



# Central Chronicle

## Kejriwal announces 'Kejriwal ki Guarantee'

24x7 power supply, good education, health facilities and 2 crore job are part of it.

**Press Trust Of India**  
**NEW DELHI:** Delhi Chief Minister and AAP national convener Arvind Kejriwal on Sunday announced "Kejriwal ki Guarantee", listing 10 works that will be done on war-footing, including to "free" Indian land from Chinese occupation, if the INDIA bloc forms government at the Centre.



Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal during a road show. | Photo: PTI

The opposition bloc, which has parties such as Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), Congress, Trinamool Congress, Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam among others as its members, was formed to take on the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance in the Lok Sabha polls. A day after his release from jail on interim bail, Kejriwal on Saturday said the INDIA bloc will form next the government and his AAP will be part of it. Addressing a press conference on Sunday, the AAP leader said people will have to choose

between "Modi ki Guarantee" and "Kejriwal ki guarantee". The latter is a "brand", Kejriwal said. On the announcement of his guarantees, Kejriwal said, "I have not discussed with my INDIA bloc partners about this. I will press upon my

**HIGHLIGHT**

● Kejriwal promised to end Agniveer scheme and ensure MSP for farmers.

INDIA bloc partners to fill these guarantees."



**PM has not fulfilled his guarantees**  
Arvind Kejriwal  
CM, Delhi

### 2,480 illegal immigrants detected

**IMPHAL:** Manipur CM on Sunday said 2,480 illegal immigrants were detected in the northeastern state in 2023 but the campaign was cut short after violence broke out on May 3 last year. Addressing a press conference Singh said concerned with increasing deforestation and setting up of new villages by illegal immigrants, a Cabinet sub-committee was formed.



### If ideology is same, why remain separate?

**Press Trust Of India**  
**Sharad Pawar has predicted that in the next couple of years, several regional parties will merge with Congress.**



**FASTFACTS**

- Tharoor described as "meaningless" PM's appeal to Pawar and Uddhav.
- He said, parties that have not joined the Oppn alliance so far will soon join.

**MUMBAI:** Senior Congress leader Shashi Tharoor on Sunday appeared amenable to views expressed in certain sections on the potential merger of smaller parties into the Grand Old Party. "As far as smaller parties aligning or merging with Congress is concerned, I feel if the ideology is the same then

what is the need to be separate? Let's see what happens," Tharoor said while addressing a press conference in Mumbai.

Notably, veteran politician Sharad Pawar has predicted that in the next couple of years, several regional parties will associate more closely with the Congress, or even merge with it. He spoke

about the future political landscape during an interview. Tharoor described as "meaningless" Prime Minister Narendra Modi's appeal to Pawar and Uddhav Thackeray wherein he has asked them to join Ajit Pawar and Eknath Shinde, respectively.

**| SUICIDE ATTEMPT |**

## Cop shoots himself with his own rifle, critically injured

**Press Trust Of India**  
**Constable, suffered grievous injuries to the left side of his chest.**



Injured constable being rushed to the hospital. | Photo: PTI

**RAIGARH:** A 34-year-old constable of Chhattisgarh police was critically wounded after he shot himself with his service rifle in an apparent suicide attempt on Sunday, an official said. Sunny Malakar turned the weapon on himself around noon at his residence located within the limits of the city Kotwali police station in Raigarh, the official said. He had returned after doing the night shift. The constable, who was attached to the Jutmil police post in the Raigarh district, suffered grievous injuries to the left side of

**FACTFILE**

● Investigation suggests he was married and was upset due to some family-related issues.

his chest, Raigarh Additional Superintendent of Police Akash Markam

said. "After being alerted, the police rushed to the spot and took Malakar to Metro Hospital in Raigarh. Later, he was shifted to Apollo Hospital in neighbouring Bilaspur city," the official added. The injured constable's father Trilochan Malakar is posted as a sub-inspec-

tor in the office of Raigarh Superintendent of Police, he added. "Preliminary investigation suggests he was married and was upset due to some family-related issues," Markam said. Further investigation into the matter is underway, he added.

### ED to quiz min after Rs 37-crore cash seizure

**RANCHI:** The Enforcement Directorate has summoned Jharkhand Rural Development Minister and Congress leader Alamgir Alam for questioning in a money laundering case on May 14, official sources said Sunday.

The federal agency had last week arrested Alam's personal secretary and state administrative service officer Sanjeev Kumar Lal (52) and the latter's domestic help Jahangir Alam (42) following the seizure of more than Rs 32 crore cash from a flat linked to them.

Alam, 70, has been asked to depose at the zonal office of the ED in Ranchi on Tuesday for recording his statement under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), the sources said.

### ICMR STUDY | 'Claims on packed food misleading'

**Payal Banerjee**  
**NEW DELHI:** Food labels on packaged items can be misleading, apex health research body ICMR has said stressing that consumers should read the information carefully to make informed and healthy choices.

**NUMBER**

**10**  
● Packed fruit juices may contain only 10 per cent fruit pulp.

It also pointed out that sugar-free foods maybe loaded with fats, while packed fruit juices

may contain only 10 per cent fruit pulp. In its recently issued dietary guidelines, the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) said health claims on packaged food are designed to catch the consumer attention and convince them that the product is healthy.

**Narayana | MMI Health**

Trusted Neighbourhood Orthopedic & Spine Care Center

Google Rating 4.5/5

Joint Replacement | Spinal Injury | Painless Ortho | Spine Surgery | Arthritis

Take Care | MMI Narayana Hospital, Lalpur, Raipur | 1950 309 0309

**RAMKRISHNA CARE HOSPITALS**

किसी भी मेडिकल इमरजेंसी एवं द्रामा में हमेशा आपके साथ

विशेषज्ञ टीम 24x7 उपलब्ध

● अत्याधुनिक मशीनों द्वारा चेकअप एवं इलाज  
● विशेष प्रशिक्षित ICU नर्सिंग स्टाफ  
● अत्याधुनिक एवं जीरो इन्फेक्शन मेडिकल एवं सर्जिकल ICU  
● 24x7 डॉमा एवं स्ट्रोक टीम  
● 24x7 आपातकालीन सेवा

सड़क दुर्घटना या किसी भी आपातकालीन स्थिति में मध्य भारत की अग्रणी चिकित्सा सुविधाओं के साथ

**24x7 आपातकालीन हेल्पलाइन 0771 6165656**

श्रेष्ठ एवं विश्वसनीय  
**रामकृष्ण केयर हॉस्पिटल**  
पचपेड़ी नाका, धमतरी रोड, रायपुर



# Raipur



Ensure proper cleanliness in all the barracks and the facilities being provided to jail birds

Ajit Vasant  
Collector Korba

## Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

### ELECTION CAMPAIGN

#### Kiran Deo advocates for BJP victory in Odisha, stresses progress

**RAIPUR:** Chhattisgarh State BJP President, Kiran Deo, embarked on a spirited campaign in the Kotpar Assembly of Odisha on Saturday, rallying support for BJP candidate Rupu Bhatra ahead of the upcoming elections. Amid scorching temperatures, Deo fervently urged voters to elect Bhatra with a significant mandate, underlining the pivotal role of a BJP-led government in fostering progress in Odisha.

During his visit, Deo lamented the apparent stagnation in development under the current administration in Odisha, emphasizing the urgent need for a change in leadership to reignite the wheels of progress. He lauded the relentless efforts of BJP workers, attributing their dedication to the realization of good governance within society.

### CORRUPTION CASE

#### Cong urges PM to investigate Adani, Ambani corruption case

**RAIPUR:** In a charged political atmosphere, the Congress party has called for Prime Minister Narendra Modi to initiate an investigation into corruption allegations involving Adani and Ambani, following Modi's recent revelations. State Congress President Deepak Baj criticized Modi's timing, suggesting the revelation was a strategic move ahead of anticipated electoral defeat. Baj's statements, made in Raipur, underscored the Congress's challenge to Modi, urging him to deploy investigative agencies to probe the alleged corruption and conduct raids on associates linked to Adani and Ambani.



Dy. CM Sao addressing at the programme on Aadi Guru Shankaracharya organized by Goswami Samaj.

## 'Need to follow on path show by Aadi Guru Shankaracharya'

It was at the age of 8 only that he got the knowledge of all the 'vedas' and after that Aadi Guru Shankaracharya toured all over the country and established four 'peeths'.

### Central Chronicle News

**RAIPUR:** The biggest contribution in the honour and respect of 'Sanatan Dharm' is that of Aadi Guru Shankaracharya.

It was at the age of 8 only that he got the knowledge of all the 'vedas' and after that he toured all over the country and established four 'peeths'. This was a phase when 'sanatan' re-emerged.

Dy. Chief Minister Arun Sao was speaking in a programme on Aadi Guru Shankaracharya

organized by Chhattisgarh Sanatan Dashnam Goswami Samaj at Shaheed Smarak Bhavan here on Sunday.

Dy. CM Sao further said that there is need to think and ponder more on 'Sanatan' now. Today when we all are celebrating the 'Avtaran diwas' of 'Aadi Guru Shankaracharya', we should follow on the objectives behind which he dedicated his entire life and toured the entire country. Today there is need to take forward all his works.

### HIGHLIGHT

● Today on 'Avtaran diwas' of 'Aadi Guru Shankaracharya' we should follow on the objectives behind which he dedicated his entire life

● The form of 'Sanatan' today is not what Aadi Guru Shankaracharya wanted and for this we all will have to work taking his works and goals forward

Today what should have been the form of 'San-

atan' is not what Aadi Guru Shankaracharya wanted and for this we all will have to work taking his works and goals forward. There is need to take forward the path shown by Aadi Guru Shankaracharya. He had done so much of work in such a short period and there is need to carry out regeneration and re-establishment of 'Sanatan Dharm' by all of us. Dy. CM said that the Goswami Samaj is surging ahead purely based upon its hard work and dedication.

An introductory meet of marriageable youths was organized by the Samaj and for which Dy. CM Sao extended greetings to members of the Samaj. At the same time the Samaj also felicitated the talented persons who brought honours to the society.

In this programme MLA Motiram Sahu, Mahant Ramsunder Dasji, Dr Mahesh Giri, and other office bearers of the Samaj and people from the society were present in large number.

## Shortage of TB medicines affects over 12,000 patients in CG

**RAIPUR:** Chhattisgarh is grappling with a critical shortage of Tuberculosis (TB) medicines, leaving more than 12,000 patients in distress as stocks have been exhausted. The dearth of medicines has brought the supply chain to a grinding halt across the state, exacerbating the plight of TB patients who rely on these medications for treatment. The shortage of TB medicines first surfaced in government hospitals in February, and despite efforts to procure supplies locally, stocks have completely depleted over the past month. Health department officials have instructed all chief medical and health officers to procure medicines at the local level to address the pressing need.

Preparations are in full swing with a robust security apparatus enveloping the EVMs stored in the strong rooms.

**RAIPUR:** In the wake of the Lok Sabha elections, the electoral landscape of Chhattisgarh braces for the decisive moment on June 4, when the fate of 220 candidates across 11 constituencies will be sealed. As anticipation mounts, preparations are in full swing with a robust security apparatus enveloping the Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) stored in the strong rooms. Following the conclusion of voting,

### | EVM SECURITY |

## Three-Tier security ensures safety of EVMs ahead of

### Central Chronicle News



EVMs stored in vote counting centers amid tight security.

### FACTFILE

● Reena Baba Saheb Kangale revealed that 386 AROs have been deployed across the 33 district headquarters for the vote counting process.

authorities have erected a three-tier security cordon around the strong rooms, where the EVMs are safeguarded under round-the-clock surveillance by the district administration. This stringent security protocol underscores the meticulous measures undertaken to uphold

the integrity of the electoral process. Chief Electoral Officer Reena Baba Saheb Kangale outlined the logistical arrangements, revealing that 386 Assistant Returning Officers (AROs) have been deployed across the 33 district headquarters for the vote counting process.

### | MOTHER'S DAY |

## CM extends greetings to all mothers on Mother's Day

### Central Chronicle News

**RAIPUR:** As Mother's Day unfolds across the globe on May 12, Chief Minister Vishnudeo Sai of Chhattisgarh took a moment to reflect on the profound significance of maternal love and sacrifice. Sharing a heartfelt video capturing cherished moments with his mother on social media,

CM Sai penned touching words in homage to all mothers within the state. In his message, CM Vishnudeo Sai expressed reverence, stating, "What should I write for mother, when mother has written everything for everyone." His sentiments resonated with countless individuals, as he extended heartfelt greetings to all the mothers, or "Mahtaris,"

● "What should I write for mother, when mother has written everything for everyone."

Vishnudeo Sai  
CM, Chhattisgarh Govt

of Chhattisgarh. Mother's Day, an annual

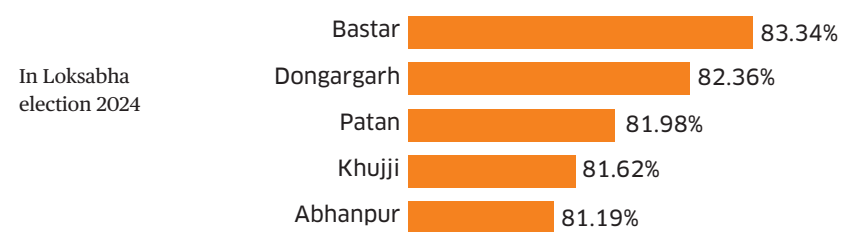


observance dedicated to celebrating the selfless devotion of mothers, is commemorated on the second Sunday of

May each year in India, America, and Canada. Originating in the United States, the tradition of Mother's Day was initiated by American activist Anna Jarvis in honor of her own beloved mother. Since its inception, Mother's Day has evolved into a global occasion for expressing love and gratitude towards maternal figures.

### The Day's NUMBERS

#### STATE ASSEMBLIES WITH MORE THAN 80 PER CENT VOTING



Source: Agencies

### LOKSABHA ELECTION

#### BJP forecasts historic victory in Raipur Lok Sabha election

**RAIPUR:** Ashok Bajaj, the BJP's election coordinator for the Raipur Lok Sabha constituency, has stirred anticipations of a landmark victory, asserting that BJP candidate Brijmohan Agarwal is poised to clinch the elections with an unprecedented margin. Drawing insights from extensive consultations with party workers and public representatives, Bajaj exuded confidence in the electorate's overwhelming support for the BJP, buoyed by the aspiration to see Narendra Modi elected as Prime Minister for a third consecutive term. Highlighting the electorate's resonance with both national and local issues, Bajaj emphasized the voters' trust in the BJP's vision for a developed India and a prosperous Chhattisgarh. He lauded the party's positive campaign approach, underscored by meticulous door-to-door canvassing and robust voter mobilization initiatives, even amidst challenging weather conditions.

### PSC INVESTIGATION

#### Minister Choudhary counters Congress's PSC investigation claims

**RAIPUR:** State Finance Minister OP Chaudhary of Chhattisgarh has launched a vigorous counterattack against the Congress party's recent statements concerning the Public Service Commission (PSC) investigation. Chaudhary vehemently dismissed Congress's right to question the ongoing probe, asserting that the BJP government swiftly initiated a CBI investigation upon assuming office. Addressing concerns raised by Congress, Chaudhary highlighted the anxiety pervading certain individuals involved in the investigation.





## Raipur News

# Five bookies from panel of Arjun arrested from Kolkata

Bookies were conducting betting on IPL cricket matches through Mahadev 364 ID panels.

Central Chronicle News

**RAIPUR:** Many strings are being exposed in the case of Mahadev Online Satta App. Raipur Police has once again taken major action on Mahadev App. Five interstate bookies from Bihar have been arrested from Kolkata while operating IPL betting from Mahadev 364 panel. The action has been taken on the organizational input of Raipur Police. This was the panel of dismissed police constable Arjun Yadav arrested in EOW. The matter has been disclosed by Raipur Range IG Amresh Mishra.

Bookies were conducting betting on IPL cricket matches through Mahadev 364 ID panels while sitting in Kolkata. A total of 13 bookies have been arrested so far along with the accused of this panel. All the bookies are residents of Bihar who were handling everything from flat rental to tax panel in Kolkata.

Police have seized 7 laptops, 19 mobiles, 7 pass books, 5 check books and 10 ATMs from the possession of bookies. The value of the seized goods is approximately Rs 6 lakh 60 thousand. Earlier, 8 bookies were arrested from Kolkata and 5 laptops and 36 mobile



Raipur Range IG Amresh Mishra briefing media over arrest of bookies.

phones were seized from their possession. The total value of seized materials is Rs 12 lakh. According to IG Mishra during the IPL cricket match of the year 2024, the team of Anti Crime and Cyber Unit so far arrested a total of 62 accused in 9 cases and information about about 110 bank accounts has been obtained. Correspondence is being sent to the banks to hold and freeze the amounts received in the bank accounts.

Information about transactions worth more than Rs 32 crore has been found in the laptops and mobiles of all the 13 bookies arrested in the case. Information about a total of 35 bank accounts used for panel operations has also been received from the arrested bookies.

## Transactions worth over Rs 32 cr found from 13 bookies

Information about transactions worth more than Rs 32 crore has been found in the laptops and mobiles of all the 13 bookies arrested in the case. Information about a total of 35 bank accounts used for panel operations has also been received from the arrested bookies.

### HIGHLIGHT

Information about a total of 35 bank accounts used for panel operations has also been received from the arrested bookies.

In which the police is analyzing the transaction. Information about thousands of players has also been received.

Crimes have been registered against all these bookies under the Chhattisgarh Gambling Act and further action is being taken.

## Gardener steals Rs 6 lakh and hides it in sand in Raipur's Las Vista

Central Chronicle News

The person who stole cash and gold and silver jewelry after breaking lock of an empty house in Raipur turned out to be the gardener working in the same house.

**RAIPUR:** Police have solved eight cases of robbery, theft and loot in Devendra Nagar, Gudhiyari, Kharora, New Rajendra Nagar, Arang and Dharsiwa police stations. As many as nine persons including three interstate criminals have been arrested.

Diamond jewelry along with gold 470 grams, silver 600 grams, cash amount of around Rs 9 lakh and stolen money worth around Rs 60 lakh have been recovered. The gardener accused of major theft in Las Vista was arrested. After committing the theft, he initially hid it in the sand of a house under construction in the colony and after two days he took it home. He deposited some amount in the bank also.

On Sunday, Inspector General of Police Raipur Range Raipur Amresh Mishra and Senior Superintendent of Police Raipur Santosh Kumar Singh exposed the case of the accused arrested in cases of robbery, theft and loot. He said that in order to nab persons in connection with incidents of theft, a

special team of Anti Crime and Cyber Unit and police stations was formed. The team arrested the persons in connection with eight cases of robbery, theft and loot from Devendra Nagar police station, Gudhiyari, Kharora, New Rajendra Nagar, Arang and Dharsiwa.

Two separate incidents of theft took place in Gudiyari and Devendra Nagar. Sunil Sona alias Bilwa was absconding from Kotwali police station in the year

### FASTFACTS

The person who stole the cash and gold and silver jewelry after breaking lock of an empty house in Raipur turned out to be the gardener working in the same house.

2023 and was arrested in that case also. Other criminals are Laxman Chhura alias Kalia and Sunil Sona alias Bilwa, against whom dozens of crimes are registered in Raipur, Mahasamund and other states, in which both were sent to jail in the past. Laxman Chhura alias Kalia has a broken leg.

Sunil Sona alias Bilwa had made a tunnel in his house to hide the goods. Laxman Chhura was caught by the police with his broken leg. Only the lower part was captured in CCTV.

### NEWSLINE

#### RAID

**I-T raid at jewelry shops in Pithora**



**MAHASAMUND:** A team of income tax officers raided at the establishments of three businessmen in Pithora town of the district

The team of officers arrived at around 4 am in the town in front of three jewelry shops and other establishments started their investigation, according to available information. Cash was also recovered from one of the jewelry shops, according to sources. However official details were awaited.

#### FIGHT

**Four including father and son injured in sword fight**

**RAIPUR:** Four people including father and son have been injured in the incident of sword fight that took place late Saturday night in Khamhardih police station area. According to the information received, due to the old rivalry of the college, sword fighting took place late night at Vijay Chowk in Avanti Vihar, Raipur. Four people, including father and son, residents of Devendra Nagar, were injured in fight. Injured father Anees, son Lucky, Fazal and Saurabh have suffered injuries.

The injured have accused Utpal Bhattacharya and his son Adarsh Bhattacharya and his associates of sword fighting. The injured in the incident were brought to the hospital and treated. Khamhardih police has started investigation after receiving information.

#### CLASH

**Clash between inmates in Raipur Central Jail, one injured**



**RAIPUR:** Incident of a clash between two groups of inmates, has been reported in Raipur Central Jail. One of the inmates, receiving serious injuries, was rushed the Raipur Medical College Hospital soon after the incident, informed the sources.

Meanwhile, the Ganj police station has registered a case for further investigation. This is not the first such incidents in Raipur Jail, as there had been similar clashes inside the jail many a time.

## Rahul cannot debate with even BJP workers: Sao

Central Chronicle News

Says wave of change is blowing in Odisha and atmosphere is in favor of BJP

**RAIPUR:** Deputy Chief Minister Arun Sao today said that a wave of change was blowing in Odisha. The Naveen Patnaik government in Odisha has played with the people and the condition of the state has deteriorated during the 24 years of its rule, Sao said while talking to the reporters here on Sunday. He alleged that Ministers and MLAs in Odisha government were involved in corruption. According to him the only alternative in Odisha is BJP. People of Odisha are liking BJP and the way change has taken place in Chhattisgarh there is a wave of change in Odisha also, he said.

Assembly and Lok Sabha elections are being held simultaneously in Odisha.

For election preparations, key office bearers of Chhattisgarh BJP have been sent to Odisha and Jharkhand and the party workers there have been given the responsibility to cooperate. Sao said that he too worked for the party in Kalahandi Lok Sabha for three days. Replying to Congress' question on the encounter of 12 Naxalites he said that Congress had always been accustomed to questioning public interest, national interest and the work of security forces. He alleged that it was Congress which nurtured and nourished Naxalism in the last 5 years. The security forces have worked bravely and in the time to time, Bastar will be free from Naxalism and connected to the mainstream of development and the people there would get the benefits of the government schemes, Sai said. On Rahul Gandhi's debate challenge, Sao said that Rahul Gandhi will not be able to debate even with common workers of BJP.

## Summer camp to be organized during vacation, says Minister

**RAIPUR:** The School Education department will organize a summer camp to encourage the students, interested in different sports during the summer vacation. All the schools have been asked to conduct summer camps during the vacation. The students would be encouraged to learn the basics of various different sports, as per their interest, said the School Education Minister Brijmohan Agrawal here on Saturday. He said the vacation time should be utilized for the furtherance of the students in sports and other creative activities. Suggestions from the parents and teachers can also be sought for this camp, he further said.

In the rural areas the local community can also be engaged in this activity, as there are many individuals having natural skill needed in different games, the Minister suggested.

## Rains lash city, bring much needed respite from heat

Central Chronicle News

High velocity winds accompanying rains uprooted trees in some areas of state.

**RAIPUR:** Rains lashed Raipur on Sunday evening bringing much needed respite from heat. The weather has once again taken a turn in Chhattisgarh. Rains with strong winds have been lashing several districts of state for the last several days.

It is cloudy in many areas of the state since Sunday morning. Heavy rains accompanied by thunderstorm lashed Kondagaon and surrounding areas in South Chhattisgarh also. Life has been affected due to sudden change in weather. At many places on Raipur-Jagdarpur road, trees have broken and fallen on the road due to rains and strong winds. Rains



Heavy rains lashed the city on Sunday evening.

### FASTFACTS

According to IMD rain and thundershower are likely in many areas of Chhattisgarh for next 5 days.

From May 13, rain, storm and lightning activities will increase and their effect will be visible in all divisions.

also caused power failure in some villages. High velocity winds caused electric wires to break at many places. Farmers' crops have also suffered damage. According to Meteorological Department yesterday's east-west trough now runs from the cyclonic circulation over West Uttar Pradesh to south Assam across East Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Sub-Himalayan West Bengal at 0.9

km above mean sea level. Yesterday's Trough/Wind Discontinuity from Marathawada to Comorin area now runs from East Madhya Pradesh to Comorin area across Vidarbha, Marathawada, Interior Karnataka & Tamil Nadu at 0.9 km above mean sea level and a cyclonic circulation lies over east Jharkhand & neighbourhood at 1.5 km above mean sea level.

### INTER-STATE GANG BUSTED

## Inter-state gang of ganja and cattle smugglers busted

Central Chronicle News

**BILASPUR:** Bilaspur Police have busted the gang of history-sheeters of UP involved in cattle and ganja smuggling and arrested 10 members associated with it. All those members of gang, caught in the joint action of Cyber Cell, Hirri and Chakarbhatha Police, have connections to Orissa, Maharashtra, UP and MP. The police have recovered a pistol, two country-made pistols and more than a

dozen live cartridges from their possession. Superintendent of Police Rajnesh Singh has disclosed this matter on Sunday.

Superintendent of Police Rajnesh Singh said that information was received in Hirri police station area from the informer about 8 to 10 armed vicious criminals in the yard like area near village Belmundi of Bilaspur Ratanpur Bypass Highway, planning to carry out some incidents. Based on this information, police



reached the spot. Seeing the police laying siege, the criminals present near the yard showed loaded pistols, country-made pistols and sharp weapons in their hands and challenged the police besides threatening to shoot. Police team bravely surrounded them strategically from all sides and arrested them. During interrogation, they admitted to smuggling of ganja and cattle on a large scale.

Police have also seized trucks used in cattle smug-

**The action has been taken on tip off received from an informer about some 8 to 10 armed vicious criminals in Bilaspur-Ratanpur Bypass Highway planning to carry out some incidents.**  
Rajnesh Singh  
SP

gling. Cattle smuggling, robbery, murder, attempt to murder, Gangster Act and other serious cases have been registered against the arrested accused in the past in Chhattisgarh and other states. Police seized a loaded pistol, two loaded country-made pistols, 13 live cartridges, 1 empty cartridge, 2 magazines and sharp weapons from their possession. Apart from this, 2 cars and 2 trucks along with 21 kg of ganja have also been seized.





"After inculcating safe behaviour for 21-days, a person experiences benefits from the 22nd day onwards"

Jitendra Shukla  
SP, Durg

# Follow safety rules for 21-days to make it a habit: SP

Durg Traffic Police is applying this 21-day formula to develop the habit of safe driving.

Central Chronicle News

**BHILAI:** Superintendent of Police (Durg) Jitendra Shukla released a poster on the topic "Follow Good Habits" and appealed to the common people to follow the road safety rules to reduce accidents. This poster would make people aware about wearing seat belts while driving and wearing helmets while riding. It also appeals to the people not to drive in inebriated conditions.

Traffic Police Durg has taken an initiative to develop the habit of safe driving among citizens through the 21-day formula. Through the posters and other means of publicity, Traffic Police is going to make the common citizens aware about the traffic rules and make them develop safe driving habits.

SP Jitendra Shukla said that if a two-wheeler driver uses a helmet and a four-wheeler driver uses a seat belt for 21 days, then it automatically becomes a habit and thereafter that driver will not drive without a helmet and without a seat belt. After applying the 21-day formula, if a



SP Jitendra Shukla and other officials releasing the posters.

person drives a vehicle without helmet / seat belt, he would definitely feel uncomfortable and unsafe. Once a person develops good habits by practicing the same for 21 days, he will continue doing the same throughout his life. After inculcating safe behaviour in life for 21-days, a person will definitely experience the benefits from the 22nd day onwards. Road mishaps can be reduced considerably if every rider / driver follows the traffic rules, SP Shukla said.

## Send photo / video to participate in lucky draw

Deputy Superintendent of Police (Traffic) Satish Thakur said that to encourage the people to practice the 21-day formula, they have also introduced a lucky draw. While practicing the good habit of wearing helmets and seat belts, people can click their photos or make videos and send the same on traffic helpline number 9479192029. Traffic Police would con-

### HIGHLIGHT

- Apply 21-day formula to inculcate safe driving habits

- Durg Police will honour the lucky draw winners

duct a lucky draw after 21 days and honour the winners of this lucky draw.

He said that head injury is the prime cause of deaths in case of road accidents involving two-wheelers. A rider can prevent a serious head injury by wearing a helmet. It also increases visibility by protecting the eyes from sunlight, dust, rain water, etc. DSP Thakur further said that seat belts also reduce the possibility of fatality in a car accident.

## ASI suspended; another ASI and Head Constable attached

Central Chronicle News

Three cops face the music in cases of non-compliance with the court orders and misbehaving with the complainant and advocate.

**BHILAI:** Durg SP Jitendra Shukla has taken action against three policemen including a female Head Constable for non-compliance of court orders. ASI Sanjay Kumar Sahu has been suspended while ASI Subhash Chandra Borkar and Head Constable Nutan Sahu have been attached to Police Lines. It needs to be mentioned here that SP Jitendra Shukla had directed all the policemen to ensure compliance of the orders received from the Supreme Court and High court after careful study and interpretation. Shukla had also directed to make him aware about the court orders before taking any action. ASI Sanjay Kumar Sahu positioned in SP Office neglected the SP's instructions in the High Court Bilaspur orders received in the case of Ranjit Kandra v/s Somnath. The High Court had given certain directions

in the case on April 26, 2024. On receiving the court orders, ASI Sanjay Sahu did not inform the SP and directly forwarded the same to the concerned Police Station for compliance. Taking cognizance over the negligence, SP issued suspension orders for ASI Sanjay Kumar Sahu. In the second case, SP took action against

### FASTFACTS

- SP had directed to inform him about court orders.

- Ensure compliance after proper study and interpretation.

Assistant Sub Inspector Subhash Chandra Borkar posted at Old Bhilai Police Station. On May 10, ASI Borkar was working as the Day Officer at Old Bhilai Police Station. A complainant Akash Singh son of Vasudev Singh, a resident of Bajrangpara Vasundhara Nagar Bhilai, reached Old Bhilai Police Station to lodge an FIR regarding bike theft. ASI Borkar did not attend the complainant properly and even misbehaved with the complainant. He did not take appropriate legal action immediately on the complaint.

### DEBRIS REMOVED

BMC removes construction debris from roads



**BHILAI:** Bhilai Municipal Corporation is taking action to confiscate the construction debris found lying on the roadside. It is being done to prevent road accidents and keep the city clean. On the instructions of Corporation Commissioner Devesh Kumar Dhruv, BMC enforcement teams are removing the debris dumped on the roadside as well as in the streets at various places within the corporation limits. It is often seen that the people demolish their buildings and leave the debris on roadsides. Further, construction wastes are found lying near the under-construction buildings. The debris creates dangerous situations for the commuters and often causes accidents.

### SELF IMMOLATION

19-year-old girl commits suicide

**BHILAI:** A young girl committed suicide by immolating self at her home in village Godhi of Nandini Police Station limits. The deceased was identified as Vidya Shrivastava (19). She had completed her higher secondary schooling and her father was searching for a proper match for her marriage. She was alone at home on Saturday. On hearing screams, their neighbours came out and saw smoke emerging from Shrivastava house. They broke the main door and found the charred body of Vidya lying on the floor. On information, police reached the spot and the body was sent for autopsy. Post mortem was performed at Supela Government Hospital after which the body was handed over to the family.

### REBATE

Avail 6.25 percent discount by paying lump sum property tax

**BHILAI:** For the benefit of taxpayers, Bhilai Municipal Corporation has announced to provide a rebate of 6.25 percent on depositing the lump sum amount of property tax for the financial year 2024-25 in the month of May. A website is also available in Hindi and English for online tax payment. On the instructions of Corporation Commissioner Devesh Kumar Dhruv, the Property Tax Department has launched the website <https://Chhattishgarhmunicipal.com/nagarnigam/citizen/> for the convenience of the building owners of the corporation area. On clicking the property tax button, an OTP will be sent to the registered mobile number and on submitting the OTP, you will get information about property tax details, demand note etc.

## 3130 postal ballots received so far from 85 plus voters

Central Chronicle News

Service voters can submit postal ballots by 6.30 am on June 04.

**BHILAI:** In the Lok Sabha Elections 2024, postal ballot facility was provided to the voters posted on election duty, disabled, 85 plus voters and electors deployed in compulsory service. Parliamentary constituency 07 Durg includes main district Durg and peripheral district Bemetara.

Voting through postal ballot was conducted in Durg and Bemetara districts. A total of 2354 votes, including 1995 in Durg district and 359 in Bemetara district, were received through the facilitation center for electors deployed on election duty. Specially constituted polling team conducted voting through postal ballots for

disabled and elderly (85 plus) voters by reaching their homes. In this category, 305 postal votes were received in district Durg and 13 in district Bemetara. Additional Collector and Nodal Officer (Postal Ballot) Dashrath Rajput informed that as per the instructions of the Election Commission of India, additional facilities to the compulsory service voters and they were allowed to vote from the Postal Voting Center (PVC). 05 postal ballot papers were received from PVC in district Durg and 10 in district Bemetara. Main district Durg has so far received 443 postal ballots through ETPBS from service voters deployed in the military and central armed services. Now, only the postal ballots from service voters will be received through ETPBS till 6:30 am on the counting date 04 June 2024.

## Man drowns at Mahmara anicut

**BHILAI:** A man drowned in river Sheonath at Mahmara anicut on Sunday morning. A local spotted the drowning man and immediately informed the Police on Dial 112. Police team reached the spot and SDRF was called in. The divers of SDRF searched for the man in water and managed to fish out the body after several hours. The deceased was identified as Bhupendra Yadav (55) son of Makhana Yadav a resident of Rajiv Nagar, Durg. Family of the deceased also reached the spot for identification. The family members asserted that Bhupendra Yadav cannot commit suicide. Police have launched investigation to explore whether it was an accident, homicide or suicide. After preparing an inquest, police sent the body for autopsy at District Hospital. Relatives and other people are being interrogated.

## Highest bid of Rs 44.75 lakh received for Ahata at TP

Central Chronicle News

Ahata at 53 liquor shops in Durg District were allotted through online tender system.

**BHILAI:** For the financial year 2024-25, online tenders were invited for a total of 53 ahatas at country / foreign / composite liquor shops in Durg district. From April 12 to 25, a total of 310 tenders were received for 53 Ahatas of the district through an online tender process. Out of these bidders, 309 tenders were found eligible and one tender for foreign liquor shop Jewra Sirsa was rejected due to technical reasons. It was rejected as the bidder had not attached the PAN card with the tender. The highest number of 16 tenders was received in the district for country / com-



Tenders opened in presence of bidders.

### FASTFACTS

- 16 tenders received for Nankatti liquor shop

- None interested for Anda, Puraina and Charoda

posite liquor shop Nankatti and single tenders were received for nine shops. No tender was received for the country liquor shop Anda, country composite liquor shop Puraina and foreign liquor shop Charoda.

Assistant Commissioner (Excise) Rajesh Jaiswal informed that the selection of successful bidders from the tenders was conducted on May 10 in the Collectorate meeting room. Collector Richa Prakash Chaudhary chaired the meeting. Assistant Commissioner (Excise) Rajesh Jaiswal and NIC Durg in-charge LB Singh were also present.

The selection process was conducted through online mode in the presence of the bidders. The

highest bid of Rs 4475200 received in the tender process was for Composite Liquor Shop located at TP Nagar, Bhilai. On the other hand, the lowest bid of Rs 200000 was made for composite liquor shop TP Nagar, Sikolabhata, Durg. Two tenders having the same bid amount of Rs 1683000 were received for the country liquor shop Maroda. The successful bidder for the said liquor shop was selected on the basis of first come first serve.

### FINANCIAL EMPOWERMENT |

## Sewing Training under Kaushal Vikas Yojna inaugurated at CSR Officer

Central Chronicle News

**BHILAI:** The Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Department, of SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant, is organizing a 3-month long 'Sewing Training Camp' at CSR Office, Sector-5. Shikha Dubey, GM (TSD-Education) inaugurated the 'Sewing Training Camp', aimed at Women Empowerment, on May 11, 2024. Chief Guest Shikha Dubey appreciated the

training camp initiative by the CSR Department and stated that this training initiative shall financially empower women to become self-reliant so that they can also contribute to the economic development of their families and inspire other women to do the same, she said.

At this sewing camp under Kaushal Vikas Yojna, 35 underprivileged women from Bhilai and nearby areas



Underprivileged women at the sewing camp under Kaushal Vikas Yojna

shall undergo three-month-long training under expert trainers. This training is aimed at making them self-reliant so that they may contribute to their family's livelihood.

At the outset, Shivrajan, GM (CSR) gave the Welcome Address. The Inauguration function was compered by Kamal Kant Verma, Dy Mgr (CSR), while SK Kamde, Sr Mgr (CSR), proposed the Vote of Thanks.



"Training will not only empower women financially but also inspire other women to do the same"

Shikha Dubey  
GM (TSD-Education), BSP

The Corporate Social Responsibility Department (CSR) of SAIL-B-

hilai Steel Plant has always been a step ahead in discharging its social responsibility as a part of the organization's commitment to society. Women's Empowerment is one of the prime areas to which BSP's CSR Department contributes actively. The CSR Department runs several skill development projects, especially for the women in the adjoining rural areas of the Plant.



# Battle'24



“ Congress party will conduct a caste census to ensure equality, when it comes to power.”

Rahul Gandhi  
Congress Leader

## PM Modi in a Public Meeting in West Bengal



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with BJP candidates Kabir Shankar Bose and Locket Chatterjee during a public meeting for Lok Sabha elections, at Chinsurah in Hooghly district, in West Bengal on Sunday. PTI

# Modi's roadshow boosts party workers in Bihar: Chaudhary

Bihar BJP President and Deputy Chief Minister Samrat Chaudhary said, PM Narendra Modi's roadshow in Patna has enthused party workers and motivated them.

**Press Trust Of India**  
**PATNA:** Bihar BJP President and Deputy Chief Minister Samrat Chaudhary said Prime Minister Narendra Modi's roadshow in Patna on Sunday has enthused party workers and motivate them to ensure victory of NDA nominees in all 40 Lok Sabha seats in the state. Talking to PTI, Chaudhary said, "People of Patna are fully prepared to give a grand welcome to Modi Ji. It was the first roadshow in Patna by any PM. This roadshow has certainly enthused party workers and motivated

them to ensure victory to NDA nominees in all 40 Lok Sabha seats in the state." The Bihar DyCM, said, "Our PM thinks for the overall development of the country and also for the welfare of the general public, including weaker sections of the society. The NDA government under the leadership of Modi Ji has launched several welfare schemes for the poor and weaker sections of the society. PM does not think for himself. He is a 'fakir' and will always remain a fakir." Meanwhile, fool-proof security arrange-

**HIGHLIGHT**  
● "Our PM thinks for the development of the country and also for the welfare of the general public, including weaker sections of the society, said the Bihar DyCM.  
● PM Modi was scheduled to visit Takht Harmandir, the famous Sikh shrine situated in the old city area, where Guru Gobind Singh was born and spent his childhood.  
ments were in place across the city for the PM's roadshow.

The roadshow commenced at the Income Tax office roundabout, situated a few hundred metres from the state BJP headquarters, and concluded at Udyog Bhavan in the vicinity of Gandhi Maidan, passing through crowded localities like Fraser Road, Exhibition Road, Kadam Kuan and Sahitya Sammelan. Barricades had been erected on both sides of the road along the route and commercial establishments, which are aplenty in the area, are likely to remain closed. The SSP said forces were deployed on rooftops of

many buildings to keep a tight vigil. After the roadshow, the prime minister was scheduled to retire for the night at the Raj Bhavan. Later, he was scheduled to visit Takht Harmandir, the famous Sikh shrine situated in the old city area, where Guru Gobind Singh was born and spent his childhood. Choudhary said the PM Modi [popularity] has definitely encouraged the party workers to work in the election campaign and it will be positive result in the voting. He workers are ready to being victory by all means.

## All candidates in Odisha's Nabarangpur LS seat trying to woo Bengali settlers

**KORAPUT:** The ruling Biju Janata Dal, BJP and Congress candidates in Odisha's Nabarangpur Lok Sabha seat are trying to woo the Bengali migrant settlers as their votes can sway the electoral fortune in the constituency. The Bengali community is largely comprised of scheduled caste people who migrated from East Pakistan (now Bangladesh) during the 1960s and 1970s and reside in 214 villages in Malkangiri district and 64 villages in Nabarangpur district after acquiring Indian citizenship in the early 1970s. Elections to the Nabarangpur constituency will be held on May 13. Comprising around 1.5 lakh voters, the Bengali community exerts considerable influence across the Nabarangpur parliamentary constituency.

# Modi Govt focusing on manufacturing : Jaishankar

EXTERNAL AFFAIR MINISTER'S INTERVIEW |

**Press Trust Of India**  
**Boosting India's domestic manufacturing will provide much more resources in its foreign policy toolkit to expand the country's global influence, says External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar.**  
**NEW DELHI:** Boosting India's domestic manufacturing and the overall economy will provide much more resources in its foreign policy toolkit to expand the country's influence globally and compete with China on the economic front, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said. India under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra



**FACTFILE**  
● Of late, international relations have become competitive. We have a neighbour like China. We have to learn to compete," he said.  
Modi has been focusing on enhancing domestic manufacturing in the

last 10 years as there was a neglect of the sector before 2014 and it created many problems for the country, Jaishankar told PTI in an exclusive interview. He also suggested that lack of focus in the past to the manufacturing sector is linked to the upward trajectory in India-China trade not-

withstanding New Delhi's position of ties with Beijing is dependent on the resolution of the eastern Ladakh border row. "We need to be confident. I am clear that international politics, international relations are competitive. I have a neighbour like China. I have to learn to compete," he said. "By my complaining, China is not going to stop doing things. If I do not build up my strength at home, our foreign policy will be as good as our domestic policy," Jaishankar said. "It is a function of our domestic policy that if I can actually build up my economy, if I can build up my manufacturing, the country will have more resources.

## Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

### POLLING IN JH'KHAND Stage set for voting in four Lok Sabha seats in Jharkhand on Monday

**RANCHI:** The stage is set for voting in Jharkhand's four Lok Sabha constituencies—Singbhum, Khunti, Lohardaga and Palamu— on Monday amidst heavy security deployment in all polling booths. More than 64.37 lakh electors including 32.07 lakh female voters are eligible to exercise their franchise in the four constituencies in the state, an election official said. Jharkhand Chief Electoral Officer (CEO), K Ravi Kumar told PTI, "All preparations have been completed to hold the polls free and fair in four Lok Sabha constituencies. Elaborate security arrangements have been ensured in every booth across four constituencies." Kumar, who on Sunday took stock of several booths in Jharkhand's Latehar district, said that polling parties have started moving to their respective booths and the process will be complete by 3 pm Sunday. PTI

### CONTROVERSY RMP leader's remark against Shailja, triggers political row in Kerala

**KOZHIKODE:** A leader of the Revolutionary Marxist Party (RMP), a key constituent in the opposition Congress-led UDF, has courted controversy for making an alleged sexist remark against senior CPI (M) leader K K Shailaja and Malayalam film actress Maju Warrior. RMP leader K S Hariharan made the objectionable remark on Saturday night while speaking at a meeting in Vadakara here which was inaugurated by Leader of Opposition in the state Assembly V D Satheesan. PTI



## SIT PROBE IN K'TAKA SIT not going abroad to bring Prajwal Revanna back: K' taka Home Minister

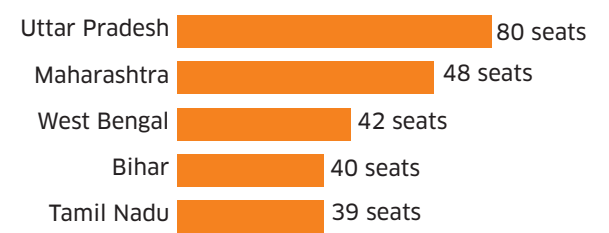


**BENGALURU:** Karnataka Home Minister G Parameshwara on Sunday said that the Special Investigation Team (SIT), probing into sexual abuse charges against Hassan MP Prajwal Revanna, will not be going abroad to bring him back, and the Interpol will share information about him. He also cautioned political leaders about making public statements or sharing information in connection with the case, which is sensitive.

The 33-year-old Prajwal Revanna, who is grandson of JD(S) patriarch and former Prime Minister H D Deve Gowda, is facing charges of sexually abusing several women. The scandal has raised a political storm with the ruling Congress and BJP-JD(S) engaged in a slugfest. Prajwal Revanna is said to have flown abroad on April 27, a day after the first phase of Lok Sabha polls in Karnataka was held. He was BJP-JD(S) alliance's joint candidate from Hassan Lok Sabha segment, which went to polls in the first phase. PTI

## The Day's NUMBERS

### MAXIMUM LOK SABHA CONSTITUENCIES IN STATES



Source: Agencies

### CAMPAIGN Cong, BJP spar after MP CM Yadav's gaffe about his party MLA

**BHOPAL :** Madhya Pradesh Congress has taken a swipe at Chief Minister Mohan Yadav after he apparently forgot the assembly seat of his party MLA from the state during an event. The BJP, however, hit back saying the Congress is upset because of the welfare works done by Yadav's government. A video of CM Yadav, during a programme on Friday at Janapav (the birthplace of Lord Parshuram) under the Mhow assembly seat in Indore district from where Usha Thakur is the BJP MLA, surfaced on social media on Sunday. Yadav, while addressing the gathering, is heard in the video congratulating his cabinet minister Kailash Vijayvargiya on his birthday. "I congratulate Kailash ji Bhaisaheb. He worked here together with Usha ji. Now even though Usha ji is no longer the MLA here, earlier Usha ji was the MLA here." A voice from the public is then heard saying she is "still the MLA from here (Mhow)". PTI

### WOMEN'S QUOTA PM's 33% women's quota will come to Priyanka's aid in future: Thakur

**HAMIRPUR:** Senior BJP leader and Union minister Anurag Thakur took a swipe at Priyanka Gandhi Vadra for not contesting Lok Sabha elections, saying she could possibly benefit from the 33 per cent reservation for women in Parliament brought by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to make her electoral debut. In an interview with PTI, Thakur also taunted Priyanka Gandhi's husband Robert Vadra for failing to secure a Congress ticket for himself. The Union minister said Gandhi family members were welcome in active politics and Congress should in fact work hard because the country wants a strong opposition in a parliamentary democracy. PTI



## SRINAGAR ELECTION

# PDP workers arrested ahead of polling

**Press Trust Of India**  
**PDP candidate Waheed Para has alleged that some officials were trying to manipulate the Lok Sabha polls.**  
**SRINAGAR:** National Conference candidate for the Srinagar Lok Sabha constituency Aga Ruhullah Mehdi on Sunday

demanding immediate release of workers of his party and rival PDP who he claimed have been arrested ahead of the polling. Voting in the Srinagar Lok Sabha constituency is scheduled on Monday. "Our workers are being picked up by the police since yesterday. I got a call from a senior colleague like A R Rather

**Our workers are being picked up by the local police officers for no reasons since yesterday.**  
**Aga Ruhullah Mehdi**  
Srinagar candidate of NC



sb informing me about the arrests of our workers from Charsharif. Similar calls from the colleagues from Khanshab and Cha-

doora. Would the Election Commission please care to explain these arrests," Mehdi, an influential Shia leader, posted on X. He called for immediate release of his party workers and also those of the PDP. PDP leader Firdous Tak also took to social media, calling for an end to the alleged arrests and harassment of his party workers.



There is an air of change in Odisha, as the Naveen Patnaik govt has done injustice to its people.

**Arun Sao**  
Dy. CM Chhattisgarh



# Chhattisgarh

## Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

### BONUS POINTS

#### 81 Scouts & Guides get 10 bonus points

**RAJIM:** Scouts, Guides, Rovers and Rangers who passed the Governor's Award Examination in the session 2023-24 under Bharat Scouts and Guides Chhattisgarh District Association Gariaband were given 10 marks as bonus in the 10th and 12th examination released by the Board of Secondary Education. A total of 37 Scout Guides in class 10th and 44 Rover Rangers in class 12th, making a total of 81 students were given 10 marks as bonus marks by the Board of Secondary Education, Raipur. It is a matter of pride that Shaurya Shukla father Roshan Shukla, who has secured 9th rank in the 10th merit list, is a Governor Awarded Scout.

On this, State Chief Commissioner Dr. Somnath Yadav, State Secretary Kailash Soni, District Union Gariaband President and former MLA Santosh Upadhyay, District Chief Commissioner Baisakhu Ram Sahu, congratulated the students.

### MILESTONE

#### Kejriwal's bail is a crucial milestone: Thakur



**RAJIM:** Former district president of Aam Aadmi Party, Raja Thakur has expressed happiness over AAP supremo and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal getting interim bail and said that there is a wave of happiness among AAP workers and a new energy has been infused among them. Thakur expressed his gratitude to the Supreme Court of the country, and further said that this is the victory of truth as Arvind Kejriwal is not a person, he is a thought, and he is a revolution.

### Water sources drying up in city

#### City water sources drying up as heat intensifies particularly the Satti pond



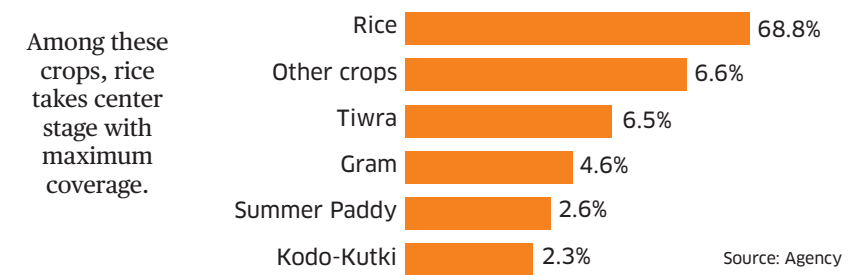
**RAJIM:** Many water sources of the city are drying up due to extreme heat, particularly the Satti pond behind the Devi Shakti temple located in Chaubebandha Road of the city is on the verge of complete drying up.

Due to the extreme heat, there is now no water left in the pond and from this it can be inferred that the water level is going down rapidly. There are more than a dozen ponds in the city, and if all these ponds are filled with water then the groundwater level will remain maintained, but due to lack of beautification, there are some ponds where their utility can be increased by running motor boats. The pond adjacent to Sai temple is in a long and wide

square area and it is said that 25 years ago a large number of people used to ensure its utility, but with passing time, the pond is in a deserted stage, with filth and dirt accumulated all over. The city being a religious city, a large number of devotees and tourists keep coming from India and abroad, therefore it's the need of the time to beautify and utilise the deserted ponds, which are more than four presently and increase the ground water level. At present the summer temperature has crossed 42 degrees and it is fortunate that due to the change in weather every 15 days, people take a sigh of relief; otherwise the situation would have become miserable by now in the summers.

### The Day's NUMBERS

#### WHAT IS THE AGRICULTURE LANDSCAPE OF CROPS IN CH'GARH?



### EXAM RESULTS

#### Excellent performance of SSMHSS in board exam

**KURUD:** Saraswati Shishu Mandir Higher Secondary School, Kurud performed excellently in the High/Higher Secondary Board Examination 2023-24. The result in class 10th was 96%, first place in the class went to Lajma Kosaria father Dinesh Kumar Kosaria and with 92.6%, the second place went to Monica Sahu father Gajendra Kumar and with 87.2%, the third position went to Nohar Sahu father Netram. Similarly in class 12th exam result was 95.2%, and the first position in the class was bagged by Keshari Sahu father Khemlal Sahu and with 87.2%, second position went to Nitin Kumar father Rajesh Kumar and with 85.6%, third place was bagged by Rashmi Dhruvanshi father Rekrham. On this achievement of the students, the committee family included LP Goswami (Chairman), Tilokchand Jain, Devnath Soni, Ramayan Lal Sahu, Nemichand Bais, Vedanath Chandrakar, Suresh Mahawar, Dhaneshwar Nirmalkar and school principal Srinivas Shukla, Principal Jitendra and all the Acharya brothers/sisters congratulated the students.

### RESULTS

#### Class 10th result 70%, 12th - 84% that of UPEMS



**DONGARGAON:** The result of class 10th of the local Union Public English Medium School, Dongargaon was 70% and the result of class 12th was 84%. Out of 10 students studying in 10th board, seven passed in first division, with Ayush Pharendra bagging 88.33% percentage, Jagriti Sahu 76%, Praveen Munde 75.1%, Pratap Kandra 75% Harshita Meshram 69.6% Rakesh Rajpurohit 64.1% and Hemant Patel getting 60.5%. Whereas the result of 12th board was 84%, out of 13 students who studied, five passed in first division and six passed in second division.



Collector conducting inspection of the services to be provided before opening of the cave.

# Collector inspects Mandeep Khol cave before opening

Mandeep Khol is situated amidst dense forests near village Thakurtola of Chhuikhadan development block of the district and is a historical cave, which is considered revered

### Central Chronicle News

**KHAIRAGARH:** Emphasizing the immense potential of tourism in the district and expressing his commitment for its development, Collector Chandrakant Verma here inspected the historical Mandeep Khol cave situated amidst the dense forests of Thakurtola under Chhuikhadan development block of the district. While inspecting the Mandeep Khol cave, the Collector gave instructions to ensure cleanliness and other arrangements while taking special care of security before opening the cave for worship. Apart from this, other places located around the cave were also inspected.

This cave is opened for tourists every year on the first Monday after Akshaya Tritiya, where hundreds of tourists reach the cave for worship as per religious beliefs. During the inspection, the Collector, keeping in mind the facilities of the visitors, directed JS Rajput, the Chief Executive Officer of District Panchayat Chhuikhadan, for cleaning the road along with other mess and Engineer Bavinder Singh of Public Works Department for dust flying due to road construction and instructions were given to sprinkle water to reduce it.

Apart from this, for the sake of security, the officers of the police department were also directed

### HIGHLIGHT

Collector said that there is immense potential for tourism in the district

Hundreds of tourists reach the cave for worship as per religious beliefs

that there will be a large crowd, controlling which will be the responsibility of the police administration. Also, forest department officials were asked to prepare barricades made of bamboo and poles so that the devotees could enter the cave as per the order. The Collector said that there is immense potential for tourism in

the district and the district administration is continuously making efforts for its development and Khairagarh- Chhuikhadan-Gandai district has heritage sites of historical and ancient importance, apart from ancient temples, it is also rich in natural beauty, which can be developed with everyone's efforts and proper efforts will be made to bring the district on the world stage as a tourism hub. On this occasion, SDM Chhuikhadan Renuka Ratre, Executive Engineer Electrical Chhagan Sharma, Nayaab Tehsildar Salhewara Amardeep Zone and other officers were present. It is noteworthy that Mandeep Khol is situated amidst dense

forests near village Thakurtola of Chhuikhadan development block of the district and is a historical cave, which is considered revered in the region in the cave there is a Kund and it is believed that the water of Setganga Kund is as pure as the water of Ganga, which never gets spoiled and there are no insects in this water. The Sarpanch of Thakurtola told that inside Setganga Kund there is a cave known as Bat Cave, in which thousands of bats live, where it is quite dark even during the day, and the torch light on the stones here appears like stars. Last year, a five-day yagya was organized here, in which thousands of devotees participated.

## Grand Shobha and Kalash Yatra to be held on May 15

**KURUD:** Under the efficient leadership and guidance of Kurud MLA and former cabinet minister Ajay Chandrakar, preparations are in full swing for the welcome and procession of Gaurishankar Shiv Mahapuran Mahakatha for organising Katha of Bhagwat Bhushan Pandit Pradeep Mishra organized by Prakash Sharma and Sridhar family. A huge procession with Kalash Rally is proposed from New Bus Stand, Sanjay Nagar, Sports Fair Ground, Kargil Chowk, Old Bus Stand, Sarojini Chowk, Old Bazaar Chowk, Thana Road via Chandi Mata Temple to Jaleswar Mahadev Temple, in which all the city residents and Shiv devotees are cordially invited.

### Central Chronicle News

Strife and road rage are becoming part of the city culture as alcoholism and drug addiction taking the centre stage as root to all the problems.

**BILASPUR:** Both intoxication and hooliganism is on a rise in the district, which is directly leading people particularly the youth population into crime. Strife and road rage are becoming part of the city culture as alcoholism and drug addiction taking the centre stage as root to all the problems. Drug menace which was not a part of the cities culture is increasing day by day as there are many instances

### | INCREASING CRIME |

# Hooliganism on a rise as intoxication, crime increases



SP Santosh Singh

### FACTFILE

As the city is growing, crime is also spreading and very fast youth are becoming its biggest victims

Rescue campaign of former Superintendent of Police Santosh Singh should be re-launched once again

when youths in a perverted state are entering other people's houses and causing harm to innocent people.

As the city is growing, crime is also spreading and very fast youth are becoming its biggest victims, as the police force is not able to curb the situation.

Today Bilaspur is the second fastest growing city of the state, where

apart from the local people, people from outside are also residing in this city with criminals also making their presence felt in this peaceful city. Many in the public have opined that, it's not only the common man or criminals but there are also brawls between the police too, leading to a situation of uncertainty among the public which otherwise is grossly questionable. Everyone in the city, from the general public to the senior officers, know the reason apparently behind the policemen fighting among themselves in the middle of the road in Bilaspur, but despite that, why did the SP attach them to the line instead of suspending them, is the talk of the town presently.

### | INCOMPLETE WORK |

## People to face problem of overflowing in 'Harinullah'

### Central Chronicle News

**PANDARIA:** This year the overflowing of rainwater from Harinullah will once again stop the movement of people from city, as even after sanction, the chances of construction of new bridge on this 'nullah' are remote. The National Highway 103A passes from near the city's Harinullah and which every year

during the heavy rains remains closed.

The sanction for construction of a new bridge on this nullah was made during Congress rule on 29 Sept 2023 and its administrative sanction was granted on 6 Sept 2023. For the new bridge, a sanction of Rs 76.29 lakh was made and after which amidst the government procedure, the Vidhan



It is only after the code of conduct that the tender for the bridge on 'Harinullah' will be opened.

OP Upadhyay  
SDO- PWD Dept



Sabha elections came and during which the tender was already in place. The tender was to open on June 4, but the same was stopped due to Lok Sabha polls and now this procedure will start only after ending of the code of conduct on June 5. But with rains already starting by this period, the chances of bridge on this 'nullah' are remote.



# Three accused of inter-state gang of thugs nabbed

Used to fool villagers in the name of selling fake gold at lesser price

Central Chronicle News

**GAURELA:** GPM police has nabbed an inter-state gang of four persons including 3 male and 1 female thief from Himgir area of Sundergarh in Odisha involved in fooling villagers in the name of fake gold.

The police has also seized fake gold and artificial jewellery made of fake silver and gold, along with SIM cards, mobile phones and the original gold jewellery purchased by cheating villagers with fake gold/silver items.

It was based upon the complaint by Purn Lal Rathore, R/o Gram Bijarwar of GPM in Gaurela thana that on May 1, some unknown persons took away his pure gold items worth Rs 2 lakh in the name of selling fake gold at lesser rate.

It was based upon the complaint, that a case was lodged and when investigation was done, it turned out to be well-planned way of looting people by selling fake gold.

Taking the crime serious, SP Bhawana gupta asked the police team to investigate and in this as per guidance of Addl. SP Om Chandel and under direction



From L to R- Accused nabbed in fake gold case (R) along with the fake jewelleryes and mobile handsets.

of SDOP Shyam Kumar Sidar that a combined team of Gaurela thana and Cyber Cell of GPM was formed.

On carrying out investigation all CCTV footages as per details by the victim was done and then the police came to know that in this three male and one female are involved and on checking their track it was learnt that all the accused have come from Anoopur (MP) to Gaurela and after crime they left for Bilaspur.

## Accused used to win confidence taking cash for pure gold

Police came to know that in GPM also they have earlier camped at the Railway Station and then conducted this crime. GPM Police by tracking through Cyber Cell was able to locate their actual residence in Himgir area of Odisha, as they were found staying in Himgir as day-to-day market item sellers. Out of four accused, two male and

### HIGHLIGHT

● Out of four accused, two male and one female accused were nabbed

● Police also seized few pure and more fake gold items, mobile handsets, SIM cards

one female accused were nabbed and on interrogation they informed about their method of cheating. The police also seized the pure gold items, mobile handsets, SIM cards of Airtel, Vodaphone, Idea and other items from their possession and it was learnt that all these SIM cards were obtained through fake documents.

## SECL's contribution to national exchequer touches a new high

Central Chronicle News

SECL has deposited about Rs 5,883 crore to the state exchequer of Chhattisgarh.

**KORBA:** SECL, one of the largest coal-producing companies in the country, has made a record contribution of Rs 17,474 crore to the national exchequer in the last financial year 23-24. SECL has deposited about Rs 5,883 crore to the state exchequer of Chhattisgarh through various taxes in FY 23-24.

SECL's contribution to the state exchequer of Chhattisgarh saw an increase of more than 4% (around Rs 220 crores) compared to the previous financial year.

The Central and State Governments impose various taxes on the sale of coal by SECL, includ-

ing Income Tax, Royalty, District Mineral Foundation (DMF), GST, etc.

The total contribution made to the Government of Chhattisgarh includes Rs 2,843 crores as royalty, about Rs 874 crore to the District Mineral Foundation (DMF), Rs 386 crore as GST, and Rs 1778 crore paid through other taxes.

The contribution to the government treasury by various government and private companies working in the mineral-rich state of Chhattisgarh is one of the major sources of income for the state and strengthens the economy of the state. This contribution plays an important role in implementation of various social welfare schemes run by the Government of Chhattisgarh and the development of infrastructure related to electricity, water, roads, education etc. in the state.

## Former teacher accused of molestation

**GAURELA:** Police in Chhattisgarh's Gaurela-Pendra-Marwahi district has registered a case of rape against a 21-year-old woman accused him of raping her repeatedly ever since she was in Class 7. Search was on for the accused who was on the run, said an official on Saturday. The woman approached police with her family members and lodged a complaint after she recently became pregnant, said Gaurela Station House Officer Saurabh Singh. Mahendra Soni, the accused, had been sexually exploiting her since she was only twelve-and-half years old and studying in Class 7 at a school where he taught, she stated in the complaint. "She alleged that Soni kept raping her after promising to marry her. After she turned adult, he would allegedly take her to different places and rape her," the official said.

## Total 34 Masons imparted training by BoB RSETI

Central Chronicle News

Director Chhattisgarh State Mission Namrata Jain (IAS) motivated the masons about skill development and self-employment.

**JANJGIR:** National Academy of Rudseti organised two-day state-level TOT training programme to masons. In this training, a total of 34 masons from Janjgir-Champa, Korba, Raigarh, Bilaspur, Korea, Surguja, Kanker, Dhamtari, Durg, Rajnandgaon, Mahasamund, Jashpur, Dantewada, Narayanpur, Jagdalpur, Bastar and other district participated. The masons were given information by the state technical head Bangur Cement Dheeraj Bansal. Director Chhattisgarh State Mission Namrata Jain (IAS)

| STATE-LEVEL TOT TRAINING FOR MASONS |



Masons after training by subject experts.

### FASTFACTS

● It is under guidance of Director RSETI and subject experts that the unemployed youth are imparted training

● Boys and girls of 18-45 yrs from BPL card-holder families are imparted training on 60 different subjects free of cost

motivated the masons about skill development

## Collector, SP conducts surprise inspection of district jail

Central Chronicle News

During inspection duo took stock of health, safety, cleanliness of jail birds and the facilities being provided to them.

**KORBA:** Collector and District Judicial Magistrate (DJM) Ajit Vasant, SP Siddharth Tiwari conducted surprise inspection of District Jail Korba on Saturday. During this they took stock of health, safety, cleanliness of jail birds and the facilities being provided to them in the jail. Collector SP during their inspection inspected the kitchen, meeting room, male barrack, entry gate, dairy and other and also the barracks for the aged prisoners. During this they also checked different registers and CCTV system for security and checked the control room as well.

During inspection of jail, Collector also took information from prisoners about their cases. During the inspection, it was informed that there are total of 238 prisoners undergoing imprisonment in 15 barracks in the district Jail Korba. In the barrack, Collector-SP also met the female prisoners and inquired about health of their children and offered

chocolates and sweets to children. During this the Collector asked the jailer to provide toys for children of female prisoners and provide knowledge oriented and inspirational books for female jail birds and organise variety of activities so as to remove their mental stress and organise Yoga and other forms of exercises as well. Further Collector, SP duo took information about the type of food being

### FASTFACTS

● During inspection duo inspected the kitchen, meeting room, male barrack, entry gate, dairy

● Collector- SP also met the female prisoners and inquired about health of their children

provided to prisoners and about their health check-up and took stock of security in the District Jail by personally inspecting the jail premises. During this duo directed the Jailer to send a proposal for the things required in the jail as per jail manual, so that the shortcomings in the district jail can be removed. Collector also directed the jailer and authorities to ensure cleanliness in the kitchen, toilets.

### NEWSLINE

#### ACCIDENT

**Speeding truck hits a scooter rider, youth dies on the spot**



**JAGDALPUR:** Khemsingh Patel, resident of 5th Battalion quarter number R-4 in Parpa police station area of the district, left home to go to office. Meanwhile, a speeding truck coming from Jagdalpur towards Keshalur hit a scooter-riding youth, Khemsingh Patel, who died in this road accident. According to the information received from Parpa Police, 05th Battalion quarter number R-4 resident Khemsingh Patel, father Loknath Patel, 37 years old, was posted as computer operator in the Forest Department office in Kumharpara. Like everyday, this Friday morning I was going to the Forest Department office at Kumharpara on my scooter.

#### SHOBHA YATRA

**Brahmin Samaj take out rally on Parsuram Jayanti**

**KONDAGAON:** On birth anniversary of Lord Parsuram, the district Brahmin community worshipped Lord Parsuram in the social building, organized various programs and took out a grand procession of Lord Parsuram on various routes in the city. Bhagwan Parsuram rally was taken out from Samaj Bhavan Badekanera Road on the main road in various routes of the city. During this, slogans of Lord Jai Lord Parshuram kept echoing. The grand rally was concluded at Brahmin Samaj Bhavan after passing through various routes in the city. On the occasion of Lord Parsuram Jayanti the society honoured senior citizens who did excellent work in the interest of society.

#### SURPRISE INSPECTION

**Addl Collector conducts surprise inspection, issues notices to 36**



**KONDAGAON:** As per the instructions received from Collector Kunal Dudawat to ensure the arrangement and smooth functioning of the offices in the district, a surprise inspection of the offices of the district headquarters was conducted by Additional Collector Chitrakant Charlie Thakur. In which he investigated the Water Resources Department, Municipality, Women and Child Development Department Project Office, Block Education Officer Office and Chief Medical Officer and Health Officer Office. After taking information about the employees posted in the office along with the attendance registers, he has given notice to 36 employees.

| MISLEADING POLICE |

## Naxalites in disguise of villagers during encounter in Bijapur

Central Chronicle News

**BIJAPUR:** Some Naxalites changed into civilian clothes to pose as villagers and mislead the police after the first exchange of fire with the security personnel during Friday's encounter in Bijapur district of Chhattisgarh, an official said.

According to the police, 12 Naxalites were gunned down by security personnel in a 12-hour operation in the forest near Pidia vil-

lage under the Gangloor police station limits on Friday. Their bodies were brought to Bijapur district headquarters on Saturday morning. "The identity of the deceased has been ascertained. They were carrying a cumulative reward of Rs 31 lakh on their heads," Bijapur Superintendent of Police Jitendra Kumar Yadav told reporters. Budhu Oyam and Kallu Punem, both members of military company no. 2, were carry-



File Photo.

ing a reward of Rs 8 lakh each on their head, while Gangloor area committee member of Maoists Lakhe Kunjam and member of military platoon no. 12 Bhima Karam were carrying a reward of Rs 5 lakh each on their heads, he said. The other deceased, militia platoon commander Sannu Lakom and vice head of Janata Sarkar (people's government) Avlam, were carrying a bounty of Rs 2 lakh each, the SP said,



**"The identity of the deceased has been ascertained. They were carrying a cumulative reward of Rs 31 lakh**

Jitendra Kumar Yadav  
SP Bijapur

adding that six others were lower-run members of the outlawed outfit. Some Maoists also tried to surround the security forces by laying ambushes at three places, but the attempts were foiled, he said. "A peculiar thing we noticed for the first time during this operation was that after the first exchange of fire, some Naxalites changed into civil clothes and mixed with villagers to mislead the police," he said.





## QUOTE FROM THE QUOTABLE

"Do one thing at a Time, and while doing it, put your whole Soul into it to the exclusion of all else."

[ Swami Vivekanand ]

# Comment

## This is how the goal of Viksit Bharat will be achieved

## OUR VIEW |

### Air India's canceled flights causing panic to passengers

The air passengers had to go through a torrid time, as Air India Express had canceled a total of 23 per cent of its daily capacity or 85 flights on Thursday due to shortage of crew members for the third consecutive day. The airline management has issued dismissal letters to at least 25 crew members, who started reporting sick in protest against alleged mismanagement at the airline. In all, the airline has canceled more than 170 flights, including flights to Gulf countries. According to the experts, the service are not going to return to normal, as the management, in an attempt to minimize disruption, has also decided to reduce flights till May 13 and will operate services on 20 routes of the airline. The airline has categorically said, it was taking appropriate action against certain individuals as their actions had caused extreme inconvenience to thousands of passengers. The crisis has some connection with the process of merger of AIX Connect (formerly AirAsia India) with Air India Express, say the experts. For some time now, especially after the merger process started, there has been dissatisfaction among some members of its crew. A section of the crew has alleged mismanagement and lack of equality in treatment of employees. A conciliation process is underway under the Industrial Disputes Act after a union representing a section of Air India Express crew filed a complaint with the labor department last year. The issues being raised by the striking crew include room sharing, lack of proper cooperation, revised salary structure and alleged discriminatory treatment of experienced crew members of Air India Express. The airline said in a revised statement on Thursday, "We will operate 283 flights today. We have mobilized all resources and Air India will help us by operating on our 20 routes. However, our 85 flights will remain cancelled." Air India Express also canceled flight operations to two destinations from Kolkata. In a damage control exercise, the airline has asked passengers to check whether their flight has been affected before arriving at the airport.

## GUEST VIEW |

### Tribal traditions' role in environmental conservation

The tradition of Thenga Pali of the Khadiya tribe in Odisha is very effective towards environmental protection, where women folks patrol the forests and take initiatives to recognize native rights over their lands and forests. One of such women and a tribal activist, Archana Soreng is nicknamed as "Tribal Climate Warrior" for her pro active initiative in Thenga Pali. She has also been working on documenting tribal customs, traditions and language since long. The physical and cultural aspects of the tribal community are instinctively associated with the environment and they live their lifestyle by adapting to the environment prevailing in their surroundings. Understandably, if these practices are learnt in "modern lifestyle", as it is termed so often, then the damage to the environment will obviously be reduced substantially. Thanks to her remarkable contribution in environment conservation, Archana Soreng, has been recognized by the United Nations' "Youth Advisory Group on Climate Change. . . Archana Soreng says that we will have to join the policy making process in order to engage in the climate change action. If we do not document the knowledge traditions, abundantly available in our culture, we will have nothing to carry forward for the next generation, she asserts.



Smita Akhilesh

India has rapidly ascended to economic prominence over the last decade, solidifying its position as a global powerhouse. In 2014, the country ranked 10th globally in GDP (nominal). By 2022, India had surpassed the UK to secure the fifth position. Currently, the Indian economy is valued at \$3.94 trillion, and experts predict that by 2027, it will overtake Japan and Germany to become the world's third-largest economy. If India can maintain a 10% annual GDP growth rate, it could become the second-largest economy by 2032 and the largest by 2047-2050. While the target is ambitious, the nation's rapid growth, now the fastest globally, underpins this aspiration.

**Digital Revolution-** India has established itself as a leader in digital payments, accounting for 46% of all transactions worldwide. In the 2012-13 fiscal year, 1.62 billion digital transactions were recorded. By 2023-24, this figure had soared to 14.76 billion—a remarkable 91-fold increase, demonstrating

India's swift adoption of the digital economy.

**Capital Expenditure-** Over the last 10 years, the government has made significant investments in capital expenditure, allocating ₹11.11 lakh crore for the 2024-25 fiscal year. Infrastructure development has also been a focal point, with 54,000 kilometers of national highways constructed over the past decade.

**GST Collection-** The Goods and Services Tax (GST) was introduced in 2017 with an initial target of ₹1 lakh crore per month. Since then, GST collections have risen steadily, peaking at ₹2.10 lakh crore in April 2024—a new record.

**GDP Growth-** India's GDP has expanded significantly, from \$189 billion in 1980 to \$1 trillion in 2007. By 2014, GDP reached \$2.039 trillion, increasing to \$3.737 trillion in 2023 and \$4.011 trillion in 2024. This reflects a near doubling in under a decade. Currently, India is the world's third-largest economy based on purchasing power parity (PPP), with a GDP of \$14.6 trillion. Forecasts suggest

annual growth rates of 8-11%, indicating continued positive momentum. GDP per capita has also risen, from \$271 in 1980 to \$1,560 in 2014 and \$2,730 in 2024, despite the nation's large population.

**Foreign Exchange Reserves-** India's foreign exchange reserves now stand at \$640 billion, covering 13 to 14 months of imports. This is a substantial improvement over past decades when reserves were perilously low. Today, India could import goods for over a year without exporting.

**Global Rankings-** India is leading in various global rankings. It ranks first in real-time digital transactions, with 48 billion transactions in 2021. The country is also the largest generic drug manufacturer, producing 60,000 generic medicines in 60 categories. As the world's largest vaccine supplier, India has established itself as a key player in global healthcare.

India is the second-largest steel producer, with an annual output of 120 million tonnes, expected to grow to 300 million tonnes by 2030. The nation

is also the second-largest producer of mobile phones, manufacturing 2 billion handsets in the last decade.

India's pharmaceutical industry is the third largest globally, and its metro rail network is also the third largest, spanning 911 kilometers compared to 248 kilometers in 2014. India could soon overtake the U.S. to become the second-largest metro network.

The country's stock market is the world's fourth-largest, with a total market capitalization of \$4.8 trillion. There are currently around 152 million active demat accounts.

**Foreign Trade-** In 2022-23, India's exports totaled \$776.40 billion, with a similar figure expected for 2023-24. By 2030, this could rise to \$1 trillion.

With inclusive, transparent economic policies, India's business environment is thriving. Programs like Make in India, Start-Up India, Skill Development, One District One Product, Mudra Scheme, PLI Scheme, and Stand-Up India are spurring industrial development.



Prof. Dr. Vivek Singh

Economist, National Media Panelist, Eminent Economic Expert of India

## Safeguarding Our Planet with Global Laws

Ecocide, the intentional devastation of ecosystems, poses a significant global threat, and urgent action is needed to criminalize it and protect the environment. *Dr. Krishna Kumar vepakomma*



Protecting our planet the urgency of environmental responsibility | Photo AP

Healthy ecosystems form the foundation of life on our planet, providing vital services such as food and water provision, climate regulation, and cultural enrichment. As outlined in the World Economic Forum's Global Risks Report 2023, climate change and biodiversity collapse are identified among the top five risks for the next decade. Nevertheless, the deliberate and widespread destruction of these ecosystems, known as ecocide, presents a significant threat to both the environment and human well-being. In recent years, there has been an increasing global recognition of the urgent need to address ecocide as a criminal offense in order to protect our planet's fragile ecosystems.

Ecocide is characterized by intentional and extensive devastation of ecosystems, resulting in severe and long-term environmental damage. Examples include oil spills, deforestation, overfishing, and pollution. These destructive activities disrupt the delicate balance of ecosystems, directly harming humans, animals, and plants alike. The Bhopal gas

tragedy of 1984 in India stands as a chilling reminder of the catastrophic consequences of ecocide, where a pesticide plant leak led to mass casualties and ongoing health issues for survivors.

In response to the escalating threats posed by ecocide, various initiatives have been undertaken globally. The European Union has taken significant steps to impose stricter penalties for environmental damage, signaling a growing recognition of the

need for robust measures to combat ecocide. Additionally, organizations like 'Stop Ecocide International' are spearheading efforts to establish ecocide as a serious international crime, garnering support from individuals, groups, and businesses worldwide.

The recognition of ecocide as an international crime would have far-reaching implications. Perpetrators could face arrest, prosecution, and punishment, serving as a deterrent against further

environmental destruction. This would not only ensure justice for affected communities but also promote sustainable practices and responsible stewardship of natural resources. By holding individuals and entities accountable for their actions, the criminalization of ecocide would send a powerful message that harming the environment carries serious consequences.

Making ecocide a crime signifies a paradigm shift towards prioritizing environ-

mental protection and conservation. It underscores the collective responsibility to preserve the planet for future generations. While some countries, including Russia, Ukraine, and Vietnam, have already criminalized ecocide, further efforts are needed to ensure comprehensive legal frameworks and enforcement mechanisms worldwide.

More countries are thinking about making ecocide a crime, which means really bad environmental damage could lead to serious punishment. France's groundbreaking decision to make ecocide a punishable offense in 2021 serves as a model for other nations, although there is potential to enhance legal frameworks to more effectively combat environmental offenses. Mexico is currently contemplating enacting legislation to criminalize ecocide, joining the ranks of countries considering such measures.

The European Union already made a move in February 2024 by passing a new law to punish things like destroying habitats and cutting down trees with tougher penalties, treating them like ecocide.

## YOUR LETTERS

#### Pitroda's harmful political liability

Sam Pitroda's divisive remarks about the appearance of Indians across the nation have rightly drawn criticism for reducing cultural richness to stereotypes. This isn't his first controversy. From downplaying the 1984 anti-Sikh riots to his ideas on inheritance tax, Pitroda has repeatedly landed Congress in trouble. His comments inject divisiveness into an already polarized atmosphere, causing more harm than good to the Congress. His repeated missteps have been a liability for the party, sparking criticism and controversy frequently.

Shivkumar Mishra, Raipur

#### Voters favor inclusive growth

Sam Pitroda's resignation as Overseas Congress chief highlights the party's decline and a pivotal shift in voter sentiment. Citizens are increasingly aligning with PM Narendra Modi's BJP due to its strong development model and inclusive policies. Many are satisfied with the performance of the Modi government, emphasizing a desire for inclusive growth and sustainability. This growing preference for the BJP over the Congress underscores a broader rejection of divisive politics.

Krishna Kumar, Kollam Kerala

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



# Business



Not in 'rat race' to be top builder in terms of sale booking

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

## Malaika Arora in Patna



Malaika Arora during the launch of jewelry for 'Akshaya Tritiya' at a jewelry shop, in Patna.

# 'India needs to focus on factor market reforms'

The factor market reforms include land, labour, energy, and access to credit, among others, which are critical factors for production.

Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI:** India needs to focus on factor market reforms like land and labour to propel India's growth to a double-digit trajectory, ADB Chief Economist Albert Park has said. "There are still concerns that the basic factor markets like land and labour in the formal sector of unemployment in India are still small. So, you really want to forma-

lise those," he told PTI in an interview. The factor market reforms include land, labour, energy, and access to credit, among others, which are critical factors for production.

Labour reforms have been approved by Parliament in 2020, but it has not been implemented. In 2019 and 2020, 29 central labour laws were amalgamated, rationalised and simplified into four labour codes -- the

NUMBER

**\$ 2 tn**

• India needs to improve exports in the manufacturing intensive sectors like electronics, textiles.

• The govt has set a target of USD 2 trillion in exports to be achieved by 2030.

Code on Wages, 2019; the Industrial Relations Code, 2020; the Code on Social Security, 2020; and the Occupational Safety, Health & Working Conditions Code, 2020. Labour is in the Concurrent List of the Constitution. Under the Labour Codes, rules are required to be framed by the central government as well as by the state governments. Talking about other reforms, Park said

further regulatory ease and ease of doing business and deregulation of tariffs by simplifying and reducing them will help increase India's share in the global value chain.

The government has set a target of USD 2 trillion in exports of goods and services to be achieved by 2030. In FY23, combined exports of goods and services reached an estimated USD 770 billion.

## BizBriefs

BEST OF THE REST

### Q4 RESULTS

**Eicher Motors Q4 PAT rises 18 pc to Rs 1,070 cr; revenue at Rs 4,256 cr**

**NEW DELHI:** Eicher Motors on Saturday reported an 18 per cent increase in consolidated profit after tax to Rs 1,070 crore for the fourth quarter ended March 2024, driven by higher sales. The company posted a profit after tax of Rs 906 crore in the same period last year. Its total revenue rose 12 per cent to Rs 4,256 crore in the January-March quarter of FY24 compared to Rs 3,804 crore in the corresponding quarter of 2022-23, Eicher Motors said in a statement. Royal Enfield, the two-wheeler division of the company, recorded sales of 2,27,925 motorcycles in the fourth quarter, up 6 per cent from 2,14,685 units in the year-ago period. For fiscal 2024, the company reported a 37 per cent rise in PAT to Rs 4,001 crore against Rs 2,914 crore for FY23. The company's revenue from operations grew 14.5 per cent to Rs 16,536 crore from Rs 14,442 crore recorded in FY23. **PTI**

### RECORD PROFIT

**IOC, BPCL, HPCL post Rs 81,000 cr record profit in FY24**



**NEW DELHI:** State-owned fuel retailers Indian Oil Corporation, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd reported bumper profits totalling about Rs 81,000 crore in FY24, which far exceeded their annual earning in pre-oil crisis years. The combined standalone net profit of IOC, BPCL and HPCL in April 2023 to March 2024 (FY24) was better than their annual earning of Rs 39,356 crore in pre-oil crisis years, regulatory filings by them showed. **PTI**

### Market Analysis

**Inflation data, Q4 earnings, global trends to drive stock markets this week: Analysts**



**NEW DELHI:** Stock markets will be driven by domestic inflation data, ongoing quarterly earnings from corporates and global trends this week, analysts said. News flows around the general election would also be tracked by investors, market experts said. Besides, investors would also take cues from the trading activity of foreign investors, the movement of global oil benchmark Brent crude and the rupee-dollar trend. "Investors will be bombarded with economic data on both domestic and global fronts. Domestically, watch for Consumer Price Index (CPI) and Wholesale Price Index (WPI). Globally, focus will be on the US Producer Price Index (PPI) and

Consumer Price Index (CPI) figures. "Additionally, Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell's speech will be a key event to watch. China's industrial production data and Japan's GDP figures round out the important releases for the week," said Santosh Meena, Head of Research, Swastika Investmart Ltd. Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services, said that the current trend in the domestic markets is likely to continue in the short-term due to election-led uncertainties. "In the data-hectic week ahead, investors' attention will be focused on the release of India and US CPI data, Europe and Japan's GDP releases, and the FED chair speech," he added. **PTI**

## India's coal import rises 8 per cent to 268 MT in FY24

**NEW DELHI:** India's coal import rose by 7.7 per cent to 268.24 million tonne (MT) in FY24 driven by softness in seaborne prices and likelihood of increase in power demand during summer. The country's coal import was 249.06 MT in FY23, according to data compiled by B2B e-commerce company mjunction services. Coal import in March FY24 also rose to 23.96 MT, over 21.12 MT in the corresponding month of the previous fiscal. Of the total volume recorded in March 2024, non-coking coal import stood at 15.33 MT, against 13.88 MT in March FY23.

Coking coal import in March 2024 was 5.34 MT against 3.96 MT a year ago. During FY24, non-coking coal import was at 175.96 MT, higher than 162.46 MT imported during FY23.

## Maruti Suzuki expects over 30% jump in CNG vehicle sales

Press Trust Of India

The company sells CNG trims across various models like WagonR, Brezza, Dzire, and Ertiga, among others in the domestic market.

**NEW DELHI:** Maruti Suzuki India expects its CNG car sales to rise over 30 per cent to around 6 lakh units this fiscal, according to a senior company official. The country's largest car-maker also aims to export around 3 lakh units in the ongoing financial year.

"So CNG, this year, we did about 4,50,000 (units) in passenger vehicles. We are hoping to do something like 6,00,000 vehicles in FY24-25," Maruti Suzuki India Executive Director Corporate Affairs Rahul Bharti said in an analyst call. The



Rahul Bharti, Executive Director Corporate Affairs, Maruti Suzuki India.

FACTFILE

• Company's capacity expansion by around 1 lakh units per annum at its Manesar plant, in Haryana.

• Construction is already in progress at Kharkhoda with an annual production capacity of 2,50,000 units.

company sells CNG trims across various models like WagonR, Brezza, Dzire, and Ertiga, among others in the domestic market. Bharti said the company's capacity expansion by around 1 lakh units per annum at its Manesar plant, in Haryana largely addresses the Ertiga supply issues.

Ertiga CNG demand is huge in the market lead-

ing to supply issues, he noted. On overseas shipments, Bharti said the company aims to export about 3 lakh units. "We did about 2,83,000 units in FY24. Despite the fact that we've increased substantially over the usual 1,00,000 units per year that we used to do just about 4 years ago. We wish to take it further in the future years.

### GOLD EXCHANGE TRADED FUND

## Gold ETFs see first outflow after March 2023 at 396 cr

Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI:** Gold Exchange Traded Fund (ETF) witness a net outflow of Rs 396 crore last month, making it the first withdrawal after March 2023, owing to profit booking. Despite the decline, the asset under management (AUM) of gold funds rose 5 per cent to Rs 32,789 crore at

April-end from Rs 31,224 crore in the preceding month, according to the data with the Association of Mutual Funds in India (Amfi).

As per the data, Gold ETFs saw a net withdrawal of Rs 396 crore in April as compared to an inflow of Rs 373 crore in the preceding month. The last time this asset class witnessed net out-



flow was in March 2023, withdrawing Rs 266 crore. "In INR terms, gold has done fairly well over

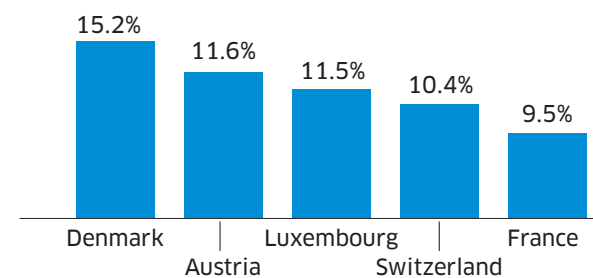
the last year but dwarfs in comparison to how equities have fared. Given this backdrop, flows in

the Gold ETF category have been somewhat patchy relative to the equity asset class. That said, investors could have opted to book some profits in this segment which has resulted in the asset class witnessing net outflows despite the rise in prices," Melvyn Santarita, Analyst, Morningstar Investment Research India, said.

### The Day's NUMBERS

Countries with the highest shares of organic food products in all food revenues in 2023

### COUNTRIES WHERE MOST PEOPLE BUY ORGANIC



Source: Statista

### AMUSEMENT PARK

**Wonderla Bhubaneswar announces special soft launch offer**

**BHUBANESHWAR:** Wonderla Holidays, India's largest amusement park chain, is thrilled to announce pre-launch offers ahead of the soft launch of its amusement park at Kumbharbasta, Bhubaneswar on May 24th. Wonderla Holidays currently owns and operates three amusement parks in Kochi, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, along with a resort in Bengaluru, and is now coming to Bhubaneswar. As part of the launch celebrations, an Early Bird Offer with 25% discount on subsequent park entry tickets is available for a limited period through online pre-booking only. Mr. Arun K Chittilapilly, Managing Director, Wonderla Holidays Ltd said, "We are excited to introduce Wonderla's exceptional entertainment experience to Odisha, heralding a new era of leisure and adventure for our visitors. With our foray into Odisha, our commitment is to continue delivering excellence to our visitors, fostering unforgettable moments and cherished memories."

### BROADBAND PLAN

**Jio bundles 15 apps' with broadband plan for Rs 888/month**



**NEW DELHI:** Jio said it has bundled premium services of 15 apps, including basic subscription of Netflix, Amazon Prime Lite, Disney+ Hotstar, with its 30 mbps broadband plan for Rs 888 a month. Netflix access was earlier available for customers having JioFiber of Rs 1,499 plan, while there was no access of entertainment apps for customers with entry-level 30 megabit per second broadband plan. Similarly, access to Netflix for AirFiber customers was available only in plans priced at Rs 1499 per month or higher. **PTI**





This election is for protecting Bengal's culture

Narendra Modi  
Prime Minister

## Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

### CRIME

#### Case against cop in Navi Mumbai for abetting his wife's suicide

**THANE:** A case has been registered against a 37-year-old policeman for allegedly abetting the suicide of his wife in Navi Mumbai township of Maharashtra, officials said on Sunday. The 31-year-old victim got married to the accused, a resident of Kharghar area in Navi Mumbai and a sub-inspector with the CISF, on November 30, 2014 and the couple has two sons aged 7 and 3, they said. The accused used to allegedly beat up his wife and ask for money from her parents. She once invested money in shares on her husband's advice and incurred losses for which he blamed her, Kharghar police station's senior inspector Rajeev Shejwal said. The accused also wanted a land in her name and her bank accounts to be transferred to him and his family members and also threatened to divorce her, the police said quoting a complaint filed by the victim's brother. **PTI**

### DEVOTION AND FAITH

#### Badrinath temple opens for devotees after remaining closed during winter



**DEHRADUN:** The doors of the Badrinath temple in the Garhwal Himalayas in Uttarakhand opened for devotees on Sunday after remaining closed during the winter season.

With the opening of the shrine, the Chardham Yatra to Badrinath, Kedarnath, Yamunotri and Gangotri has started. The doors of the Badrinath temple were opened amid the chanting of vedic mantras, a pooja and beats of dhols and nagadas, authorities said. **PTI**

### STRENGTHENING BORDERS

#### Adopt BSF's 'beehives on border fence' model across the country



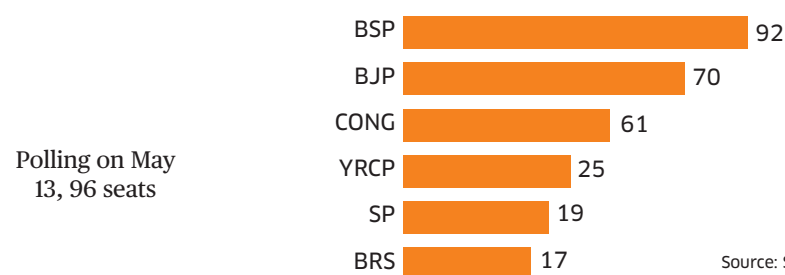
**NEW DELHI:** The Union home ministry has directed all central paramilitary and allied forces to replicate a 'beehives on border fence' beekeeping model initiated by a BSF unit in West Bengal to boost employment opportunities for the locals and create a goodwill with them for strengthening security. Official sources told PTI that the decision was made during a meeting on "scientific beekeeping and honey mission" that was chaired by Union Home Secretary Ajay Bhalla at his office at North Block here in April. The model devised and implemented by the 32nd battalion of the Border Security Force (BSF) deployed to guard the India-Bangladesh international border in West Bengal's Nadia district was "lauded" during the meeting and a direction was issued to all the central armed police

forces (CAPFs) to adopt it in their respective areas of responsibility, a senior CAPF officer said. The other border guarding forces, such as the Sashastra Seema Bal (Nepal and Bhutan borders) and the Indo Tibetan Border Police (China LAC), CAPFs like the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) and Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) and other forces like Assam Rifles, the National Security Guard (NSG) and the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) do not have fences to guard but the model can be utilised by them as per their nature of duties, the officer said.

These forces, about 12 lakh in combined strength, are deployed for a variety of internal security tasks like guarding India's international borders, anti-Naxal operations, counter-terrorism and counter-insurgency duties. **PTI**

### The Day's NUMBERS

#### PARTYWISE CANDIDATES FOR LS POLLS (PHASE IV)



### OPPORTUNITY

#### ILAM opens avenues for students who opt for career in aviation sector

**GURUGRAM:** Institute of Logistics & Aviation Management (ILAM) extending invitations for applications in additional cities and offering hostel accommodations. The curriculum has been intricately structured to provide in-depth and comprehensive knowledge. Explore the world of dynamic & ever evolving Aviation industry with an MBA in Aviation Management, a two-year post-graduate program that many students are eager to join. Under this program, Institute of Logistics & Aviation Management provides learning lessons on fire, emergency exit, and wet drills, preparing students comprehensively for aviation. Internships with airports, airlines, and aviation logistics companies are provided each semester, ensuring students are job-ready and gain practical insights. Institute of Logistics & Aviation Management provides complex subjects like aviation finance, aircraft leasing, and aviation law, producing well-rounded aviation professionals. **PTI**

### SYMBOLIC SIGNIFICANCE

#### NOTA effective only if opted by more than 50 per cent voters

**INDORE:** Former Chief Election Commissioner OP Rawat on Sunday described 'NOTA' as having a "symbolic" impact and said if it gets more than 50 per cent votes in a seat, only then a thought could be given to make it legally effective on poll results. Rawat, a former IAS officer of the Madhya Pradesh cadre, also told PTI that if one out of 99 out of 100 votes go in favour of None of the Above (NOTA) option and a candidate gets one vote, even then he/she will emerge victorious. The Congress received a jolt in Madhya Pradesh's Indore Lok Sabha seat after its candidate Akshay Kanti Bam withdrew his nomination on April 29, the last date for the withdrawal of nominations. **PTI**



# HC asks University if convict can take law exams online

A division bench of Justices Makarand Karnik and Kamal Khata said owing to security reasons, the situation may warrant to permit the candidate, to appear for his exams online.

Press Trust Of India

**MUMBAI:** The Bombay High Court has sought to know from the Mumbai University if it can permit a convict in the 7/11 serial bomb blasts case to take his law examinations online.

A division bench of Justices Makarand Karnik and Kamal Khata on Friday said owing to security reasons, the situation may warrant to permit the candidate, Mohammed Sajid Marghoob Ansari, to appear for his exams online.

On July 11, 2006, seven bomb blasts occurred in coaches of some local trains in Mumbai, killing

189 persons and injuring 824 others.

In September 2015, a special court convicted Ansari and others in the blasts case.

Ansari had sought permission to appear for the second semester law examinations held by the Siddharth Law College in south Mumbai from May 3 to May 15.

The court then permitted him to physically appear for the exams and directed the Nashik central prison authorities, Ansari could not be taken to the college on time.

On May 10, Ansar moved an application saying he could not appear for the papers

### HIGHLIGHT

● Special court convicted Ansari and others in the blasts case.

● The prosecution opposed it, claiming he was a high risk prisoner.

held on May 3 and 9.

The prosecution said despite genuine efforts made by the Nashik central prison authorities, Ansari could not be taken to the college on time.

The bench directed the prison superintendent to file an affidavit by June 5, stating why there was a delay.

The court also asked advocate Rui Rodrigues, appearing for the Mumbai University, if Ansari could be permitted to appear for the exams online to which he said there was no such facility.

In the peculiar facts as in the present case, the situation may warrant, having regard to the security concerns, to permit the candidate to appear through the online mode, the HC said.

The court directed the Mumbai University to clarify its stand for permitting such candidates to appear through the online mode.

"We request the competent authority of Mum-

bai University to look into this aspect and after consulting with all concerned, including the ATS (Maharashtra Anti-Terrorism Squad), place its stand on record," the court said.

The bench also asked the university to say if the two exams that Ansari missed owing to circumstances beyond his control could be rescheduled. The high court posted the matter for further hearing on June 10.

In 2015, Ansari got permission from the court to pursue the law degree course.

In 2023, he got permission to appear for the first semester exams.

### CHALLENGING CONDITIONS

# Army chief reviews operational preparedness along LAC

Press Trust Of India

General Pande, who arrived in Ladakh, interacted with all ranks, including the troops of the IAF, ITBP and BRO.

**LEH:** Chief of Army Staff General Manoj Pande visited forward areas along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in the Union Territory of Ladakh on Saturday and reviewed the troops' operational preparedness, the Army said. General Pande, who arrived in Ladakh on Friday, interacted with all ranks, including the troops of the Indian Air Force (IAF), Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) and Border Roads Organisation (BRO), and commended them for



Army chief during his inspection along LAC. | Photo: PTI

### FACTFILE

● The Army chief also exhorted all ranks to continue working together with professionalism, zeal and enthusiasm.

their high morale and resoluteness while operating in the extreme weather conditions and inhospitable terrain, Indian Army's Additional Directorate General of Public Information (ADGPI) said. The Army chief also exhorted all

ranks to continue working together with professionalism, zeal and enthusiasm, the ADGPI wrote on X.

General Pande started his tour of Ladakh on Friday by visiting the Leh-based Fire and Fury Corps headquarters.

### HIGHEST LITERARY HONOUR

# Ruskin Bond receives Sahitya Akademi award

Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI:** Eminent English author Ruskin Bond was awarded the prestigious Sahitya Akademi Fellowship at his Mussoorie home on Saturday. Bond was named a recipient of Akademi's highest honour in September 2021. However, due to his ill health, he could not be given the

honour in person. "Sahitya Akademi president Madhav Kaushik and secretary K Sreenivasarao handed the plaque to Bond at his home on Saturday," the Akademi said in a statement.

Born on 19 May 1934 in Kasauli, Himachal Pradesh, Bond has been actively writing for more than 50 years and has written in various genres



Bond deserves highest honour for his notable literary works.

Madhav Kaushik  
President, Sahitya Akademi



of literature, including short stories, children's books, novels, autobiographical works and non-fiction. His notable works include "Vagrants in the Valley", "Once Upon a Monsoon Time", "Angry River", "Strangers in the Night", "All Roads Lead to Ganga", "Tales of Fosterganj", "Leopard on the Mountain" and "Too Much Trouble".



# Electoral bonds used as bribe by companies: Prashant Bhushan

Independent and neutral SIT needed by a retired Supreme Court judge.

Press Trust Of India

**KOLKATA:** Lawyer Prashant Bhushan on Saturday labelled the electoral bonds as the biggest scam in the history of Indian democracy and alleged that they were used as bribes for contracts, shielding people from central probe agencies, manipulating policies, and influencing drug regulators. He said the Supreme Court will soon commence hearing on a petition filed before it seeking a probe by a Special Investigation Team (SIT) into alleged quid pro quo arrangements between corporates and political parties.

"The electoral bonds were used (by companies) as bribes to get contracts, to protect themselves from the Enforcement Directorate (ED) and the CBI and to save themselves from drug regulators," Bhushan said. Out of the Rs 16,500-crore electoral bonds, half went to the BJP and the rest to parties like the TMC and the Congress. However, those who were not ruling did not get any money, he said.

"I see that Rs 5,000-crore worth of electoral bonds were issued, resulting in the sanctioning of contracts worth Rs 5 lakh-



Senior lawyer Prashant Bhushan and SC in background. (File Photo)

crore. Additionally, bonds worth Rs 2,500 crore were provided by companies that were subjected to raids by the CBI, ED, or the Income Tax department. Curiously, investigations into these companies abruptly ceased following the issuance of the bonds," he alleged.

Bhushan also alleged that "either this money (through electoral bonds) (recovery or protection money) or 'haftas' (subscription) similar to the manner taken by goons."

cre. Additionally, bonds worth Rs 2,500 crore were provided by companies that were subjected to raids by the CBI, ED, or the Income Tax department. Curiously, investigations into these companies abruptly ceased following the issuance of the bonds," he alleged.

## Former chief minister Khattar dares Oppn to parade its MLAs

**CHANDIGARH:** With opposition parties claiming that the BJP government in Haryana has lost majority, the ruling party on Sunday dared them to parade their MLAs if they have the numbers. Former chief minister M L Khattar also indicated the BJP government was not averse to a floor test and that six Jannayak Janta Party (JJP) MLAs are with

### HIGHLIGHT

● Cong is not sure of all their MLAs onboard.

● JJP said it was ready to help the Congress

it. After the withdrawal of support by three Independent MLAs to the BJP government in Haryana, the Congress has

demanding the dismissal of the BJP government in the state and fresh assembly elections under the President's rule. The JJP, which parted ways with the BJP in March, has said it was ready to help the Congress bring down the government. Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini said his government had in March secured a vote of confidence.

## Odisha ahead of Gujarat in various parameters: Pandian

Press Trust Of India

**Pandian, a bureaucrat-turned-politician, shared statistics, comparing various indices of Gujarat and Odisha.**

**BHUBANESWAR:** BJD leader V K Pandian on Sunday claimed that Odisha is "much ahead" of Gujarat in various parameters, in a rebuttal to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's promise that the BJP would make the eastern state "number one" in the country if voted to power after the assembly polls. Pandian, a bureaucrat-turned-politician, shared statistics, comparing various indices of Gujarat and Odisha, with a comment, "Look who wants to make Odisha number one." "It is ironic that even after two-and-half decades of BJP rule in Gujarat, the situation is quite dismal. In terms of malnutrition (children under 5 years who are underweight), the rate is 30 per cent in Odisha whereas it is 40 per cent in Gujarat," he said in a statement.

Quoting NHFS-5 (National Health Family Survey) data, Pandian said the prevalence of anaemia among women was 65 per cent in Odisha, while it was 69 per cent in Gujarat, whereas 64 per cent of

children in Odisha were anaemic, but the percentage was 80 in Gujarat. The BJD leader said Odisha fared much better than Gujarat in terms of immunisation, with 90 per cent of children having been vaccinated, compared to only 76.3 per cent in the western state. More than 86 per cent of women in Odisha have bank accounts, compared to only 70 per cent in Gujarat, he said, adding that over 50 per cent

### FASTFACTS

● Odisha fared better than Gujarat in immunisation.

● Malnutrition rate is 30% in Odisha and 40% in Gujarat.

of women in the eastern state have mobile phones whereas only 48.8 per cent of women in Gujarat have the device.

Pandian said that per capita debt in Gujarat was Rs 60,000, almost three times that of Odisha's Rs 22,000. As per RBI handbook, primary enrolment ratio in schools was almost 98 per cent in Odisha, compared to just 90 per cent in Gujarat, he said. The BJD leader said Gujarat lagged behind Odisha despite Modi heading the western state for three terms before becoming the prime minister.

### NEWSLINE

#### NEW DELHI

**Harinder Sikka pens new novel 'Gobind'**



**NEW DELHI:** Author Harinder Sikka, whose "Calling Sehmat" was adapted into the 2018 film "Raazi" starring Alia Bhatt, delves into the depths of human emotion and resilience in his new novel "Gobind". Set against the backdrop of Bihar's poverty and the valorous spirit of the Indian Navy, Sikka weaves a narrative that resonates with themes of love, loyalty and redemption. For the author, the book is "more than just a tale to me; it's a very personal literary voyage that weaves together themes of love, selflessness, and unwavering determination". "Gobind" introduces readers to its titular character, a man born into the harsh realities of an impoverished Sikh family in Bihar. Content with his lot in life, Gobind's perspective takes a profound turn when his father's words ignite a fire within him, propelling him to aspire for a life beyond the constraints of poverty.

#### GWALIOR

**Couple abandons 3 minor kids at railway station**

A couple has allegedly abandoned their three minor children, including a nearly two months old boy, at the Gwalior railway station in Madhya Pradesh, police said on Sunday. The two girls, aged 6 and 7, and the boy, who had burn injuries, were found abandoned near the booking counter on Friday night, Railway Protection Force (RPF) police station in-charge Sanjay Arya told PTI. The boy was immediately admitted to the government-run Kamla Raja hospital while the two girls were sent to a shelter home with the help of the women and child development department, he said. The official said the girls told the police that they travelled in different trains with their parents who left after abandoning them while they were sleeping.

## SC to hear Kejriwal's plea against summons today

Press Trust Of India

SC is to hear the matter in which Kejriwal has admitted that he "committed a mistake" by retweeting the alleged defamatory video.

**NEW DELHI:** The Supreme Court is scheduled to hear on Monday a plea of Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal challenging a Delhi High Court order upholding the summons issued to him in a criminal defamation case for retweeting an allegedly defamatory video circulated by You-

Tuber Dhruv Rathee in May 2018.

A bench of Justices Sanjiv Khanna and Dipankar Datta is likely to hear the matter in which Kejriwal has admitted that he "committed a mistake" by retweeting the alleged defamatory video.

On March 11, the top court asked Kejriwal whether he wanted to give an apology to the complainant in the matter. Kejriwal on February 26 told the apex court that he made a mistake by retweeting an allegedly defamatory video circulated by YouTuber Rathee related to the BJP IT Cell.

## YouTuber 'Savukku' Shankar detained

**CHENNAI:** Noted YouTuber 'Savukku' Shankar, currently lodged in the Coimbatore Central prison, was on Sunday detained under the Goondas Act. Based on the orders of Commissioner of Police, Greater Chennai, Sandeep Rai Rathore, the detention order under the Goondas Act was served on Shankar by a cyber crime (Chennai) police inspector on May 12, Chennai city police said. There are seven cases pending against Shankar in Chennai police's central crime branch/cyber crime unit of which three are under investigation, charge sheets have been filed.

## SECR conducts quality check of pantry cars

Press Trust Of India

As per the directives of the Railway Board, an intensive inspection campaign is being conducted from May 08 to May 14, 2024.

**BILASPUR:** With the objective of providing quality food and beverage facilities to passengers in trains, pantry car provisions have been made in Mail/Express trains by the railway administration. Along with safety in



The team checking pantry car food items.

### FASTFACTS

● These teams are conducting thorough inspections of all major trains.

the pantry car, provisions have also been made for safe storage of food items and the provision of various standard equipment for its better management. Special inspection campaigns are also con-

ducted from time to time for regular inspection of the status and maintenance of equipment available in the pantry car. In this context, as per the directives of the Railway Board, an intensive inspection campaign is being conducted from May 08 to May 14, 2024, for all pantry car-based trains running through the zone. Under this campaign, a team of inspectors and supervisors of the Commercial Department, led by Sr DCM Anurag Kumar Singh has been constituted.

## 'PM still lying about Sandeshkhali'



against TMC strongman Shahjahan Sheikh who is accused of sexual assault and land grab.

In an earlier clip, a man resembling BJP's Sandeshkhali mandal president Gangadhar Kayal was heard saying that the "staged" protests were done at the behest of Leader of the Opposition Suvendu Adhikari who was behind the "whole conspiracy". The PM, who also campaigned in Barrackpore town - around 20 km away, alleged that TMC goons were threatening the tormented women of Sandeshkhali to protect the culprits.

"All of us have seen what the TMC has done with the sisters and mothers of Sandeshkhali. The TMC goons are now threatening the women in Sandeshkhali as the name of the main culprit is Shahjahan Sheikh.

the Barrackpore Lok Sabha constituency, she said the PM should be ashamed that the "BJP's conspiracy" about Sandeshkhali has become public. "The PM is still peddling lies about Sandeshkhali. He should be ashamed as the BJP's conspiracy has now become public," Banerjee said, apparently referring to a purported video in which a local BJP leader was heard saying that over 70 women had received Rs 2,000 each for taking part in protests

Press Trust Of India

**AMDANGA** Claiming that PM Narendra Modi was continuing to "peddle lies" about Sandeshkhali, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Sunday questioned why he was maintaining a stoic silence on the allegations of molestation against Governor CV Ananda Bose and not asking him to resign.

Addressing an election rally in North 24 Parganas' Amdanga, which is a part of

**JANA SMALL FINANCE BANK** (A scheduled commercial bank)

Registered Office: The Fairway, Ground & First Floor, Survey No.10/1, 11/2 & 12/2B, Off Domlur, Koramangla Inner Ring Road, Next to EGL Business Park, Challaghatta, Bangalore-560071. Branch Office: Malay Heights 1st Floor, Above IDBI Bank, In front of RBI, Mahadevghat Road, Sunder Nagar, Raipur (C.G.)-492001

### E-AUCTION NOTICE

**PUBLIC NOTICE FOR SALE THROUGH E-AUCTION UNDER THE SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT (SARFAESI ACT) 2002, READ WITH PROVISORIAL RULE 8(6) & 9 OF SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES 2002.**

The undersigned as authorized officer of Jana Small Finance Bank Limited has taken possession of the following property in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(4) of the SARFAESI ACT. The Borrower in particular and public at large are informed that online auction (e-auction) of the mortgage property in the below mentioned account for realisation of dues of the Bank will be held on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS" and "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" on the date as prescribed as here under.

Sr. No.	Loan Account Number	Name of Original Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor	Date of 13-2 Notice	Date of Possession	Present Outstanding balance as on	Date & Time of Inspection of the property	Reserve Price in INR	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) in INR	Date and Time of E-Auction	Last Date, Time & Place for Submission of Bid
1	45099420000322	1) Mr. Mohammad Ailim Sheikh, S/o. Wahid Ulla, 2) Mrs. Adiba Anjum Sheikh, W/o. Md. Ailim Sheikh	03.07.2023	14.12.2023	Rs.8,69,759.50 (Rupees Eight Lakh Sixty Nine Thousand Seven Hundred Fifty Nine and Fifty Paise Only) as of 03.05.2024	16.05.2024 09.00 AM to 05.30 PM	Rs.6,90,000/- (Rupees Six Lakh Ninety Thousand Only)	Rs.69,000/- (Rupees Sixty Nine Thousand Only)	30.05.2024 @ 11.00 AM to 02.00 PM	29.05.2024, before 05.00 PM Jana Small Finance Bank Limited, Malay Heights 1st Floor, Above IDBI Bank, In front of RBI, Mahadevghat Road, Sunder Nagar, Raipur (C.G.)-492001
<b>Property Description/ Schedule:</b> All that piece and parcel of diverted land bearing Plot No.217, total admeasuring area of 780 Sq.ft. (72.490 Sq.mtr.), being part entire land bearing Khatsa No.59262 (Part), Sheet/Block No.26, P.H. No.43, R.N.M. Sakri, Mouza Ghuru, Ward No.04, Situated at Gokul Nagar Ward, Tehsil Takhatpur & District Bilaspur (C.G.). Bounded by: East by: Remaining Land of Mrs. Neena Jain, West by: House of Mr. Shrivastava, North by: House of Mrs. Gangotri and South by: 20 Ft. Road.										
2	45099420002979	1) Mr. Kamlesh Kumar Kaiwari, S/o. Kusuvaram Kaiwari, 2) Mrs. Punita Kaiwari, W/o. Kamlesh Kaiwari	17.10.2023	15.02.2024	Rs.18,03,693.10 (Rupees Eighteen Lakh Three Thousand Six Hundred Ninety Three and Ten Paise Only) as of 03.05.2024	16.05.2024 09.00 AM to 05.30 PM	Rs.20,25,000/- (Rupees Twenty Lakh Twenty Five Thousand Only)	Rs.2,02,500/- (Rupees Two Lakh Two Thousand Five Hundred Only)	15.06.2024 @ 11.00 AM to 02.00 PM	14.06.2024, before 05.00 PM Jana Small Finance Bank Limited, Malay Heights 1st Floor, Above IDBI Bank, In front of RBI, Mahadevghat Road, Sunder Nagar, Raipur (C.G.)-492001
<b>Property Description/ Schedule:</b> All that piece and parcel of land bearing Plot No.1711, total admeasuring area of 2150 Sq.ft. (199.614 Sq.mtrs.), Out of Khatsa No.59411, Mouza Arsenia, Block Takhatpur, P.H. No.38, R.N.M. Arsenia, Tehsil Sakri & District Bilaspur (C.G.). Bounded by: East by: Seller's Remaining land, West by: Nistari Road, North by: Land of Sardar and South by: Nistari Road.										
3	45099420003271	1) Mr. Vikram Singh Luniya, S/o. Kamal Singh, 2) Mrs. Jamuna Luniya, W/o. Vikram Singh Luniya	29.12.2023	13.03.2024	Rs.8,43,761.19 (Rupees Eight Lakh Forty Three Thousand Seven Hundred Sixty One and Ten Paise Only) as of 03.05.2024	16.05.2024 09.00 AM to 05.30 PM	Rs.7,90,000/- (Rupees Seven Lakh Ninety Thousand Only)	Rs.79,000/- (Rupees Seventy Nine Thousand Only)	15.06.2024 @ 11.00 AM to 02.00 PM	14.06.2024, before 05.00 PM Jana Small Finance Bank Limited, Malay Heights 1st Floor, Above IDBI Bank, In front of RBI, Mahadevghat Road, Sunder Nagar, Raipur (C.G.)-492001
<b>Property Description/ Schedule:</b> All that piece and parcel of land bearing Khatsa No.181512 (Part), total admeasuring area of 1050 Sq.ft. (97.583 Sq.mtrs.), situated at Gram Mokpa, P.H. No.19/29, R.N.M. Baspur, Tehsil & District Bilaspur (C.G.). Bounded by: East by: 20 Ft. wide Nistari Road, West by: Nala, North by: Remaining Land of Seller and South by: Remaining Land of Seller.										

The properties are being held on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS" & "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" and the E-Auction will be conducted "On Line". All payments relating to purchase of above said property to be made in favour of Jana Small Finance Bank. The auction will be conducted through the Bank's approved service provider. 4 Closure at the web portal <https://bankauctions.in> & [www.foreclosureindia.com](http://www.foreclosureindia.com). For more information and for details, help, procedure and online training on e-auction, prospective bidders may contact M/s. 4 Closure at the web portal <https://bankauctions.in> & [www.foreclosureindia.com](http://www.foreclosureindia.com). For more information and for details, help, procedure and online training on e-auction, prospective bidders may contact M/s. 4 Closure, Contact Mr. Arijit Kumar Das, Contact Number: 8142060725. Email id: [info@bankauctions.in](mailto:info@bankauctions.in) / [arjit@bankauctions.in](mailto:arjit@bankauctions.in). For further details on terms and conditions to take part in e-auction proceedings and any for any query relating to property please contact Jana Small Finance Bank officers Mr. Mahendra Bramhane (Mob. No.9029290202) & Mr. Ajay Naik (Mob. No.9960946687). To the best of knowledge and information of the Authorized Officer, there are no encumbrances on the properties. However the intending bidders should make their own independent inquiries regarding the encumbrances, title of property put on prior to submitting their bid. No conditional bid will be accepted. This is also a notice to the above named Borrower/ Guarantor's/ Mortgagees about e-auction scheduled for the mortgaged properties. The Borrower/ Guarantor/ Mortgagee are hereby notified to pay the sum as mentioned above along with up to date interest and ancillary expenses before the date of auction, failing which the property will be sold and balance dues if any will be recovered with interest and cost.

Date: 13.05.2024, Place: Bilaspur

Sd/- Authorized Officer, Jana Small Finance Bank Limited



"When you have a platform, there is a responsibility to put your most authentic self forward. You must represent your truest self and not a façade."

**Sonam Kapoor**  
Actress



# & Glitters

## O.T.T Watch



**Red, White & Royal Blue sequel coming to amazon**

Amazon Prime Video is producing a sequel to Red, White & Royal Blue with stars Nicholas Galitzine and Taylor Zakhar Perez reprising their roles. Plot details are under wraps, but original writer Matthew López is returning alongside Casey McQuiston.



**Kim & Khloe Kardashian feud in season 5**

Kim and Khloe Kardashian's feud takes center stage in The Kardashians Season 5 trailer, with Kim calling Khloe unbearable and Khloe acknowledging, Sisters can be vicious. The new season premieres May 23 on Hulu.



**Lioness renewed for season 2**

Paramount+ renews Taylor Sheridan's drama Lioness for a second season, with Morgan Freeman promoted to series regular. The streaming service praises the gripping story and powerhouse performances, eager for more suspense and action.



**Super Rich in Korea: Netflix's seoul elite**

Netflix's Super Rich in Korea offers a glimpse into Seoul's wealthiest, featuring a Singaporean tycoon, Italian luxury heir, Pakistani noble, and more. Hosted by GOT7's Bambam, Mimi, and Jo Se Ho.



**Maxton Hall mysteries**

Maxton Hall in Amazon Prime's gripping series set in an elite private school follows scholarship student Ruby as she unravels a scandal involving wealthy heir James Beaufort, leading to a tumultuous relationship.

## Disha Patani: Beachside serenity and fitness fervour

Disha Patani shares vibrant moments on social media, blending fitness dedication with beach escapades, teasing more posts as she prepares for forthcoming projects.

Central Chronicle News

Disha Patani's latest beach vacation photos, showcasing her in a bikini, have once again ignited Instagram with her stunning looks and summer vibes.

Bollywood sensation Disha Patani provides an intimate glimpse into her vibrant life on social media, seamlessly blending her unwavering dedication to fitness with serene beach escapades. Her recent Instagram posts unveil her deep connection with the sea, showcasing a series of vibrant snapshots capturing moments of pure bliss as she lounges by the pool and frolics along the shore with friends. In one particularly captivating image, Disha radiates confidence in a striking red swimsuit, her radiant smile mirroring the dazzling coastal backdrop. Her playful caption teasingly hints at more delightful photo dumps to come, igniting excitement among her devoted followers who eagerly await each new post. Previously, she captivated audiences in an enchanting animal print slip dress during a casual dinner date, drawing effusive praise from close friend Mouni Roy. Reflecting on her journey, Disha expresses heartfelt gratitude towards filmmaker Karan Johar for his instrumental role in her career.



Patani shared beach pictures from Thailand vacation.



Disha Patani's radiant journey through the social media spotlight

In the limelight of social media, Bollywood star Disha Patani shares snapshots of her vibrant life, from fitness dedication to beachside bliss.

Fans adore her care-free spirit and effortless charm, flooding comments with adoration. As she gears up for new projects, Disha's journey continues, marked by gratitude amid controversy.

| HYPER LOCAL |

## Justin and Hailey's journey to parenthood: The Bieber baby buzz

Central Chronicle News

Justin Bieber and Hailey Bieber's journey to parenthood has captivated fans as they prepare to welcome their first child. In light of their pregnancy announcement, old videos of Justin expressing his desire to become a father have resurfaced, offering insight into his excitement for this new chapter. During a 2021 appearance on The Ellen DeGeneres Show, Justin shared his thoughts on expanding their family. When asked about having kids with Hailey, he expressed his willingness to have as many as



Justin Bieber and Hailey Bieber have announced pregnancy

**HIGHLIGHT**

Justin Bieber and Hailey Bieber announced their journey to parenthood. Old clips of Justin expressing his excitement about becoming a father have resurfaced on social media.

she wants. Justin emphasized Hailey's autonomy over her body and their mutual desire for a family, but acknowledged they would wait until she's ready. Ellen praised Justin's fatherly qualities, foreshadowing his future role. In another clip circulating on social media, Justin reminisces

about the moment he knew Hailey was the one. Seeing her nurturing demeanor towards a baby at an event, he realized she was meant to be the mother of his children. This heartfelt revelation further underscores their bond and anticipation for parenthood.

The couple officially announced their pregnancy on Instagram with romantic videos and photos. Hailey's baby bump was prominently featured, symbolizing the next chapter in their lives. Their posts exuded love and excitement, with Justin capturing intimate moments of his wife.

## CineBriefs

BEST OF THE REST

Bollywood

**Border 2: India's epic war sequel announced for January 2026 release**

Sunny Deol and Ayushmann Khurrana's Border 2, touted as India's biggest war film, is set to hit theatres in January 2026. The sequel to the 1997 blockbuster has been in the works for over a year, with the team finalizing a script that lives up to the expectations. With a release date aimed at Republic Day weekend, the film celebrates the bravery of the Indian Armed Forces. Fans can expect an action-packed cinematic experience from this highly anticipated sequel. The film stars an ensemble cast of Sunny Deol, Jackie Shroff, Sunil Shetty, Akshaye Khanna, Sudesh Berry, Puneet Issar and Kulbhushan Kharbanda. Tabu, Raakhee, Pooja Bhatt and Sharbani Mukherjee feature in supporting roles.

Web Series

**Nikhil Advani's historic saga: From Rocket Boys to freedom**

Nikhil Advani's Sony LIV series masterfully blends Indian and international talent for authentic storytelling. With meticulous research, he brings historical figures like Homi Bhabha and Mahatma Gandhi to life. In Rocket Boys and Freedom at Midnight, Advani's focus on detail ensures a captivating journey through India's history and the struggle for independence. The inclusion of international actors, chosen for their resemblance to colonial counterparts, adds depth to the narrative, promising an immersive and enlightening experience for viewers. StudioNext and Advani's Emmy Entertainment have come together to co-produce the series, which aims to bring alive defining moments from India's partition.

The Bollywood hot pair

**Nick Jonas starts filming 'Power Ballad': A Tribute from Priyanka**



Priyanka Chopra praised husband Nick Jonas as he began filming Power Ballad, a musical comedy. Sharing Nick's rugged new look on Instagram, she expressed excitement for the project. Captioning, Husband appreciation post: As I finish one, he starts one. So happy to be reunited as he starts filming

Power Ballad. Congratulations on your first day, baby. There is no one who works harder than you. This is going to be amazing." Nick also shared his excitement on Instagram Stories. Directed by John Carney, Power Ballad stars Paul Rudd alongside Nick and tells the story of a wedding singer and a rock star.

Fashion

**Janhvi Kapoor turns heads in sporty-chic red dress for 'Mr. and Mrs. Mahi' promotions**

Janhvi Kapoor's red faux leather dress is a showstopper, seamlessly blending sexiness with a sporty twist as she kickstarts promotions for Mr. and Mrs. Mahi. Designed by Surya Sarkar, the dress features trendy cut-outs resembling cricket ball seams and playful cricket ball buttons adorning the backless design.



## Trending on Insta

@sidmalhotra

**Sidharth Malhotra's workout wows wife Kiara Advani**

Sidharth Malhotra showcases his muscular physique in a workout pic, earning praise from wife Kiara Advani. His intense workout routine inspires followers.



@therealkarismakapoor

**Captivating camaraderie: Karisma and Ranveer Singh's dynamic duo**

Karisma Kapoor shared stunning images on Instagram, showcasing her alongside Ranveer Singh at an event. The photos capture their charming camaraderie and are absolutely captivating.





# Wellness

WELLNESS

## Embracing Yoga: The path to post-pregnancy strength and beauty

Discover targeted Yoga poses to fortify your core and shed post-pregnancy belly fat.



Plank Pose is a powerhouse for weight loss, targeting multiple muscle groups.



### HIGHLIGHT

Learn how these poses ignite muscle engagement and foster stability, enhancing overall body strength.

grace of the Cat-Cow Pose, or Bitilasana, the spine awakens to fluidity and grace, each breath an invitation to healing and transformation, tenfold with each repetition.

Finally, in the Bridge Pose, or Setu Bandhasana, hips ascend skyward, shoulders grounding into the earth below, weaving a tapestry of strength and grace with each breath, a testament to the boundless potential residing within. Incorporating these sacred poses into daily practice heralds a journey of self-discovery and transformation, revealing the inherent strength and beauty within every mother, no matter the path they've traveled.

Postpartum yoga is an easy way to get your body moving again. You may want to exercise at the level you did before pregnancy. However, your body is not ready for that intensity. If you push yourself too much, you could hurt yourself.

## Health Tips

SIX DELICIOUS BEETROOT RECIPES

### Mini Beetroot Tikki

**Ingredients:** Boiled, grated beetroot, carrot, soaked crumbled bread, coriander, chaat masala, chilli powder, mango powder, garam masala, cornflour, salt, oil.

**Instructions:** Mix ingredients, shape into tikkis, roll in cornflour, deep-fry until golden. Serve hot with green chutney or tomato ketchup.



### Beetroot Poriyal

**Ingredients:** 2 large beetroots, coconut oil, mustard seeds, split skinless black gram, Bengal gram, asafoetida, green chillies, dried red chillies, curry leaves, turmeric, salt, fresh coconut, fried curry leaves.

**Instructions:** Cook beetroot with spices, coconut, and curry leaves until tender. Garnish with fried curry leaves before serving.



### Beetroot Vada

**Ingredients:** Grated beetroot, soaked Bengal gram, curry leaves, spices, onion, rice flour, oil.

**Instructions:** Grind soaked Bengal gram with red chillies. Mix with spices, beetroot, onion, rice flour. Shape into balls, flatten, deep-fry until golden brown. Serve hot with filter coffee for a flavorful snack experience.



### Beetroot Rice

**Ingredients:** 2 small boiled and diced beetroot, 2 tbsp oil, 1 tsp mustard seeds, 1 clove garlic (chopped), 1 small red onion (chopped), 10 curry leaves, 500g boiled rice, salt, lemon juice, small handful chopped coriander leaves.

**Method:** Heat oil, add mustard seeds, garlic, onion, curry leaves. Sauté, add beetroot. Lightly cook, add rice, salt. Toss, add lemon juice, coriander. Serve warm.



### Beetroot Raita

**Ingredients:** Boiled beetroot, cucumber, tomatoes, fresh curd, salt, sugar, green chillies, oil, cumin seeds, asafoetida, raw peanuts, grated coconut, coriander.

**Instructions:** Mix beetroot, cucumber, tomatoes, curd, salt, sugar, green chillies. Heat oil, add cumin, asafoetida, sauté. Pour over raita, add peanuts, coconut, coriander, chill. Serve chilled.



### Beetroot Soup

**Ingredients:** Boiled beetroot, chopped onion, garlic cloves, vegetable broth, coconut milk, salt, pepper, olive oil, lemon juice, fresh thyme.

**Instructions:** Sauté onion, garlic in olive oil. Add beetroot, broth, simmer. Blend until smooth, add coconut milk, seasoning, lemon juice. Simmer. Serve hot, garnished with fresh thyme.



### Sudha Reddy's \$10M necklace: Glamour and Sentiment at 2024 Met Gala

Indian billionaire Sudha Reddy donned a \$10m diamond necklace, possibly the priciest piece at the 2024 Met Gala, sourced from her own collection. The exquisite necklace flaunts four heart-shaped diamonds linked by 21 radiant round diamonds. Crafted in collaboration with designer Farah Khan Ali, Reddy revealed its sentimental significance, representing her family's bond.



GOOD LIVING

## Elevate your morning routine: Stylish dressing tables for chic solutions!



**Transform Your Space:** Explore Chic Dressing Tables for an Effortlessly Stylish Morning Routine! From the sleek BLUEWUD Freddie to the minimalist Reshuz Modern Daniel, discover your perfect match. Experience the blend of elegance and functionality with Spacewood Value and Studio Kook Bonita. Choose versatility with BLUEWUD Darci or timeless charm with WoodVestal Sheesham. Consider space, materials, and features to curate a grooming sanctuary that reflects your unique style.

| SELF-SILENCING |

## Exploring exercise's impact on menstrual cycles

### HIGHLIGHT

The changes in your menstrual cycle may be subtle or extreme, depending on how your body reacts to increased activity level.

levels, affecting hormone production crucial for menstruation. Additionally, it depletes energy reserves, causing hormonal imbalances. Stress hormones released during vigorous workouts can also interfere with reproductive hormones. Age can exacerbate these effects. Teenage girls and women approaching menopause are particularly vulnerable to menstrual irregularities caused by intense physical activity.



Exercise induced amenorrhoea it is a common yet often overlooked phenomenon.

To avoid exercise-induced amenorrhoea, prioritize moderation. Balance your workouts, listen to your body, eat a balanced diet, and ensure proper hydration. Remember, your menstrual health matters. If you notice any changes in your cycle, seek medical advice promptly. Take care of yourself, finding a healthy balance in your fitness routine.

Central Chronicle News

Ever wondered if your intense workouts could be behind missed periods? It's not just a myth it's a real phenomenon called exercise induced amenorrhoea. When women engage in high-intensity exercise without adequate nutrition, it can disrupt their menstrual cycles. Here's how it works, intense workouts coupled with insufficient calorie intake create an energy deficit. As a result, the body redirects energy away from functions like reproduction, leading to missed periods. This disruption occurs due to various factors. Intense exercise can reduce body fat



# Sports



As a unit, we have failed in a few games, and we have to accept that as a team.

Piyush Chawla  
Mumbai Indians

## Praggnanandhaa beats Carlsen in Superbet chess



India's R. Praggnanandhaa during the match. | Photo: PTI

India's R. Praggnanandhaa is way behind leaders Wei Yi and Magnus Carlsen, which makes it literally a two-horse race for the title.

Press Trust of India

**WARSAW:** India's R. Praggnanandhaa scored yet another victory over world number one Magnus Carlsen of Norway to keep himself afloat even as Wei Yi of China stretched his lead to a massive 2.5 points in the Superbet rapid and blitz chess tournament, a part of the Grand Chess Tour. With nine rounds still to

come in the blitz event, Wei Yi has amassed 20.5 points with seven wins on the first day of blitz. Ending the day with 7.5 out of a possible nine, Yi, seems like a man possessed and unless a hurricane hits him, is poised to win the first leg of the Grand Chess Tour. Carlsen, on 18, is a distant second at this point and the main reason behind that is Praggnanandhaa, who has been beating the world number

### HIGHLIGHT

- Final results rapid: 1. Wei Yi 20.5; 2. Magnus Carlsen 18; 3. R. Praggnanandhaa 14.5; 4. Arjun Erigaisi 14; 5. Duda Jan-Krzysztof 13; 6. Nodirbek Abdusattorov 12.5; 7. Vincent Keymer 11.5; 8. Kirill Shevchenko 11; 9. Anish Giri 10.5; 10. D.Gukesh 9.5.

one often these days in the faster version of the game. Praggnanandhaa, however is far behind the leaders with 14.5 points which makes it literally a two-horse race for the title. In fourth spot is Arjun Erigaisi on 14 points while Duda Jan-Krzysztof of Poland is right behind him on 13. Nodirbek Abdusattorov of Uzbekistan stands sixth on 12.5, a full point clear of

Vincent Keymer of Germany and the eighth spot is now taken by early leader Kirill Shevchenko of Romania with 11 points. Anish Giri of Holland improved a little to be ninth on 10.5 while the blitz remained a cause for worry for world championship challenger D. Gukesh who is languishing at the last spot with 9.5 points in the USD 1,75,000 prize money tournament.

## Zimbabwe win final T20 by 8 wickets against Bangladesh

**DHAKA:** Zimbabwe avoided a series clean sweep by beating Bangladesh by eight wickets in the fifth and final Twenty20 match on Sunday. After being put in to bat, Bangladesh made 157-6 but Brian Bennett's 70 off 49 balls, with five fours and as many sixes, set the platform of Zimbabwe's victory with nine balls to spare. Skipper Sikandar Raza finished with 72 off 46 balls and combined with Bennett for a 75-run stand for the second wicket after Shakib Al Hasan struck early to dismiss Tadiwanashe Marumani for 1. Unlike the past four matches, Zimbabwe was able to resist a top order collapse as Raza and Bennett dealt with Bangladesh's bowling with a good balance of caution and attack.

## We win together, we lose together: Nitish Rana

Press Trust of India

The two-time former champions became the first team to seal the playoff berth with a facile 18-run win over Mumbai Indians in a 16-over rain-interrupted IPL match at Eden Gardens..

**KOLKATA:** The key to Kolkata Knight Riders' success this season lies in their players' newfound ability to support each other through highs and lows, something that was "missing" over the past two years, feels the team's vice-captain Nitish Rana. "We win together and we lose together;



KKR's Nitish Rana plays a shot during an IPL T20 cricket match. | Photo: PTI

that's the dressing room environment we have. It's very important to place hands on each other's shoulders, and I feel it was missing for the last one to two years," Rana said in the post-match media interaction here. With this win, they have consolidated their position

atop the standings with 18 points. With two games to go, KKR are now well-placed for a top-two finish. The big reality check for KKR had come against Punjab Kings who smashed South Africa's record of the highest successful run-chase by gunning down 262 with eight

### FACTFILE

- This was the first time since 2021 that KKR made the last four stages.

balls to spare in an IPL fixture at Eden Gardens on April 26.

"We felt really bad that day. I was witness to the dressing room, only three-four ate dinner that night," he recalled.

Rana, who led the side the previous season in regular skipper Shreyas Iyer's absence, made a comeback from a finger injury after missing their last 10 matches.

Having scored a crucial 23-ball 33 on his return, the lefthander said he had anxiety pangs and had a sleepless night.

HOCKEY |

## 'Series helped us test several combinations ahead'

Press Trust of India

**BENGALURU:** Newly-appointed Indian women's hockey captain, Salima Tete said the six-match friendly series against South Africa had helped her understand the team dynamics better and also provided insights into the areas that need "refinement" ahead of the gruelling

European leg of the FIH Pro League.

Salima, 22, who was part of the Asian Champions Trophy-winning side in 2023, took over as captain from Savita Punia earlier this month and led the side against South Africa at home, winning the series 4-2 here.

"The series served as a pivotal platform for us to explore and test



The series served as a pivotal platform for us to explore and test various player combinations.

Salima Tete  
Women's hockey

various player combinations, leveraging the participation of all 24 members from our FIH Pro League squad," said Salima, a mid-fielder, in a Hockey India release on Saturday. "This collective effort not only enhanced our coordination on the field but also provided a comprehensive understanding of our team dynamics.

## Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

SOCCER

### Ancelotti says his focus is on Madrid's Champions League final

**MADRID:** Carlo Ancelotti says that with his Real Madrid eyeing another European Cup he has no time to consider the possibility of coaching Kylian Mbappé next season. Giving his first news conference since Mbappé confirmed on Friday he will be leaving Paris Saint-Germain, Ancelotti faced the inevitable question of if he could confirm his destination was Madrid. Ancelotti said the only thing he wants he and his team to think about is the June 1 Champions League final against Borussia Dortmund. "(Mbappé's future) is not a subject I think about now," Ancelotti said on Saturday after Madrid's Spanish league win at Granada. "Until June 1 we know exactly what we need to focus on." Mbappé announced his final home game for PSG will be on Sunday against Toulouse. PSG coach Luis Enrique said on Saturday his star forward "still has not said where he is going, but we all believe it's clear." PTI

CRICKET

### Ramandeep fined 20% match fees for breaching IPL code of conduct



**KOLKATA:** KKR's medium pacer Ramandeep Singh has been fined 20 per cent of his match fees for breaching the IPL Code of Conduct during their match against Mumbai Indians at the Eden Gardens here. The 27-year-old committed a Level 1 offence under Article 2.20 of the IPL Code of Conduct. He admitted to the offence and accepted the Match Referee's sanction. For Level 1 breaches of the Code of Conduct, the Match Referee's decision is final and binding. KKR on Saturday notched up an 18-run win over Mumbai Indians in a rain-curtailed match to become the first team to seal a playoffs berth this season. PTI

### MISERLY BOWLING

## Varun Chakaravathy made things difficult for MI batters: Brett Lee



**KOLKATA:** Varun Chakaravathy's ability to be consistently among wickets for Kolkata Knight Riders drew praise from former Australian tearaway bowler Brett Lee, who said he made life difficult for Mumbai Indians batters in a rain-shortened low-scoring game.

Chakaravathy bowled miserly and took two wickets for 17 runs as KKR won by 18 runs to become the first team to seal an IPL playoff berth on Saturday.

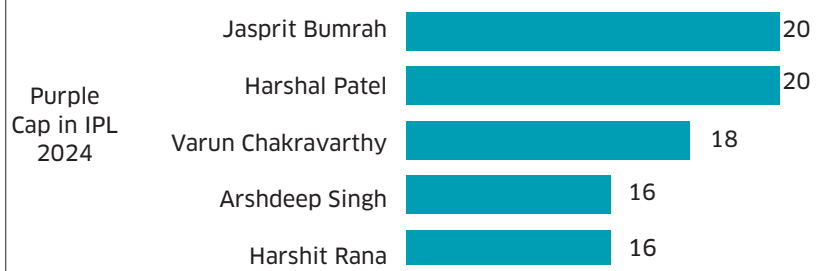
Chakaravathy (18 scalps) is the third-highest wicket-taker so far this

season behind MI's Jasprit Bumrah and PBKS's Harshal Patel, both of whom are on 20 wickets.

"He bowled beautifully. He made efforts to pick the hard length, he banded the ball short in the wicket which did not allow the batsmen to get underneath the ball and made the cross-bat shots difficult," Lee told Jio-Cinema on Sunday.

Former Royal Challengers Bengaluru high-performance director Mike Hesson said KKR batter Venkatesh Iyer seems to be relishing punishing the Mumbai Indians bowlers. PTI

### The Day's NUMBERS



### TOP PLAYERS LIST WITH MOST WICKETS IN IPL

SOCCER

### Super League Kerala: Franchisees of inaugural edition announced

**KOCHI:** Football in Kerala, famed for its top-class talent pool and ardent fan following, is poised to enter an exciting new phase with the announcement of the franchisees of the long-awaited Super League Kerala (SLK). The six franchises that will figure in season one of the league scheduled to start early September, are Kochi Pipers FC, Calicut FC, Thrissur Roar FC, Kannur Squad FC, Thiruvananthapuram Kombans FC, and Malappuram FC, a press statement said here on Sunday. The meticulously planned SLK is poised to generate numerous opportunities across sectors such as sports and entertainment, retailing business, tourism, leisure, travel, and hospitality, benefitting the six chosen regions and their surrounding areas, it said. Over 100 talented youngsters from Kerala selected by SLK team owners would receive world-class exposure, paving the way for their further ascent in Indian and international football. PTI

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE

### Burnley relegated from EPL after just one season because of loss at Tottenham



**LONDON:** Burnley was relegated from the English Premier League after Micky van de Ven's 82nd-minute goal earned Tottenham a 2-1 comeback victory on Saturday. Vincent Kompany's Burnley had to claim all three points to keep alive its faint hopes of avoiding an immediate return to the Championship. Jacob Bruun Larsen's 25th-minute opener gave the visitors hope in north London, but Pedro Porro equalized seven minutes later with a powerful strike. While Burnley was anticipated to finish strongly in pursuit of taking its Premier League survival bid to the final day, the opposite occurred. PTI



## Sports News



Chennai Super Kings' Simarjeet Singh bowls during the Indian Premier League T20 cricket match between Chennai Super Kings and Rajasthan Royals, at MA Chidambaram Stadium. | Photo: PTI

# CSK beat RR by 5 wkts in low-scoring thriller

Press Trust of India

Pacer Simarjeet Singh dished out his best performance (3/26) in the IPL

**CHENNAI:** Chennai Super Kings on Sunday clinched a five-wicket win over Rajasthan Royals in a low-scoring thriller to brighten their IPL play-offs qualification chances here on Sunday.

Chasing a modest 142 on a tricky surface, CSK made

145 for five in 18.2 overs with skipper Ruturaj Gaikwad dropping the anchor to make a well-compiled unbeaten 42 (41 balls, 1x4s, 2x6s).

Rookie Sameer Rizvi hit an eight-ball 15 not out with three fours to end the game in a jiffy after Ravindra Jadeja became the third batter in IPL history to be adjudged out after obstructing the field. Earlier in the first innings, Pacer Simarjeet Singh dished out his best

## HIGHLIGHT

● For RR, the in-form Riyan Parag top-scored with a 35-ball unbeaten 47 on a slow wicket.

performance (3/26) in the IPL and exemplified Chennai Super Kings' discipline with the ball in restricting Rajasthan Royals to 141 for five here on Sunday.

Opting to bat, the RR openers were off to a cautious start against Tushar

Deshpande and Maheesh Theekshana, and the first boundary only arrived in the third over. Only six boundaries, including a maximum by Yashasvi Jaiswal, came in the powerplay, indicating that the track might not be best suited for power-hitting, with the ball sticking to the surface. After RR ended the powerplay at 42 for no loss, the 26-year-old Simarjeet made the first breakthrough in the seventh over, getting rid

of Jaiswal (24 runs off 21 balls). However, it was Simarjeet who came up with the second breakthrough in the ninth over, with Jos Buttler (21 off 25 balls) departing while looking to clear the deep fine-leg.

As the score read 49 for two, Parag joined skipper Sanju Samson (15 off 19 balls) and got a reprieve in the 12th over, after Theekshana dropped him while he was on 15.

## Sudharsan feels better game awareness has led to remarkable consistency

**NEW DELHI:** His talent has always been unquestionable but what has stood out for young Gujarat Titans southpaw Sai Sudharsan in this IPL is his impressive game awareness and decision making, traits he picked up

during his maiden India stint in South Africa last year. "There's not much change in my batting (compared to last season), but yes the decision making, the game awareness or knowledge of the game has improved.

So that is helping me a bit to (stay consistent)," Sudharsan told PTI in an exclusive interview on Sunday. Power hitting is a pre-requisite in the modern T20 game but Sudharsan relies on his timing to get the job done.

| RUNNING TRACK FEST |

## Deeksha sets new Indian record in LA

Press Trust of India

The 25-year-old Deeksha finished third in the final on Saturday after running the distance in 4:04.78, bettering the previous record of 4:05.39 set by Harmilan Bains.

**NEW DELHI:** Indian track athlete K M Deeksha set a new national record in the women's 1500m while Avinash Sable finished second in men's 5000m event at the Sound Running Track Fest in Los Angeles.

The 25-year-old Deeksha finished third in the final on Saturday after running the distance in 4:04.78, bettering the previous record of 4:05.39 set by Harmilan Bains in 2021 at the National Open Athletics Championships in Warangal. Deeksha's previous personal best was a 4:06.07 set in the final of the National Inter-State Athletics Championships at the Kalinga Stadium



Deeksha finished third in women's 1500 metres final, clocking 4:04.78 seconds.

## HIGHLIGHT

● Deeksha's previous personal best was a 4:06.07 set in the final of the National Inter-State Athletics Championships

in Bhubaneswar in 2023, where she upstaged Bains to win gold. Deeksha who is from Amroha, UP has been part of the MP Athletics academy for the last five years training under coach S K Prasad.

Parul Chaudhary ran 15:10.69s in the women's 5000m to finish fifth.

Parul narrowly missed out on improving her national record while compatriot Ankita ended 10th with a time of 15:28.88.

Sable finished second in the men's 5000m with a time of 13:20.37 and not his pet 3000m steeplechase event, and in the same event, Gulveer Singh ran a 13:31.95.

Sable's 5000m national record time is 13:19.30. Kartik Kumar ran the last lap in 62sec in the men's 10000m but that could only fetch him a second-place finish. He clocked 28:07.66s.

## Pranavi finishes tied 7th with strong finish

**SEOUL:** Pranavi Urs produced a strong finish with three birdies in a four-hole stretch on the back nine for a top-10 finish at the Aramco Team Series Korea.

Pranavi shot rounds of 69-77-69 for a 1-under 215 and was tied-seventh at the end of the competition. This was the second top-10 finish in six starts this season for the Mysuru girl, who has been an 'Order of Merit' winner in the Hero Women's Pro Golf Tour, before earning a status on the Ladies European Tour.

The other two Indians, the Olympic-bound Diksha Dagar (79-72-71) shot 6-over to finish tied 37th while Vani Kapoor (77-74-77) had a below-par 12-over and tied 60th rank. Leading by two shots heading into the final round, the Major winner held off Charley Hull's Sunday surge carding a round of 68 (-4) to end the week on 10-under par.

| OLYMPIC TRIALS |

## Esha, Anish register second win in Olympic Selection Trials

Press Trust of India

**NEW DELHI:** Esha Singh and Anish Bhanwala registered their second Olympic Selection Trial wins in the women's 25m pistol and men's 25m rapid-fire pistol (RFP) respectively here on Sunday.

While Anish had won the first trial in the same event in Delhi, Esha had claimed the second trial in the women's 10m air pistol, also at the Karni Singh range in Delhi.

At the M.P. State Shooting Academy (MPSSA) ranges, Esha notched her first win in women's 25m pistol trial, shooting 43



Esha Singh in action. | Photo: PTI

in the finals. Her score was a point more than the world record set by Korean Kim Yeji at the Baku World Cup earlier this month.

Manu Bhaker came second with 40 hits while Rhythm Sangwan picked up the final

podium place, bowing out ahead of the 10th and final series with a score of 33. Simranpreet Kaur Brar and Abhidnya Patil were fourth and fifth respectively.

In the men's RFP final, Anish seemed to be in a league of his own, boss-

## HIGHLIGHT

● Esha notched her first win in women's 25m pistol trial, shooting 43 in the finals.

ing the five-man finals field with three perfect series of five hits in the beginning. He missed just four to finish with 36 hits for the win.

Vijayveer Sidhu did stutter in the beginning, but eventually, held his own to come in second with 31 hits. Ankur Goel was third with 19, while Adarsh Singh and Bhavesh Shekhawat came fourth and fifth respectively.

| HOCKEY |

## 'We are working to be in best shape'

Press Trust of India

**BENGALURU:** The Indian men's hockey team has identified areas that "needed attention" following its whitewash by Australia in the five-Test series and is ready for the tough European leg of the Pro League, said skipper Harmanpreet Singh on Sunday.

Last month, India, the Tokyo Olympics bronze medallists, lost all their



matches to the Kookaburras, raising doubts about their preparations for the

**We are in the last stages of an intense training block right now.**

Harmanpreet Singh  
Hockey captain

Paris Games later this year. But drag-flicker Harmanpreet said the squad has done a lot of high-intensity training and the confidence in the side continues

to grow. "We are in the last stages of an intense training block right now. The team has worked on the areas we felt needed attention after the tour of Australia," said Harmanpreet in a Hockey India release. "Soon, we will head to Europe to play some essential matches in the Pro League 2023/24 to test ourselves against some tough opponents like Argentina, Belgium, Germany, and Great Britain.

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# World



Significant progress made in expediting India-assisted projects in Maldives  
**Moosa Zameer**  
 Maldivian Foreign Minister

## Flooded street after rains in Sao Leopoldo



Vehicles are partially submerged on a street flooded by heavy rains in Sao Leopoldo, Rio Grande do Sul state, Brazil, Saturday, May 11, 2024. | Photo: PTI

# US aims to stay ahead of China in using AI to fly fighter jets

The focus on AI has generated public concern that future wars will be fought by machines that select and strike targets without direct human intervention

Press Trust Of India

**WASHINGTON:** Two Air Force fighter jets recently squared off in a dogfight in California. One was flown by a pilot. The other wasn't. That second jet was piloted by artificial intelligence, with the Air Force's highest-ranking civilian riding along in the front seat. It was the ultimate display of how far the Air Force has come in developing a technology with its roots in the 1950s. But it's only a hint of the technology yet to come.

The United States is competing to stay ahead of China on AI and its use in weapon systems. The focus on AI has gener-

ated public concern that future wars will be fought by machines that select and strike targets without direct human intervention.

Officials say this will never happen, at least not on the US side. But there are questions about what a potential adversary would allow, and the military sees no alternative but to get US capabilities fielded fast. "Whether you want to call it a race or not, it certainly is," said Adm. Christopher Grady, vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. "Both of us have recognised that this will be a very critical element of the future battlefield. China's working on it as hard as

### HIGHLIGHT

● AI's roots in the military are actually a hybrid of machine learning and autonomy.

● AI took a major step forward in 2012 when the combination of big data and advanced computing power enabled computers to begin analysing the information and writing the rule sets themselves.

we are." A look at the history of military development of AI, what technologies are on the horizon and how they will be kept under control: AI's roots

in the military are actually a hybrid of machine learning and autonomy. Machine learning occurs when a computer analyses data and rule sets to reach conclusions. Autonomy occurs when those conclusions are applied to take action without further human input.

This took an early form in the 1960s and 1970s with the development of the Navy's Aegis missile defence system. Aegis was trained through a series of human-programmed if/then rule sets to be able to detect and intercept incoming missiles autonomously, and more rapidly than a human could.

But the Aegis system was not designed to learn from its decisions and its reactions were limited to the rule set it had. "If a system uses 'if/then' it is probably not machine learning, which is a field of AI that involves creating systems that learn from data," said Air Force Lt. Col. Christopher Berardi, who is assigned to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology to assist with the Air Force's AI development. AI took a major step forward in 2012 when the combination of big data and advanced computing power enabled computers to begin analysing the information and writing the rule sets themselves.

### CANADA-WILDFIRE

# Wildfire forces thousands to evacuate

Press Trust Of India

Canadian authorities are urging all remaining residents in a town in British Columbia to leave immediately, despite improving weather conditions, after many were already evacuated due to a fast-growing wildfire.



Smoke from wildfires blankets the city as a couple has a picnic in Edmonton, Alberta, Saturday. | Photo: PTI

**VANCOUVER:** Canadian authorities are urging all remaining residents in a town in British Columbia to leave immediately, despite improving weather conditions, after many were already evacuated due to a fast-growing wildfire. The blaze, which started Friday, almost doubled in size the following day, reaching about 17 square kilometers (4,200

acres). BC Wildfire Service maps showed the fire burning just a few kilometers (miles) west of Fort Nelson's city limits.

Fort Nelson is located in the far northeastern corner of British Columbia, about 1,600 kilometers (995 miles) from Vancouver. Fort Nelson and the Fort Nelson Indian Reserve have a combined

### FASTFACTS

● The blaze, which started Friday, almost doubled in size the following day, reaching about 17 square kilometers (4,200 acres)

population of about 3,000. In 2023, Canada

witnessed a record number of wildfires that also caused choking smoke in parts of the U.S. and forced tens of thousands of people to evacuate across British Columbia. Authorities in Alberta also issued an alert about a wildfire nearly 25 kilometers (15.5 miles) southwest of the oil sands city of Fort McMurray that

could impact visibility on highways in some areas. No evacuation order has been given so far for the major Canadian oil city. In 2016, more than 80,000 people evacuated from Fort McMurray, in the heart of Canada's oil sands, as a fire torched 1,600 homes and other buildings.

The high winds pushed smoke across Alberta on Saturday, putting the city of Edmonton under an air quality advisory with hazard levels rated at 10-plus – or "very high risk" – forecast. Meteorologists are not anticipating rain and have advised people to stay indoors. Online footage shared by locals from the Fort Nelson wildfire showed thick plumes of smoke rising high into the sky, with houses in the foreground. In some photos, haze seemed to cover wide areas.

### ISRAEL-HAMAS-WAR

# Hamas regroup in ungoverned Gaza

Press Trust Of India

**RAFAH:** Israeli forces were battling Palestinian militants across the Gaza Strip on Sunday, including in parts of the devastated north that the military said it had cleared some months ago, where Hamas has exploited a security vacuum to regroup. Israel has portrayed the southern Gaza

city of Rafah as Hamas' last stronghold, saying it must invade in order to succeed in its goals of dismantling the group and returning scores of hostages. A limited operation there has expanded in recent days, forcing some 300,000 people to flee and drawing warnings from Egypt, where an official said it is putting the country's decades-



old peace treaty with Israel at risk. But the rest of the war-ravaged territory seems to provide ample opportunities for Hamas. Israel has yet to offer a detailed plan for postwar governance in Gaza, saying only that it will maintain open-ended security control over the coastal enclave, which is home to some 2.3 million Palestinians.

## Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

**PAK-MILITANTS**  
**4 TTP militants killed in Pakistan's Punjab province**

**LAHORE:** Four militants, including a 'target killer', of the banned Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) were killed by security forces in Punjab province, police said on Sunday. The Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) of Punjab police arrested TTP 'target killer' Faizan Ahmad Butt last week in connection with the killing of policemen in Lahore in April, a CTD spokesperson said.

In the "early hours of Sunday, (the) CTD team took the target killer Butt to Karol Jungle at the outskirts of Lahore for recovery of the weapons. Upon his identification, one pistol and two hand grenades were recovered," the spokesperson said. While the CTD team was at the hideout, six people believed to be TTP terrorists reached the area and opened fire at the police team to free Butt. **PTI**

**UKRAINE-RUSSIA-WAR**  
**Thousands of civilians evacuated from northeast Ukraine**



**KYIV:** Thousands more civilians have fled Russia's renewed ground offensive in Ukraine's northeast that has targeted towns and villages with a barrage of artillery and mortar fire, officials said Sunday. The intense battles have forced at least one Ukrainian unit to withdraw in the Kharkiv region, capitulating more land to Russian forces across less defended settlements in the so-called contested "gray zone" along the Russian border. **PTI**

### FROM AROUND THE WORLD

**A fire burns down almost an entire shopping centre housing 1,400 outlets in Warsaw**



**WARSAW:** A fire broke out on Sunday morning in a vast shopping centre housing 1,400 shops and service outlets in the Bialoleka district in Poland's capital. The fire brigade said more than 80 per cent of The Marywilka 44 shopping complex was on fire, and 50 teams, including chemical and environmental rescue specialists, were carrying out rescue operations.

A police spokesperson told the news agency PAP there were no injuries reported. Authorities also sent a text message warning Warsaw residents about the fire and telling them to stay home with the windows closed.

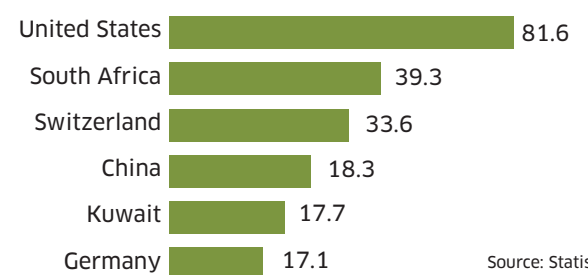
Footage aired by private broadcaster TVN24 showed thick black smoke rising over the area. Mirbud, an industrial construction company listed on the Warsaw Stock Exchange, owns the shopping centre.

Shopping centres and large shops are usually closed on Sunday due to a ban on trade imposed by the previous government which had close ties to the Catholic church, viewing it as a day of worship. Such outlets are exempt from the ban only about half a dozen Sundays a year, to allow people to shop ahead of Christmas, Easter and other events. **PTI**

### The Day's NUMBERS

The top 10 remittance-sending countries in 2022 (in billion US dollars)

### WHICH COUNTRIES SENT THE MOST REMITTANCES?



**INDONESIA-FLASH FLOODS**  
**Flash floods and cold lava flow hit Indonesia's Sumatra island, killing at least 15 people**

**PADANG:** Heavy rains and torrents of cold lava and mud flowing down a volcano's slopes on Indonesia's Sumatra island triggered flash floods that killed at least 15 people and injured several others, officials said Sunday. Monsoon rains and a major mudslide from a cold lava flow on Mount Marapi caused a river to breach its banks and tear through mountainside villages



in Agam and Tanah Datar districts in West Sumatra province just before midnight on Saturday. **PTI**

**LITHUANIA-PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION**  
**Lithuanians vote in a presidential election as anxieties rise over Russia and the war**

**VILNIUS:** Lithuanians are casting votes in a presidential election on Sunday at a time when Russian gains on the battlefield in Ukraine are fueling greater fears about Moscow's intentions, particularly in the strategically important Baltic region. The popular incumbent, Gitanas Nausėda, is favored to win another five-year term in office. But there are eight candidates running in all, making it difficult for him or any other candidate to muster the 50% of the votes needed to win outright. **PTI**

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