; it's just a matter of getting out," he said.

"With someone like Rohit, it's only a matter of time before he finds his form again. Hopefully, he stresses less and focuses on his game because he's too talented to keep missing out".

[T20I WORLD CUP]

## 'Dube hits sixes for fun'

Press Trust of India

Shastri feels Dube could prove to be the most devastating batter for India with his bit-hitting ability.

**DUBAI:** Shivam Dube's six-hitting prowess could help India pile up big totals in the upcoming T20 World Cup and he along with Yashasvi Jaiswal will be key to their hopes of winning the title, reckons the team's former head coach Ravi Shastri.

Both Jaiswal and Dube are set to make their World Cup debut at the ICC event scheduled to be held in the West Indies and USA from June 1. "The two gentlemen you've got to watch out for, and both are left-handers, both playing their first World Cup," Shastri told ICC.

"One is (Yashasvi) Jaiswal. We know a lot about him, he did extremely well against England, explosive at the top of the order, left-hander, he's young, he's fearless and he'll play



### HIGHLIGHT

• Both Jaiswal and Dube are set to make their World Cup debut at the ICC event scheduled to be held in the West Indies and USA from June 1.

shots." Shastri feels Dube could prove to be the most devastating batter for India with his bit-hitting ability.

"But there's someone in the middle order, please watch out for [him], because he is explosive, he's devastating and he's a match-win-

ner. He hits sixes for fun, and when it comes to spin bowling, he can kill you," Shastri said.

"He'll park a few balls out of Long Island into the small island, he's that kind of a player. He hits it big, he hits it long, and like I said, against spin, he could kill you.

"Even against the fast bowlers, he's worked out his game, he's understood the way to play and I think he holds the key at that number five, number six position because if you're on the doldrums, you want someone to change it in 20-25 balls, he's the player to go to."

## Kavin bags top-10 finish in JuniorGP World

**CHENNAI:** Ace Indian rider Kavin Quintal made a stunning debut in the 2024 FIM JuniorGP World Championship with a top-10 finish in the Stk European class in Round 2 at the Circuito do Estoril, outside Lisbon, Portugal.

Representing Fifty Motorsport team, Kavin clocked 23:19.001s for the 11 laps, just 34.866s adrift of the winner Adrian Rodriguez of Spain (SF Racing) and just 16.092s off fifth-placed Lorenzo Della Porta (Yamaha GV Racing) the current championship leader and 2019 Moto3 champion.

The 18-year-old faced early setbacks as he crashed during out-lap in qualifying and had to start the race from the 30th position on the grid.

He navigated through the treacherous conditions overtaking his competition one-by-one and crossed the finish line in an impressive ninth position, for a top-10 finish among 36 riders.

tors at its headquarters which was facilitated by Star Sports. "And I feel that that's the same thing with SKY. So, get in on it as quickly as possible. He's not an opener, get him out there and if he can bat for 10-15 overs, you know what's going to happen. "He's going to put you in an unassailable position if you bat him first, or he's going to win the game if he's batting second.

## No plans to rest Bumrah yet: Pollard

Press Trust of India

**MUMBAI:** Mumbai Indians have no plans to rest ace India pacer Jasprit Bumrah ahead of the T20 World Cup even though they are out of contention for the IPL playoffs, said batting coach Kieron Pollard.

"I certainly haven't had any discussions about that," Pollard told media after the game when asked if there are any plans to rest Bumrah from MI's remaining two matches keeping in mind the upcoming T20 World Cup. "I don't think that's my role and function at this point in time. But let's see what happens. We are all here to play an entire IPL. Sometimes when we think too far ahead of different things, think-



ing about World Cups, all these things could affect performances even from before the team was selected.

"For us and in our camp, the most important thing is finishing off the IPL and let's see what happens

after that. When he leaves the IPL and he goes into the Indian team, I think that's where that concession will take place." Pollard said as a batting coach the most difficult aspect of coaching an all-round batter like Suryakumar

### HIGHLIGHT

• MI's last IPL game is against Lucknow Super Giants at home on May 17. The T20 World Cup, to be co-hosted by USA and the West Indies, will begin on June 1.

is to curb his attacking instinct. "He's one, who, by nature, instinctively, is very aggressive. He wants to take the bowler's on more often than not. At times it's just a matter of understanding the situation and respecting the new ball when it's moving around," Pollard said.

"If the conditions are not suitable for a certain amount of shot making, having that discipline in order to be there for a period of time and they'll get into your work.

[LARA ROOTING FOR INDIA-WEST INDIES FINAL]

## Surya has to bat at No. 3 in T20WC

Press Trust of India

**NEW DELHI:** Suryakumar Yadav has to bat at number three, said the legendary Brian Lara as he rooted for an India-West Indies final at the T20 World Cup next month to fix the "wrong" of 2007 when India's early exit "killed us in the Caribbean".

"My one advice, and I don't know if you're going to like it or not, but



Sky has to bat at three. He just has to bat at three. He is one of the greatest T20 players in the game. And you speak to players

**Surya is one of the greatest T20 players in the game**  
Brian Lara  
WI legend

like Sir Viv, and he will tell you he used to want to get out there in the middle," Lara said in an interaction with PTI edi-

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# World



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Canada's Immigration Minister

## Israeli forces seize Gaza side of Rafah border crossing

Israeli incursion overnight appeared to be short of the full-fledged offensive into Rafah that Israel has planned, and it was not immediately known if it would be expanded.

Press Trust Of India

**CAIRO:** An Israeli tank brigade seized control on Tuesday of the Gaza Strip side of the Rafah border crossing with Egypt as Israel moved forward with an offensive in the southern city even as cease-fire negotiations with Hamas remain on a knife's edge. The development came after hours of whiplash in the Israel-Hamas war, with the militant group on Monday saying it accepted an Egyptian-Qatari mediated cease-fire proposal. Israel, meanwhile, insisted the deal did not meet its core demands. The high-stakes diplomatic moves and military brinkmanship left a glimmer of hope alive — if only barely — for an accord that could bring at least a pause in the 7-month-old war that has devastated the Gaza Strip. The Israeli incursion overnight appeared to be short of the full-fledged offensive into Rafah that Israel has planned,

and it was not immediately known if it would be expanded. President Joe Biden on Monday urgently warned Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu against launching an offensive

### HIGHLIGHT

● The development came after hours of whiplash in the Israel-Hamas war, with the militant group on Monday saying it accepted an Egyptian-Qatari mediated cease-fire proposal

on the southern Gaza city, hiking pressure for a cease-fire. Aid groups say an attack would be catastrophic for the around 1.4 million Palestinians crammed into Rafah, most of whom fled Israel's onslaught elsewhere in Gaza. The Israeli 401st Brigade entered the Rafah crossing early on Tuesday morning, the Israeli military said, taking "operational control" of the crucial border point. Footage released by the Israeli military showed Israeli flags

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## Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

### BIZ-ADANI-SRI LANKA

#### Sri Lanka approves power purchase pact with Adani Green Energy

**COLOMBO:** Sri Lanka has approved a 20-year power purchase agreement between the island nation's government and Adani Green Energy for the development of 484 megawatt wind power stations in the northeast region. "The negotiated tariff rate of USD 0.0826 per kilo watt hour is to be paid in local rupees on the prevailing exchange rate at the time of payment," energy minister Kanachana Wijesekera said in a post on social media platform X. He added that the purchasing cost would be below the current average cost of energy at 39.02 Sri Lanka rupees per kilo watt hour. According to a cabinet note, the development of wind power stations of 484 Mega Watt in Mannar and Poonerin had already been granted cabinet approval in March 2022. **PTI**

### CZECH-GENDER-CHANGE

#### Surgery not required to officially change gender: Czech court



**PRAGUE:** The Czech Republic's highest court on Tuesday ruled to dismiss part of a law requiring people to undergo gender-affirmation surgery, including sterilisation, in order to officially change their gender. The Constitutional Court said the requirements are "unconstitutional" and "in conflict with the fundamental right of trans people to have protected their physical integrity and personal autonomy in connection with their human dignity". **PTI**

### SINGAPORE-INDIA-NAVY

## Three Indian Naval ships arrive in Singapore

Press Trust Of India

Three Indian Naval Ships have arrived in Singapore as part of the operational deployment of the Navy's Eastern Fleet to the South China Sea, underscoring the strong linkages between both navies.

**SINGAPORE:** Three Indian Naval Ships have arrived in Singapore as part of the operational deployment of the Navy's Eastern Fleet to the South China Sea, underscoring the strong linkages between both navies. Led by Rear Admiral Rajesh Dhankha, Indian Naval Ships Delhi, Shakti, and Kiltan reached the city-state on Monday, the Indian Navy spokesperson said in a post on X. The visit is part of the "Op Deployment of #IndianNavy's @IN\_EasternFleet to the #SouthChinaSea," it said, amidst China flex-

ing its muscles in the South China Sea. Currently, the Chinese navy is involved in a stand-off with the US-backed Philippines naval ships in the South China Sea. The Philippines is trying to assert its claim over the Second Thomas Shoal in the South China Sea which is strongly resisted by China. China claims most of the South China Sea. The Philippines, Malaysia, Brunei and Taiwan have counterclaims. The three Indian naval ships were welcomed by personnel of the Singapore Navy and the High Commissioner of India in Singapore. The "visit is poised to further strengthen the longstanding friendship and cooperation between the two maritime nations through a series of engagements and activities," the Ministry of Defence in New Delhi said in a statement.

### POLAND-BUGGING

## Bugging equipment found in room where Polish government was to meet

**WARSAW:** Bugging devices were found in a room where Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk was scheduled to meet with his Cabinet on Tuesday, an official said. The Cabinet ministers were meeting in Katowice, a southwestern Polish city where Tusk was attending an economic conference. Jacek Dobrzynski, the spokesperson for the head of Poland's secret services, said a routine security check uncovered equipment that could be used for recording or eavesdropping. He wrote on social media on Tuesday morning that "the State Protection Service, in cooperation with the Internal Security Agency, detected and dismantled devices that could be used for eavesdropping in the room where the meeting of the Council of Ministers is to be held today in Katowice." "The services are conducting further activities in this matter," he added. The Cabinet traditionally holds a weekly meeting in Warsaw but exceptionally held it in Katowice due to the European Economic Congress taking place there, at which European Commission president Ursula von der Leyen delivered a speech. Tusk and the government ministers went to Katowice on Tuesday morning by train. **PTI**

ing its muscles in the South China Sea. Currently, the Chinese navy is involved in a stand-off with the US-backed Philippines naval ships in the South China Sea. The Philippines is trying to assert its claim over the Second Thomas Shoal in the South China Sea which is strongly resisted by China. China claims most of the South China Sea. The Philippines, Malaysia, Brunei and Taiwan have counterclaims. The three Indian naval ships were welcomed by personnel of the Singapore Navy and the High Commissioner of India in Singapore. The "visit is poised to further strengthen the longstanding friendship and cooperation between the two maritime nations through a series of engagements and activities," the Ministry of Defence in New Delhi said in a statement.

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