

Raipur



District admn has launched 'Booth Jano Abhiyan' allowing voters to visit booths

Dr Gaurav Kumar Singh,
Collector- Raipur.

Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

HIGHER EDUCATION

Ch'garh receives Rs 214 crore for Universities and Colleges

RAIPUR: Chhattisgarh has received the amount of Rs 214 crore for the strengthening of the state Universities and Government Colleges in Chhattisgarh under Prime Minister Uchatar Siksha Abhiyan (PM-USHA) from Government of India. According to the information received from the office of Commissioner Higher Education, Project Director Sharda Verma, the GoI has given approved in the month of March 2024 for the above fund. It is learnt that Board of Directors of Advisor of Projects has given approval for the amount for various Colleges and Universities. Martyr Mahendra Karma University Jagdalpur has been sanctioned the amount of Rs 100 crore for new constructions, renovation, furniture and equipments as well as to development new facilities and also to develop Soft Skills facilities under the Multi Educational Research Universities in Chhattisgarh.

HEATWAVE

Weather Update: Relief from heat expected in Chhattisgarh

RAIPUR: In the face of scorching temperatures gripping Chhattisgarh, residents are anxiously awaiting relief as the Meteorological Department hints at impending rainfall.

The forecast suggests a brief respite from the relentless heatwave, with the influence of Dronika promising more pleasant weather in the days ahead.

Currently, the mercury has surged beyond 45 degrees Celsius across the state, making today, Sunday, another day of dry, sweltering conditions. Looking forward, weather experts anticipate a slight increase of one to two degrees in maximum temperatures over the next 48 hours.



CM Vishnu Deo Sai addressing a press conference

Cong has lost faith of people, confidence of its leaders: CM

CM said we highlighted the achievements of 10 yrs of the Modi govt and 3 months of the newly-elected BJP govt in Ch'garh.

Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai on Sunday took a swipe at the Congress, saying the party has lost the faith of people and even the confidence of its leaders.

Addressing a press conference at the BJP office Ekatma Parisar here, Sai exuded confidence that the saffron party will win all 11 Lok Sabha seats in the state.

"This has been a unique election for me because, for the first time, I connected with the people as a chief minister during cam-

aigning. I addressed 64 public rallies and 11 party workers convention and attended 26 meetings of different communities in 45 days while campaigning from March 20 to May 4," Sai said. "We highlighted the achievements of 10 years of the Modi government and three months of the newly-elected BJP government in Chhattisgarh. The response we got from people reflects that we will win all 11 seats in the state," Sai said.

The Modi government has worked for the welfare of villages, poor people, farmers and

HIGHLIGHT

● The response we got from people reflects that we will win all 11 seats in the state," Sai said.

● Modi govt has worked for the welfare of villages, poor people, farmers, he said.

labourers, he said.

"The Ram temple was constructed in Ayodhya, and Article 370 was scrapped. The ongoing elections are crucial, as we have to realize the dream of making India a developed nation by

2047 and making it the world's third largest economic power in the next few years," the chief minister said.

Taking a dig at the opposition Congress, Sai said, "The Congress has lost the faith of the people in the state and the country and has even lost the confidence of its leaders."

Thousands of Congress leaders, right from a mayor to chairperson of zilla panchayat and former MLAs, have joined the BJP in the state, he said.

Irrespective of the promises it makes the Congress will not win

the elections, Sai said.

He also accused the Congress of spreading misinformation and lies during its campaigns.

Highlighting the achievements of his government in the last three months, Sai said women were happy with the Mahtari Vandan scheme (monthly financial assistance scheme), farmers were given pending bonuses for two years and input assistance for kharif marketing season 2023-24 and youth were happy with the decision to get the CBI to probe the alleged irregularities in state public service commission.

Senior Elite Group T20 Inter District Tourney Raipur wins T-20 Cricket tournament defeating BSP by 59 runs



RAIPUR: Raipur District won the Senior Elite Group T20 Inter District Tournament-2024 being organized under the aegis of Chhattisgarh State Cricket Sangh here on Sunday.

Rishabh Tiwari scored 56 runs to help Raipur defeat Bhilai Steel Plant (BSP) team by 59 runs in the final match played here. It is notable that 10 teams participated in the

Tournament with final T20 match played between Raipur and BSP at Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh International Cricket Stadium, Raipur.

Put into bat first Raipur scored 183 runs in 20 overs for the loss of 5 wickets. Rishabh Tiwari scored maximum 56 runs for Raipur whereas Saurabh Jeevesh, Dev Aditya and Amandeep Khare took 1 wicket each for BSP. Chasing target, BSP could manage to made 124 runs in 18.3 overs for the loss of 10 wickets.

For BSP, Vaibhav Sahu made 43 runs. For Raipur, Utkarsh Tiwari, Ashish Chouhan and Lakesh Mali took 2 wickets each. Raipur won the match by 59 runs.

Sikh community to ensure victory of BJP in all 11 LS seats

RAIPUR: National Secretary of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Manjinder Singh Sirsa on Sunday said that the Sikh community would ensure victory of party in all the 11 Lok Sabha seats from Chhattisgarh.

Addressing a press conference at BJP Office situated at Ekatma Parisar, the BJP Secretary said that a meeting of the community has been organized to ensure cent per cent voting from the community in the Lok Sabha elections and added that key personalities from the Sikh community would present their views on cent per cent voting to strengthen the democracy. He said that the Sikh community has been impressed with the works of BJP.

| STATE-OF-THE-ART MUSIC ACADEMY |

State-of-the-art Music Academy launched by Muzigal

Central Chronicle News

Muzigal is teaching ecosystem with online, offline and music instruments' shop-front integrated into one platform.

RAIPUR: Muzigal, India's largest Music Education Platform, launched its first state-of-the-art music academy in Raipur. Located in, Shankar Nagar, Raipur, the academy is spread over 1900 sqft and boasts of an unmatched ambience which is highly conducive to the learning of music including vocal and instrumental. In the presence of Chief Guest - Dr. Bharti Bandhu (Padma Shri) Kabir & Sufi Singer, Guests of Honour - Anin Roy



'Muzigal' launched its first state-of-the-art music academy in Raipur.

FACTFILE

● Muzigal's state-of-the-art academy is setting a gold standard in music education

● Music Academy at Raipur will offer lessons in Piano, Keyboard, Guitar, Drums, etc.

(Renowned Sitar Player of Chhattisgarh) & Dr. Lakshminarayana Yeluri, Founder-Muzigal.

With a capacity to accommodate over 500 students, spread over multiple batches, the Music Academy at Raipur will offer lessons in Piano, Keyboard, Guitar, Drums, Carnatic Vocals, Hindustani Vocals, Western Vocals,

Violin and Ukulele.

For the inaugural month, post the launch of the Music Academy, Muzigal is offering 1-month of free music education with all enrolments.

Muzigal's state-of-the-art academy is setting a gold standard in music education by providing a 360-degree framework in the music learning.

| TRAINING |

'Understand the things explained in training in detail'

Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: The micro observer training conducted at Pt. Deendayal Upadhyay Auditorium in Raipur was a crucial step in preparing for the upcoming Lok Sabha elections. General Observer Rohanchand Thakur emphasized the importance of understanding the training material in detail and executing elec-

tion duties with utmost caution. By sharing his contact details, Thakur demonstrated his commitment to providing support and guidance to micro observers if they encounter any challenges during their duties.

Furthermore, Thakur advised micro observers to maintain communication with their master trainers and seek their guidance when needed. Collector

Micro observers to maintain communication with their master trainers and seek their guidance

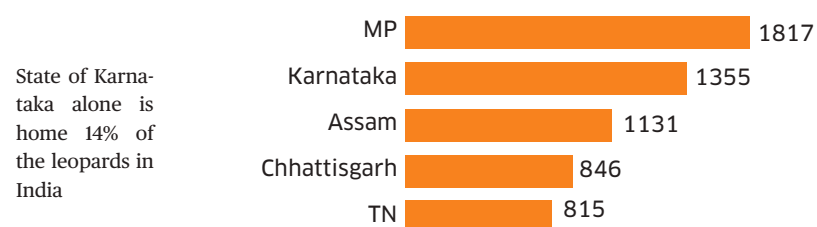
Rohanchand Thakur
General Observer, LS, Raipur



Dr. Singh emphasized the need for micro observers to grasp every aspect of election procedures thoroughly to ensure the smooth conduct of elections. Special attention was given to understanding the intricacies of the mock poll and the voting process, with master trainer Ajit Hudaint delivering comprehensive information through a presentation.

The Day's NUMBERS

WHAT IS STRENGTH OF LEOPARDS IN INDIA (2015)



State of Karnataka alone is home 14% of the leopards in India

Source: Wildlife

VOTER AWARENESS

Collector, SSP lead SVEEP Bike Rally to promote voter awareness

RAIPUR: In a bid to promote voter awareness ahead of the Lok Sabha Elections 2024, Collector Dr. Gaurav Singh and SSP Santosh Singh spearheaded a sweep bike rally, marked by the rallying cry 'We protect you, you protect democracy'. The rally, flagged off amidst tight security, saw the participation of traffic, district force, and central security personnel.

Kicking off from the Collectorate premises, rally attendees donned helmets as they embarked on the journey, culminating at the railway station. Upon reaching the railway station, Coolie No. 158 Dhaniram Sahu administered a solemn oath of voter awareness. The event witnessed the presence of District Panchayat CEO Vishwadeep along with a significant contingent of security force personnel. The rally's route traversed through key thoroughfares of the city, commencing from Chhattisgarh Mahtari Chowk to Ring Road among other routes.

NEW TARIFF

New Electricity Tariff implementation delayed until June in Ch'garh

RAIPUR: In a recent development, the implementation of a new electricity tariff in Chhattisgarh has been postponed until June. Initially scheduled for April 1, the delay is attributed to the Lok Sabha elections. The announcement brings relief to approximately 50 lakh domestic consumers in the state, sparing them from the immediate burden of higher electricity costs. However, it appears inevitable that other consumer categories will face tariff hikes to address previous financial losses incurred by the power company.

According to reports, the power company has recorded a profit of Rs 3,600 crore for the new session. Yet, there remains an outstanding deficit of Rs 7,775 crore that needs to be addressed.



AICC spokesperson Radhika resigns over 'injustice' in party

Khera claimed she didn't get justice even after repeatedly informing top leaders of the party.

Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: AICC spokesperson Radhika Khera on Sunday resigned from the party claiming that criticism over her visit to Lord Ram temple in Ayodhya led to the denial of justice to her in the incident that happened at the Chhattisgarh Congress office. Khera also claimed she didn't get justice even after repeatedly informing all the top leaders of the party.

Stating that those who support religion have always faced opposition, Khera cited examples of mythological demons Hiranyakashyap, Ravana and Kansa to claim that some people oppose those who take the name of Lord Shri Ram in the same way.

The AICC's communication and media coordinator for Chhattisgarh posted her resignation letter, addressed to Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, on her 'X' handle. Notably, an argument took place between Khera and Chhattisgarh Congress' communication wing chairperson Sushil Anand Shukla on April 30 in the party office in Raipur over the visit of senior leader Pawan Khera the next day, party sources had



Radhika Khera has resigned from Congress party. File Photo

I have always fought for the justice of others, says Radhika

Khera stated she was resigning from the primary membership of the party and her post. "I have always fought for the justice of others, but when it came to my own justice, I found myself defeated in the party. Being a devotee of Lord Shri Ram and a woman, I am deeply hurt. "I am hurt by the fact that I did not get justice even after repeatedly informing all the top leaders of

HIGHLIGHT

● I have always fought for the justice of others, but when it came to my own justice, I found myself defeated in the party.

● People suffering from male chauvinistic mentality are still trying to crush daughters under their feet.

the party," she said. Yes, I am a girl and can fight, and I am doing it now. I will continue to fight for justice for myself and my countrymen, Khera added. After the purported argument on April 30, Khera had claimed that "a daughter is not safe in Mata Kaushalya's paternal home". "People suffering from male chauvinistic mentality are still trying to crush daughters under their feet.

said. A video purportedly of Khera had gone viral in which she claimed that she was insulted.

In her resignation letter, Khera stated it is an established truth since ancient times that those who support religion face opposition.

"Examples of this range from Hiranyakashyap to Ravana and Kansa. At present, some people are opposing those who take the name of Lord Shri Ram in the same way," she added.

"For every Hindu, the birthplace of Lord Shri Ram holds great significance. While every Hindu considers his life successful just by seeing Ram Lalla, some people have been opposing it. The party to which I have given more than 22 years of my life, while working with full honesty right from NSUI to AICC's media department," she stated. According to Khera, she faced intense criticism because she could not stop herself from visiting Ram Lalla in Ayodhya.

"The criticism of this noble work reached such a level that justice was denied to me in the incident that happened with me in the Chhattisgarh Pradesh Congress office", she added.

Women empowerment to be seen in 857 polling booths of Raipur LS

Central Chronicle News

These initiatives aim to ensure that women encounter no hurdles throughout their participation in the electoral process.

RAIPUR: A significant stride in women empowerment is set to unfold in Raipur Lok Sabha, with women leading the charge in 857 polling booths. In a remarkable display of gender equality, all 203 centers of the Raipur North Assembly will be commanded by women. Reflecting on historical progress, there was a time when women worldwide were deprived of voting rights. However, India's Constitution ushered in a new era of inclusivity, granting women not only the right to vote but also empowering them in various spheres.

This commitment to empowerment has fortified democracy, with women actively participating in elections, both as voters and facilitators. In Raipur district alone, women will oversee more than 42 percent of the polling booths, marking a significant shift towards gender parity

in electoral processes.

Notably, the North Assembly of Raipur stands as a beacon of gender equality, with all 203 polling stations managed entirely by women. Mrs. Nidhi Sahu will lead as the Assistant Returning Officer (ARO), further emphasizing the district's commitment to female leadership.

The decision has sparked enthusiasm among the women polling contingent, who

FASTFACTS

● In Raipur district alone, women will oversee more than 42 percent of the polling booths

● The decision has sparked enthusiasm among the women polling contingent

have undergone rigorous training in preparation for their roles. Under the guidance of District Returning Officer and Collector Dr. Gaurav Kumar Singh, the district administration has ensured enhanced facilities for the women polling parties.

Medical kits containing essential items like ORS, medicines, and sanitary pads have been provided, alongside arrangements for food, snacks, and drinking water.

NEWSLINE

POLITICS

Congress did not do justice to Radhika: BJP



RAIPUR: Bharatiya Janata Party's reaction has come after the resignation of Congress national spokesperson Radhika Kheda from the party. BJP spokesperson Rajeev Chakraborty said that the Congress party did not do justice to Radhika Kheda.

The Congress Party needs to introspect as to why people are continuously leaving the party. BJP spokesperson Rajiv Chakraborty said in his statement that ultimately, like other leaders, Congress national spokesperson Radhika Kheda also left the party. Her fault was that she had gone to Ramlala temple for darshan. According to him there was infighting going on within the Congress party.

MISHAP

Goods train derails after hitting rock on the track

JAGDALPUR: The engine of the goods train derailed after hitting a rock on the track between Bodwara and Shivalingapuram stations in Kirandul-Kotavalasa railway line. Due to this, rail traffic has stopped. The passenger coming from Visakhapatnam to Kirandul has been stopped at Visakhapatnam. According to railway officials, the line will be restored by Sunday evening. The incident of derailment of goods train engine has been reported at 06 am on Sunday in Andhra Pradesh, 230 km from Jagdalpur. Doubling work of railway line is going on in this area. The railway line passes through Anantgiri Ghat in Araku and Koraput railway section.

POLITICS

Atmosphere seems to be in favor of Cong: PCC Chief



RAIPUR: Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) President Deepak Baij has appealed to the voters to participate enthusiastically in the third and final phase of voting in Chhattisgarh. While discussing with the media, he said that there was an atmosphere in favor of Congress in the country. The PCC Chief 'today is the last day of election campaigning in the state. Voters of the country and state had voted enthusiastically in the first and second phases. In same way voters of the state should exercise their franchise third phase.

Arrange blood related tests of various diseases: ACS Health

Central Chronicle News

Additional Chief Secretary of the Health Department, Manoj Kumar Pingua today held a meeting of senior officials regarding the necessary health arrangements.

RAIPUR: Additional Chief Secretary of the Health Department, Manoj Kumar Pingua today held a meeting of senior officials regarding the necessary health arrangements of Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru Memorial Medical College, Raipur and its affiliated Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar Hospital and DKS Hospital and gave necessary instructions to make arrangements for the examination and treatment of patients.

Special Secretary Health Chandan Kumar, Director Health Services Rituraj Raghuvanshi, Medical College Dean Dr Trupti

Nagaria and CGMSC MD Padmini Bhoi Sahu were also present in the meeting. Pingua said that the treatment of patients is one of the most essential services, hence arrangements for all the blood related tests of various diseases which are currently not being done due to lack of reagents should be made at the earliest by coordinating with CGMSC, keeping in mind the Chhattisgarh Store Purchase Rules, in view of the Model Code of Conduct.

He gave instructions to make inter medical college transfer system for essential consumables and reagents from one government medical college to another government medical college.

Medical Superintendent of DKS Hospital Dr Shipra Sharma, Deputy Superintendent Dr Hemant Sharma, Head of Pathology Department of Medical College Raipur, Dr Arvind Neral were present.

Parshuram's birth anniversary on 10th May

JAGDALPUR: A meeting of all Brahmin community was held in the princely period Shri Jagannath temple of the district headquarters. In the meeting, the outline of the programs was decided while discussing the celebration of Lord Parshuram's birth anniversary on 10th May. Divisional President of the society, Sanjeev Sharma, while expressing his views in detail, said that Lord Parshuram is the worshipable deity of Brahmins. For this, all the Brahmins residing in Jagdalpur have been called upon to participate in this program with their families. Awadhesh Shukla, KK Dwivedi, Pulak Bhattacharya, Ishwar Khambari, Kaushik Shukla stressed on uniting and strengthening the Brahmin community. Neelam Mishra talked about including more and more women in the programmes.

Automatic Signalling System in Kumhari-Sarona

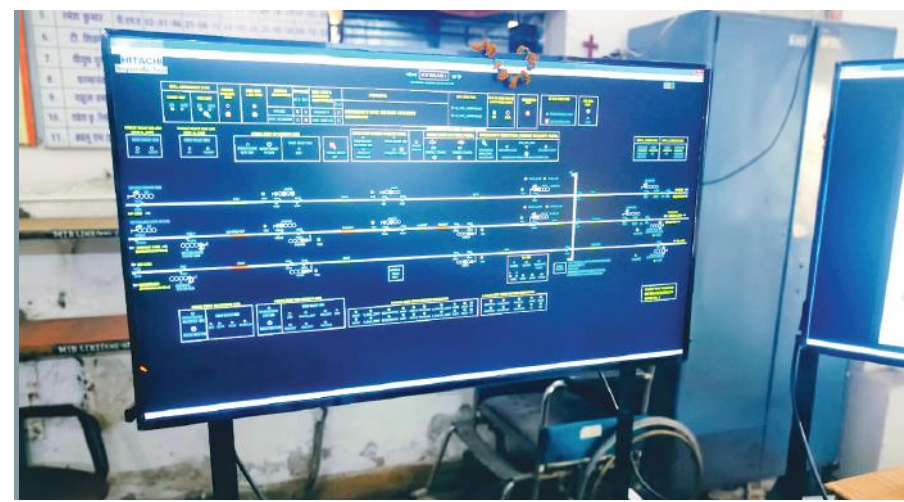
| RAILWAYS |

Central Chronicle News

The auto signalling system facilitates the operation of maximum trains without the need for constructing or maintaining additional stations.

RAIPUR: In the domain of signalling and telecommunications, the milestone is the auto signalling system for railways. It aids in controlling the traffic not only of numerous trains but also the traffic at major junction stations. Previously, only one train could run between two stations, but with auto signalling, based on the distance between stations, 4, 5, or even 6 trains can operate.

The auto signalling system facilitates the operation of maximum trains without the need for



Automatic Signalling System functions in Kumhari-Sarona section.

FASTFACTS

● SECR completed the 14-km auto signalling work in the month of Apr

● Auto signalling is now operational from Nagpur to Sarona.

constructing or maintaining additional stations. Currently, enhancing the

capacity of sections without constructing new lines is the optimal solution. SECR completed the 14-kilometer auto signalling work in the month of April, adhering to high standards at every new phase. The sections from Kumhari to Sarona (7 Km) and Bilaspur-Gatora fourth line (7 Km) have been switched to auto signalling. With the completion of

this work, auto signalling is now operational from Nagpur to Sarona. The stretch from Sarona to Raipur will also be completed in the next three months. Under the skilled guidance of Suresh Kumar Solanki, Chief Signal and Telecommunication Engineer of South East Central Railway, this zone is continuously progressing towards its auto signalling goals.

INTERVIEW

Today the industry requires trained manpower: Dharmveer Dheer

Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: ITM University Group Director (Marketing & Outreach) Dharmveer Dheer said that today industries require trained manpower, as they do not have time to impart training. It is keeping all these things in mind that ITM University is designing all its courses. We even take feedback from the industries after the placement as to whether the students have received

proper training from our university or not, he said, adding that any University should run selected course, but it should be job oriented.

In a special interview with Central Chronicle, Group Director ITM University Dharmveer Dheer informed that all the courses running in ITM are all employment oriented. Even if a student is doing B.Com in ITM, then we provided them additional skills in terms



of how to run Tally and other commerce related programmes and software, so that a student can get job easily. There are more than 1.50 lakh students from ITM who have secured good placement, both in private and other sectors as well.

Speaking further Dharmveer Dheer informed that ITM University is the only University running BBA-LLB honours in India and it is full of career prospects.



Today industries require trained manpower, as they do not have time to impart training.

Dharmveer Dheer
ITM University Group
Director

Among the two new courses in the University are Hospitality Management and we have tied up with Maruti Suzuki to run two years internship for students and during which the students also get paid honorarium.

With start of AI, many a low-thinking jobs will be affected. Whosoever is taking admission in Colleges should start preparing from now onwards and need to develop more skills.

Bhilai



"Take immediate action on the serious offences to maintain law and order during election"

Shri Keshav Lathkar (IAS),
General Observer, Durg

20,90,414 voters to decide fate of 25 candidates

Stage is all set for voting in Durg Parliamentary constituency on May 07

Central Chronicle News

BHILAI: Under the Lok Sabha elections 2024, voting will be held in the third phase in Durg Parliamentary Constituency on May 07 (Tuesday). 20 lakh 90 thousand 414 voters will elect the Member of Parliament from Durg. Durg Parliamentary Constituency includes 09 assembly constituencies (62 Patan, 63 Durg Rural, 64 Durg City, 65 Bhilai Nagar, 66 Vaishali Nagar, 67 Ahiwara, 68 Saja, 69 Bemetara and 70 Navagarh). The total number of polling stations is 2223. The number of auxiliary polling stations is 36 (29 in District Durg and 07 in District Bemetara). The number of voters under the Lok Sabha constituency is 2090414. There are 1042000 male voters, 1048360 female voters and 54 other voters.

According to the age group, the number of voters in 18 to 19 years age group is 56330, 20 to 29 years - 460852, 30 to 39 years - 620513, 40 to 49 years - 416849, 50 to 59 years - 294945, 60 to 69 years - 153535, 70 to 79 years - 68935 and there are 18445 voters of above 80 years age.



Volunteers distributing invitation cards to electors

Govt Polytechnic College, Durg has been made the voting material distribution center for Durg Rural and Ahiwara. Manas Bhawan Durg distribution center for Patan, Durg City, Saja (partial) and Bemetara (partial).

Voting material for Bhilai Nagar and Vaishali Nagar will be distributed from Science College Durg. Voting material returning venue, vote counting and strong room have been made in Shri Shankaracharya Engineering College, Junwani Bhilai.

Apart from EPIC, 12 other identity cards acceptable

For Lok Sabha Elections 2024, Election Commission of India has issued guidelines to help the voters in the polling centers and allow them to vote on producing 12 other types of identity cards apart from the EPIC card. Any voter can vote by producing 12 other documents of identity in addition to the voter identity card at their respective

HIGHLIGHT

● Voting to be conducted at 2223 polling stations

● Strong Room at Shri Shankaracharya College, Junwani

polling stations. These documents include Aadhar Card, MGNREGA

Job Card, Passbook with photo issued by Bank or Post Office, Smart Card issued by the Ministry of Labour under the Health Insurance Scheme, Driving License, PAN Card, Smart Card issued by the Registrar General of India under the National Population Register, Indian Passport, Pension Document with photograph and others.

1829 military forces deployed in Durg Constituency

Central Chronicle News

1+3 guard of Chhattisgarh Armed Forces are positioned in five locations of Bottling Units, Brewery and Country Liquor Store.

BHILAI: For the Lok Sabha Elections 2024, a total of 1829 military forces have been deployed for the peaceful and successful conduct of the election process in Durg Parliamentary Constituency. Deputy District Election Officer and Additional Collector BK Dubey informed that 1070 uniformed, 439 special police officers and 320 field paramilitary forces (1/2 section) have been deployed in eight assembly constituencies of Durg Parliamentary Constituency. 234 uniformed personnel, 12 special police officers and 53 field paramilitary forces are deployed in Patan assembly constituency. Similarly, in Durg Rural Assembly constituency, 153 uniformed, 77 special police officers and 51 field paramilitary forces have been deployed. In Durg City Assembly Constituency, 138 uniformed special police officers and 60 field paramilitary forces; in Bhilai Nagar Assembly

- 103 uniformed, 66 special Police officers and 45 field paramilitary forces personnel; in Vaishali Nagar Assembly - 149 uniformed, 107 special police officers and 55 field paramilitary forces; in Ahiwara Assembly Constituency - 182 uniformed, 78 special police officers and 45 field paramilitary forces have been deployed. In Saja

FASTFACTS

● 1070 uniformed, 439 special police officers and 320 field paramilitary forces (1/2 section) have been deployed in eight assembly constituencies of Durg Parliamentary Constituency

● 280 jawans under 19 companies and 70 police patrolling party teams deployed in half sections of CAPS/SAP in 320 sensitive polling stations

Assembly Constituency; 95 uniformed officers, 7 special police officers and 08 field paramilitary personnel have been deployed 16 uniformed officers, 06 special police officers and 03 field paramilitary forces have been deployed in Bemetara.

BLAZE

Torpedo ladle destroyed in fire at BSP



BHILAI: A torpedo ladle was destroyed in a fire mishap at Steel Melting Shop - 1 of Bhilai Steel Plant on the intervening night of Sunday. Fortunately, there were no casualties. Huge flames emerging from the burning ladle triggered panic in the entire area. Senior Officials of BSP reached the spot immediately and supervised the fire fighting operations. The fire fighters were able to control the fire after several hours.

According to information, a torpedo ladle got punctured at SMS-1 around 01:00 hrs on May 05.

The leaking hot metal triggered fire after which the entire vicinity was engulfed in flames. Sensing trouble, all the workers and labourers rushed to safer places.

CRIME

Illegal Chakhna Centre owner threatens Excise Officer

BHILAI: The owners of an illegal Chakhna Centre (snacks centre), being operated near a liquor shop, threatened an Excise Officer after she asked them to shut down the illegal centre. Police have lodged an FIR against the accused. According to information, Assistant Excise Officer Nirmala Thakur reached Urla Liquor shop for a routine inspection. She came to know that a person named Lallan Singh was operating an illegal Chakhna Centre near the liquor shop. The Excise Department had received a complaint against this centre. The centre owner was instructed earlier also but he did not shut down and continued to operate the centre illegally. Assistant Excise Officer Nirmala Thakur reached the Chakhna Centre and asked the owner's son to shut down the centre. Thereafter, she moved to check liquor stock at the liquor shop.

FATAL MISHAP

Three labourers suffer fatal burns in mishap at stone crusher

BHILAI: Three labourers suffered fatal burns in a mishap which occurred at a stone crusher plant in Nandini Police Station area. The victims were initially rushed to District Hospital and thereafter to JLN Hospital Sector 9. Condition of all the victims is reported to be critical. According to information, the mishap occurred around 18:00 hrs at NK Crusher Stone Quarry located in Nandini. The labourers had carried diesel in jerry cans to refuel the chain mounted earth mover. The machine was overheated after being continuously used for several hours.

Nandini Mines makes best-ever limestone production

Central Chronicle News

The Nandini Mines have been accident-free mines since the year 2016 for which Mines have also been nominated for the National Safety Award



also achieved, surpassing the previous best records made in the Financial Year 2007-08.

Nandini Mines are not only among the leading mines in the field of quarrying but has also earned several accolades during the Annual Mining Safety function, and the Mineral Conservation Week 2023-24 (MEMC Week 2023-24), for its commendable work in the field of safety and environment.

It is noteworthy that Nandini Mines have been accident-free mines since the year 2016 i.e. for the past 8 years now, for which Nandini Mines have also been nominated for the National Safety Award.

Cinema Halls announce discounts for voters

BHILAI: Administration is taking various initiatives to achieve 100 percent voting in the district. To encourage people, discounts have been announced by various institutions including private hospitals, shops and hotels. In this sequel, the cinema halls have also come forward with attractive offers for voters. Excise Department informed at PVR located at Surya Mall, Junwani, Bhilai in Durg has announced a free packet of popcorn (worth Rs 150) to the first 50 people in the first show scheduled to begin at 10:15 hrs on May 07. On showing an inked finger, 50 people will get free popcorn on the first come first serve basis. At Babylon Cinema (Mukta) Bhilai-3 Charoda, on polling day May 07, the tickets for all citizens will be priced at Rs 99 instead of Rs 110 per ticket for the entire day.

| ELECTION COMMISSION GUIDELINES DISCUSSED |

'Work fearlessly to ensure free, fair and peaceful polls'

Central Chronicle News

Along with providing a peaceful environment to common citizens, Police are working to instill fear of law among anti-social elements and criminals.

BHILAI: Inspector General of Police (Durg Range) Ram Gopal Garg recently chaired a meeting at Police Control Room Sector 6 Bhilai regarding the upcoming Lok Sabha elections. Various important points of the upcoming Lok Sabha elections were discussed by Superintendent of Police (Durg) Jitendra Shukla.

IGP Ramgopal Garg said that the process of Lok Sabha elections 2024 in the district should be conducted fearlessly without any partiality. He said that the important work of elections should



IG Ram Gopal Garg recently chaired a meeting at Police Control Room

FASTFACTS

● Election Commission guidelines discussed in detail

● Strict action against those affecting elections through unfair means

be done cautiously and actively. He said that intensive searches are to

be done regularly to curb the illegal transportation of cash, liquor or other intoxicating materials as well as other valuable materials. He asked the cops to work with transparency. Instructions were given to share the reports regularly.

SP Jitendra Shukla spoke about the guidelines issued by the Election Commission. He

spoke about the activities being conducted to ensure free and fair elections and to give a peaceful environment to the common citizens. At the same time, to instill fear of law among the anti-social elements, police are conducting checks at fixed points, taking out flag marches, foot patrolling, vehicle patrolling, etc.

| SCHOOL SUMMER CAMP |

Ten-day "Anveshan" summer camp at SNGVB concludes

Central Chronicle News

BHILAI: SNGVB organised a ten day summer camp 'Anveshan' which concluded on May 04 amidst great enthusiasm, pomp and show. The summer camp commenced on April 24 and continued till May 04, at school premises. The ten days Summer Camp delivered unforgettable experiences filled with excitement, learning, and life-long memories.

The Anveshan has been a beacon of Fun, growth and adventure for years with a mission to foster personal growth, teamwork, and environmental stewardship. The Camp was open for all the school going students from Nursery to Senior Secondary, both for SNGVB and NON SNGVB students.

The Chief Guest Vinay Peethambaran (The Vice President Edu), KT Anil(Dy Gen Sec Edu), R



Dinesh (Central Sec Edu), the School Principal E Bharati, Mentors ,Teach-

ers and Students were present. The programme commenced with

lamp-lighting followed by Saraswati Vandana .The campers gave displayed Beautiful Bhajan, Aerobics, Self Defence ,Group Songs, and Bollywood Dances on this occasion.

They also expressed the views about their experiences during the summer camp.

Addressing the gathering Vinay Peethambaran appreciated all the Students, Teachers, Mentors and Principal for the



"Children should sharpen the learnt skills every day to develop consistency"

Vinay Peethambaran,
The Vice President,
Education

Battle'24



Modi government has made "zero progress" on the demand for declaring Marathi as a classical language.

Jairam Ramesh
Congress GS

Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

ASSEMBLY BYPOLL
NCP fields Himachal unit chief Ravindra Singh Dogra for Sujampur

HAMIRPUR (HP): The National Congress Party (NCP) on Sunday named its Himachal Pradesh unit president Ravindra Singh Dogra as the party's candidate for the bypoll on the Sujampur Assembly seat. NCP chief national spokesperson Brijmohan Shrivastava said in a statement that the decision was taken at a meeting of the party's central election committee held under the chairmanship of its national executive president Praful Patel. Dogra will contest the bypoll on the NCP's election symbol "clock", he added. The Sunjanpur Assembly seat was among the six that fell vacant after the disqualification of as many rebel Congress MLAs from the Himachal Pradesh Assembly. **PTI**

ELECTION
'Why did BJP ask its leaders to say Constitution will be changed?'



AGRA (UP): Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav on Sunday targeted the BJP, saying why did it "ask its leaders" to repeatedly say that the "Constitution would be changed". Addressing an election rally in Jalesar of Agra Lok Sabha constituency, Yadav said that the "lying" BJP government will have to answer the "real questions" of the people in the ongoing elections. **PTI**

The Kangana campaign

Visiting temples, obliging selfie requests, jabbing rivals



RAIPUR: Shimla: Actor Kangana Ranaut, who is the first Bollywood celebrity to contest Lok Sabha elections from Himachal Pradesh, has been maintaining a distance with the media during campaign but has been welcoming to common voters: dancing with them at times, interacting in

their dialects and obliging to their selfie requests. She has so far been concentrating on small gatherings and roadshows, where people first try to get a glimpse of her from close quarters and then potentially get clicked with the "Queen" star.



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi during a public meeting. | Photo: PTI

PM Modi wants to take away reservation, says Rahul

Rahul claimed ongoing general elections is taking place between two ideologies in which Congress is trying to safeguard the Constitution, while the BJP wants to end it and people's rights.

Press Trust Of India

HYDERABAD: Mounting his attack on the BJP, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Sunday alleged that Prime Minister Narendra Modi was against reservations and wanted to take away quotas from the people.

Addressing an election rally at Nirmal under Adilabad (ST) Lok Sabha constituency in Telangana, he added

"Narendra Modi ji is against reservation. He wants to take away reservations from you. The biggest issue before the country is increasing reservation from 50 per cent". The Congress has in its manifesto promised that if the party forms the government at the Centre, it will breach the 50 per cent limit and increase the quotas beyond 50 per cent, he said. BJP leaders also want reservations to

HIGHLIGHT

● He claimed that BJP leaders have told the countrymen that if their party wins elections, they will change and finish the Constitution.

end, he claimed. Alleging that Modi privatised the public sector, Gandhi said the contract system implemented by the BJP-led government amounts

to removing reservations. "We will remove contract systems in government offices and the public sector. Permanent jobs would be available, not temporary jobs," he said.

"Narendra Modi has never said in his speeches till today that he will remove the 50 per cent barrier of reservations," Gandhi said. "If the Constitution is finished, reservation will end," he said. The BJP

wants backward classes, dalits, adivasis remain backward, he alleged. PM Modi waived off loans to the tune of Rs 16 lakh crore of about 22-25 people. "Rs 16 lakh crore means MNREGA money of 24 years, Narendra Modi ji gave to 22 people," he claimed. The 22 rich people have money equivalent to what 70 crore Indians have. "The Congress is going to change this," he said.

"I remember Raj Dharma remark of Vajpayee"

DARBHANGA: A day after Prime Minister Narendra Modi charged Lalu Prasad with having tried to shield the culprits in the Godhra train burning case, the RJD president's son Tejashwi Yadav on Sunday recounted the famous "Raj dharma" remark of Atal Bihari Vajpayee made in the backdrop of communal violence in Gujarat.

Yadav was responding to queries on Modi's speech at a rally in Darbhanga the previous day where Modi had charged the RJD president with having tried to "shield" those guilty in two-decade-old Godhra train burning incident and "put blame on kar sevaks". "He (PM) can say whatever he wants. But I remember what Atal Ji had said at that point of time.

| PM SHOULD STOP SHEDDING CROCODILE TEARS |

Sandeshkhali 'mistruth' spread by BJP using money

Press Trust Of India

The TMC released a video on social media, in which a man, who claimed to be a BJP mandal president in Sandeshkhali, was heard saying that Suvendu Adhikari was behind the "whole conspiracy".

BOLPUR (WB): Alleging that the "mistruth" about Sandeshkhali was spread by the BJP using money, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Sunday called upon Prime Minister Narendra Modi to stop "shedding crocodile tears" as the "conspiracy hatched by the saffron party" has come



West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee during a public meeting. | Photo: PTI

FACTFILE

● Accusing PM Modi of taking the words of "few people" in his party on face value, she said that "by seeing the reaction of BJP leaders to the video, it was apparent that they were scared".

to the fore with the unravelling of a recent

sting. In the purported video, the authenticity of could not be independently verified by the PTI, the man was heard saying that Adhikari had asked him and other BJP leaders of the area to "instigate three-four local women to level allegations of rape against three TMC leaders, including Shajahan Sheikh".

| RAJNATH SEEKS CONGRESS EXPLANATION |

'Praise' of Rahul matter of 'grave concern'

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Former Pakistani minister Chaudhry Fawad Hussain's "praise" of Rahul Gandhi is a matter of "grave concern" and Congress must explain the "deep love" for its leader from a country that always attempted to destabilise India, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has said.

In an interview to PTI on Saturday, Singh also questioned Congress' "relationship" with Pakistan. "There must be a reason behind this deep love (agadh prem) from a country that has been trying to destabilise India.



India wants to know the reason behind this love

Rajnath Singh
Defence Minister

It is a matter of grave concern and India wants to know the reason behind this love," he said.

Chaudhry - infamous for boasting about Pakistan's hand in the 2019 Pulwama terror attack - had on May 1 posted on 'X' excerpts from a speech by Gandhi with the caption "Rahul on fire" that drew sharp criticism from BJP leaders. "If a former


minister of a country that has been attempting to destabilise India praises (Rahul), then it is a matter of concern. The Congress owes an explanation about its relationship with Pakistan," the defence minister said. Singh said the neighbouring country was attempting to influence the Indian elections. Asked if it is succeeding, Singh said Pakistan does

not have the "aukaat (capability)" to influence.


The former Pakistan minister on Saturday again complimented Gandhi for his party's promise of conducting a wealth redistribution survey, if it is voted to power.

Redistributing wealth the way Congress wants to will destroy the economy and lead to uncontrollable inflation the way it happened in Venezuela, Singh said.

In his comments, Chaudhry had also compared Gandhi with his great-grandfather and India's first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, saying "both were socialists".




भारत निर्वाचन आयोग
Election Commission of India




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More and more voters should exercise their franchise on May 7

VK Langeh
Collector, Korba



Chhattisgarh



General Observers LS polls convened meeting with Collector, SP, to ensure law & order during polls.

Ensure peaceful polls is responsibility of all: Meena

General Observers said that 72 hrs prior to the polls, the law & order in all should remain intact and there should not be any untoward incident

Central Chronicle News

KORBA: In context of law & order for Lok Sabha polls, the General Observer Prem Singh Meena convened a meeting with the Collector Ajit Vasant and SP Siddharth Tiwari and directed them to conduct the polls in peaceful manner saying that it is responsibility of all. He further said that 72 hrs prior to the polls, the law & order in all should remain intact and there should not be any untoward incident and for which there should be proper co-ordination between the police, revenue officers and central forces. Those who have

been deputed for a particular duty should be present there with sincerity and in the field also the jawans should be seen conducting patrolling. On the day of polling, he directed to depute central security forces. Convening meeting in the auditorium at District Collector's office about Law & Order, Collector Ajit Vasant and SP Tiwari gave information about the preparations made and security system, flag march and others for the elections in the Korba district. Collector said that to ensure peaceful LS polls with complete transparency is our top priority. He asked the Revenue

HIGHLIGHT

- Collector asked the Revenue officers to establish co-ordination with the central forces
- SP said that it is by identifying polling centres, security forces is being deployed and night patrolling is also being done

officers to establish co-ordination with the central forces and also to maintain law & order during the entire polling procedure. Collector directed to take measures as per law on those trying to hamper smooth conduct of LS polls.

SP Tiwari informed that for security in Korba district, the companies of ITBP, CRPF, BSF, Chhattisgarh Armed Forces (CAF) have already reached and with this the force is being provided at different places. The duty of police has also been finalised. It is by identifying polling centres, security forces is being deployed and night patrolling is also being done.

In the meeting, Observer Meena said that as per instructions from EC, prompt action be taken against serious cases in order to ensure law & order. Terming the Korba district as

very peaceful compared to other states and district, General Observer Meena that to ensure that this time also the elections are held peacefully, the jawas should be on full alert. Boosting the morale of officers from central forces, he asked them to carry out patrolling in the field in tuning with the police and local administration. Role of all these persons is important in ensuring peaceful polls. Meena hailing the preparations being made for polls said that the Central security and para-military forces from outside should not be under stress and extend all possible assistance.

Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

FIRE

Fire breaks out in Sugarcane Bagasse lot

PANDARIA: With fire breaking out in Sugarcane Bagasse of Pramod Chandravanshi of Gram Junglepur in Pandaria block last on Friday night, there was an estimated loss of around Rs 5-6 lakh. The reasons behind fire breaking out could not be known. The information about fire was immediately given but the fire-brigade vehicle of Pandaria and Pandatarai was out of order and therefore the fire-brigade from Kawardha was sent. Since during summer there are often incidents of fire breaking out and due to this the fire-brigade vehicles should be kept upto date or else it may lead to dire consequences. On Saturday also there was one phase deduction on Kunda line from 7:00 am to 10:00 am and due to which there was problem to douse the fire in a tubewell, as water could not be used without water pumps.

HANDY TIP

Parents, teacher given tips on how to handle stress mgmt



PANDARIA: In view of stress and strain among students related to exam results, a combined meeting of students and their parents from Swamy Atmanand Govt English Medium School (SAGEMS) was held here on Saturday. Discussions were held with the parents on how to cope up with the tension and stress among their wards prior to the declaration of results and thereafter.

PUBLIC GRIEVANCES

Digging on roads left half-way, people in trouble



RAJIM: The digging of road from Shyam Nagar to Basti and towards shops and market has been left uncovered and without levelling it properly. The work is closed for last 4 months and the actual work is also pending. It is by crossing this uneven road that any person or vehicle rider can reach upto the locality, shop or market area. Since the work has been left incomplete, there is lot of aggression among the villagers. It is notable here that the work that of road widening from Abhanpur to Navapara and from Rajim to Panduka is going on for last two years. This work is being done under direction of Central PWD Rai-

pur. The cost of this project is worth crore and apart from road widening the work of construction of drainage on either side of road is also being done. But the work of road widening is in middle stage and only by digging the area has been left as it is. With the vehicle running daily, it is resulting in huge cloud of dust daily and when it rains, it turns into muddy terrain and this has left the riders and villagers in lots of trouble. The places where there is widening of roads, there the road has peeled off and turned into pot-holes and in Rajim city with dust and mud on either side of the road is posing lots of problems to denizens.

More than Rs 37 cr paid to villagers through BC Sakhiyan

JAGDALPUR: Banking services are being provided to the customers of 433 Gram Panchayats through a total of 150 BC Sakhis trained by the National Rural Livelihood Mission in Bastar district. As per the instructions of Collector Vijay Dayaram, as an alternative to the availability of banking services in remote areas of the district, these Bank Sakhis are providing important banking services to the needy villagers. This includes services like opening a personal account, withdrawing money from the account, depositing money in the account, transferring money, enrolling for social security insurance and pension schemes, electricity bill payment, mobile recharge, TV recharge etc.

Central Chronicle News

International Workers' Day was celebrated with enthusiasm on 1 May 2024 at HTPS, Korba Wes.

KORBA: International Workers' Day was celebrated with enthusiasm on 1 May 2024 at Hasdev Thermal Power Station, Korba West, hosted by Sanjay Sharma, Executive Director (Production) of the plant. On this occasion, remembering the important contribution of labor force in the progress and industrial development of the country, a rally was organized to spread awareness about labor



Workers' Day was celebrated in HTPS Korba (W).

FACTFILE

- It is an important occasion when the struggles and demands of the workers are ascertained

rights. Plant Head Sanjay Sharma, Additional Chief Engineer PK Swain, MS Khan, Sudhir Kumar Pandya, Under the leadership of M.K. Gupta, R.K. Pandey and Senior Chief Chemist A.K. Kurnal, the

work was carried out between the H.V.I residential complex and Darri Dam, towards which there was enthusiasm and attraction among the officers, employees and contract workers of the plant.

INT'NL WORKERS' DAY |

Int'l Workers' Day celebrated with enthusiasm at HTPS

CORRUPTION MOVES |

Liquor selling proving to be costly on customers

Central Chronicle News

KHAIRAGARH: The selling of liquor from government liquor shops in district headquarters is going on openly with lot of corruption and the liquor is being sold at a rate higher than what is printed. But there is no one to look into this loophole in the liquor selling business proving to be

costly on a customer's pocket. The salesmen are filling their coffers by selling liquor bottles at higher rates and this loot is going on for last few days. Here it is worthwhile to mention that in case if any customers raises objections, then he is reportedly misbehaved by the salesman and even threaten them not to sell liquor to them.

People charge that it is due to sheer negligence of police, excise that liquor is being sold at higher price.

Liquor Customer

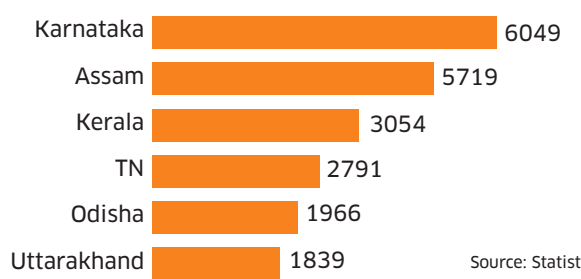


Due to this the boozier or customer is forced to take the same for a higher price ranging from Rs 10 to Rs 50 in some cases. It is worthwhile to mention here that the beer is being sold at Rs 10 higher in the liquor shops in district hq's Khairagarh and the other brands of IMFL is being sold at rate higher from Rs 10 to Rs 50.

The Day's NUMBERS

South Indian states of Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh are home to nearly 44% of the elephants

WHAT IS STRENGTH OF ELEPHANTS IN INDIA AS ON 2018?



VERMICOMPOST

Organic manure, vermicompost available from Corporation

KIORBA: Very useful organic fertilizers and vermicompost for kitchen gardens, home gardens and agricultural crops can be obtained from the Municipal Corporation Kerba. For this, the Sanitation Department located in the main administrative building of the Corporation, Saket, can be contacted, as well as door-to-door. This fertilizer can also be obtained by contacting the sanitation sisters who come for two-door waste collection. Health Officer of the Corporation, Dr. Sanjay Tiwari said that the Corporation has produced organic fertilizer and vermicompost, for which the Corporation has adequate storage. Organic fertilizer and vermicompost can be used for horticulture work, kitchen garden, vegetable gardening and agricultural crops. It is pure native manure, which is made from wet waste, leaves etc. and this manure does not contain any kind of chemical. is not available, this fertilizer is very useful for higher production of crops, vegetables etc.

CHAKKA-JAM

Bajrang Dal members stage chakka-jam for 1 hour



RAJIM: The members of VHP and Bajrang Dal along with nearby villagers staged one-hour chakka-jam on NH-130 C near city's Pt. Shyama Charan Shukla Chowk to protest against lack of action on the damage of Shivaling in the Lord Shiva's temple few days back by some anti-social elements in Gram Dutkaiya. The demonstrators burnt tyres on the road and raised slogans and created chakka-jam. Due to this there was long queue of vehicles on either side of the bridge and on the other hand from Bus Stand to Gariyaband road there was another jam.

Bagbahra residents battle pollution from paddy chaff

Paddy chaff blankets roads, causing irritation and environmental concerns among locals.

Central Chronicle News

BAGBAHRA: Residents along Bagbahra's main roads endure a double assault under the scorching sun with the relentless waves of chaff propelled by speeding trucks and tractors laden with paddy straw. The airborne debris not only blankets the streets but infiltrates shops, causing inconvenience and irritation to passersby and store owners alike. Those unfortunate enough to trail these vehicles suffer from stinging eyes and discomfort, a plight that has drawn the ire of the community. Despite pleas to the police and municipal authorities, little action has been taken to curb this nuisance. Even discussions in peace committee meetings have failed to spur meaningful intervention. The issue persists unabated, affecting not only those on the main thoroughfares but also travelers and bystanders along the chaff-laden transport routes, particularly motorcyclists and pedestrians.

The surge in demand for bricks, fueled by ongoing construction projects both urban and rural, has led to a proliferation of brick kilns and power



plants reliant on paddy straw as fuel. Consequently, the supply of chaff has surged, with numerous vehicles shuttling it to various destinations. Despite the establishment of chaff depots offering pre-monsoon discounts, the volume of transport remains unchecked. The relentless stream of tractors and trucks ferrying chaff at breakneck speeds exacerbates the problem, turning roads into veritable chaff storms and leaving a trail of pollution in their wake.

Citizens rally for stricter regulations in chaff transport

Transporting chaff demands meticulous care to prevent it from dispersing. However, current practices fall short, with tractor trolleys and trucks often lacking proper covering. Consequently, chaff flies and falls freely, prompting onlookers to step aside. This negligence has stirred resentment among city dwellers who

HIGHLIGHT

● Chaff transportation lacks proper covering, leading to debris scattering and public inconvenience.

● Citizens urge officials to enforce regulations for safer, cleaner transport.

witness the mess and inconvenience caused by these unsealed transports. Pedestrians are left dodging debris while vehicular traffic exacerbates the issue by spreading chaff along the routes. Urgency mounts for citizens to voice their concerns to elected officials and authorities, urging swift action to rectify the situation.

Drying up of Half river sparks crisis in Pandariya villages

Central Chronicle News

Pandariya's Half river faces perilous decline, jeopardizing livelihoods and agricultural sustainability in over 200 neighboring villages.

PANDARIYA: The slow desiccation of the Half River, coursing near the city, poses a looming crisis for over 200 villages nestled along its banks. Originating from Pandaripani and meandering through Bodla block's marshy terrain, the Half River once epitomized abundance, sustaining agriculture and livelihoods.

Over the past decade, the river's flow has ebbed, exacerbated by human exploitation and erratic rainfall patterns. Villagers, whose lives are intricately woven with the river's bounty, now confront a precarious future. From Bisheshra to Dhobghatti, communities reliant on the river's waters for irrigation and sustenance find themselves at the mercy of its declining flow.

The repercussions are manifold. Agriculture, once thriving, now faces uncertainty. Villagers, accustomed to cultivating vegetables and tending to fields nourished by the Half's waters, grapple with dwindling yields

and faltering livelihoods. Moreover, the river's decline seeps beyond agricultural concerns, exacerbating groundwater depletion and amplifying water scarcity in the region.

While some areas benefit from stop dams, providing a semblance of stability during dry spells, many villages languish without such infrastructure. The absence of stop dams in places like Bisheshra, Rauha, and Dhob-

FASTFACTS

● From Bisheshra to Dhobghatti, villages reliant on Half River confront uncertainty amid dwindling resources.

● Collaborative efforts needed to conserve Half River, mitigate water scarcity, and ensure community resilience.

ghatti exacerbates water shortages, leaving communities vulnerable and livelihoods imperiled.

Effective water management practices, coupled with government intervention, hold the key to mitigating the Half river's decline. Conservation initiatives, informed by local knowledge and supported by authorities, offer a pathway towards resilience.

NEWSLINE

RANDOMIZATION

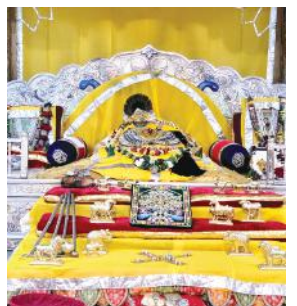
EVM/VVPAT randomization conducted before political parties



KORBA: To ensure fair elections, supplementary randomization of EVM/VVPAT machines for Lok Sabha Elections 2024 in Manendragarh-Chirmiri and Bharatpur constituencies was conducted at the Collectorate Hall. Political party representatives closely observed the process, affirming transparency. Oversight by Observer Mr. Sukhdev Pagare, alongside Collector and District Election Officer Mr. Ajit Vasant and Deputy District Election Officer Mrs. Seema Patre, reinforced adherence to protocol. This meticulous procedure signifies a commitment to electoral integrity, fostering confidence among stakeholders and the electorate alike.

BIRTH ANNIVERSARY

Mahaprabhuji's 547th birth anniversary commemorated



NAVAPARA RAJIM: Champana reverberated with fervent devotion as devotees from across the nation and abroad commemorated Mahaprabhuji's 547th birth anniversary. Under the divine presence of Peethadhipati Jai Jai Shri Dwarkesh Lalji and Anugrah ji, devotees undertook a sacred circumambulation of the forest area during brahma muhurta.

EXAM RESULTS

Annual examination results declared in GHS Gatapar

KHAIRAGARH: Government High School in Gatapar-Naka, Chhukhadan, proudly unveiled the results of its 9th-grade examinations. With 87.5% overall success, 42 out of 48 students passed. Celebrations ensued as 17 achieved first division, 16 second, and 9 third. Leading the pack, Devendra Chandravanshi secured the top spot with an impressive 85.16%, followed closely by Kumari Sneha Chandravanshi at 83.83%, and Kumari Jagriti Yadav at 79.33%. Sarpanch Jayanti Manmohan Verma and Principal Amit Srivastava, along with esteemed guests, distributed the mark sheets, extending warm felicitations to all achievers. It's a testament to the school's commitment to academic excellence.

Minor sister slays brother over mobile phone disagreement

Central Chronicle News

The incident unfolded in the village of Amlidihkala, Khairagarh block, under Chhukhadan police jurisdiction.

KHAIRAGARH: A minor sister fatally slashed her brother's throat over a trivial disagreement. The 18-year-old brother's advice against excessive mobile usage angered his 15-year-old sister to the point of violence. The incident unfolded in the village of Amlidihkala, Khairagarh block, under Chhukhadan police jurisdiction. Prompt action by Chhukhadan police swiftly resolved the murder mystery. Within hours, they arrested the accused sister and sent her to the Juvenile Court Board. The gruesome discovery of Devprasad Verma's lifeless body, drenched in

blood, shocked the community. The police, led by Inspector Shivshankar Gendle and Inspector Anil Sharma, meticulously investigated the case, aided by the FSL unit under Dr. Mohan Patel. During interrogation, the accused confessed to attacking her brother with an axe while he slept, following his admonishment about her mobile phone usage. She attempted to conceal the crime by cleaning the bloodstains from her clothes and alerting the villagers to the murder.

However, the police's astute handling swiftly unraveled the truth. With the incident reported to nearby individuals, the community's cooperation aided the police in swiftly solving the murder mystery. Inspector Shivshankar Gendle and Cyber Inspector Anil Sharma played pivotal roles in the investigation.

EVM distribution at Katghora and Pali Tanakhar

KORBA: Ahead of the Lok Sabha Elections 2024, EVM machines for Katghora and Pali Tanakhar constituencies will now be distributed from Government Mukutdhar Pandey College in Katghora. Under the guidance of District Election Officer Ajit Vasant, the EVM machine was relocated from IT College, Jhagarha, to Mukutdhar College. Ensuring utmost transparency, the transportation was recorded via videography and supervised by Deputy District Election Officer Seema Patre and other officials. Executive Magistrates Bhushan Singh Mandavi and Vinay Dewangan oversee the safe transport of the machines. Election materials will be disbursed to polling parties on May 6, with machines for Katghora and Pali Tanakhar distributed from Mukutdhar College for efficient voting procedures.

Voter awareness prog at district hospital

| VOTER AWARENESS PROGRAM |

Central Chronicle News

Korba District Hospital empowers democratic participation with a voter awareness campaign.

KORBA: In a bid to bolster participation in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections, a voter awareness program was conducted at the District Hospital, affiliated with Late Bisahu Das Memorial Medical College, as part of the Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) initiative. Officers, employees, medical and nursing students, and Mitanins formed a human chain and organized a rally to advocate for 100 percent voter turnout.

Chief Executive Officer of District Panchayat, Sambit Mishra, along with Chief Medical and Health Officer



Officers, employees, students and police took oath for 100 percent voting.

FASTFACTS

● Officers, medical students, and Mitanins rally for 100% voter turnout, fostering democratic engagement.

● CEO Sambit Mishra and Dr. Keshari encourage first-time student voters with floral gestures.

Dr. S. N. Keshari, Dean of the Medical College Dr. Avi-

nash Meshram, and other dignitaries, administered an oath for 100 percent voting to all attendees. Mishra emphasized the crucial role of each individual in strengthening democracy and urged everyone to exercise their voting rights.

Dr. Keshari echoed the sentiment, stressing the moral obligation to participate in the democratic process and elect deserving representatives. As a gesture of encouragement,

Mishra and Dr. Keshari presented bouquets to first-time student voters, wishing them success in their civic duty. Dr. Gopal Kanwar, Medical Superintendent of the hospital, commended the initiative and encouraged widespread participation in the electoral process. The event served as a reminder of the importance of active citizenship and the fundamental role of voting in shaping the nation's future.

| ILLEGAL SAND MINING |

MLA's tough stance curbs illegal sand mining business in Fingeshwar

NAWAPARA RAJIM: The administration's stringent measures against illegal mining have incited clashes among illicit miners, marking a significant turn in the sand mining scenario. Following a stern show-cause notice from SDM Rajim to the Sarpanch Secretary of villages involved in unlawful sand excavation in the Fingeshwar development block, a crackdown ensued, halting the daily

influx of illicit earnings amounting to lakhs.

The repercussions manifested in an unnecessary altercation at the only legally sanctioned Hathkhoj sand mine in Gariaband district. The conflict erupted when the henchmen of the illegal sand mafia attempted to impede operations at the legitimate mine upon receiving the SDM's notice. Villagers intervened, questioning the legitimacy of the interference, which



escalated into a brawl. Rajim MLA Rohit Sahu's proactive stance against illegal mining has yielded

initial success, prompting closure proceedings.

The operator of the Hathkhoj sand mine

affirmed compliance with government regulations, asserting that operations have adhered



I alerted the Mineral Department about illegal sand excavation, and SDM Madam issued a show cause notice.

Peelaram Sahu Secretary Village, Panchayat Hathkhoj



QUOTE FROM THE QUOTABLE

I measure the progress of a community by the degree of progress which women have achieved.
[Dr. B.R. Ambedkar.]

OUR VIEW |

Legal crossroads: India-Canada diplomatic impasse

In the aftermath of the tragic murder of Khalistani activist Hardeep Singh Nijjar, the recent developments in Canada concerning the arrest of three Indian nationals have brought to light a complex web of legal, diplomatic, and political implications. While Prime Minister Justin Trudeau emphasizes Canada's commitment to the rule of law and justice, India stands accused of interference in the matter, prompting a mixed response from both nations. Trudeau's assertion of Canada's robust legal framework underscores the nation's dedication to upholding justice and safeguarding the rights of its citizens. However, India's dismissal of Trudeau's allegations and the strained bilateral relations that ensued reveal the underlying tensions between the two countries. The designation of Nijjar as a "terrorist" by India, in contrast to Canada's handling of the investigation, highlights divergent perspectives on issues of national security and separatist movements. The collaboration between Canadian and US law enforcement agencies in the investigation further complicates the narrative, hinting at broader international implications. The suggestion of potential links between the arrested individuals and Indian officials raises questions about the intersection of legal proceedings and diplomatic relations. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar's assertion that Canada's internal politics are driving the discourse underscores the intricate interplay between domestic agendas and international affairs. India's concerns about pro-Khalistan elements exploiting Canada's democratic processes highlight the challenges of managing transnational issues within the framework of sovereignty and bilateral cooperation. As both countries navigate the complexities surrounding Nijjar's murder, it is imperative to uphold the principles of transparency, cooperation, and mutual respect. Clear communication, evidence-sharing, and diplomatic dialogue are essential to fostering trust and resolving tensions. Moreover, Canada's upcoming elections further underscore the need for responsible governance and prudent decision-making to prevent the politicization of bilateral relations.

GUEST VIEW |

Laughter: A universal language of joy and resilience

Laughter, a potent force, elevates both body and mind, separating joy from sorrow, comedy from tragedy. Embracing self-deprecating humor fosters resilience, preserving vitality in life's journey. Philosophers extol its ability to soothe troubled souls, offering solace in times of turmoil. Laughter's healing touch dissipates apprehension, tension, and depression, nurturing bonds and unraveling knots in life's labyrinth. Even amidst scarcity, finding humor brings a cathartic release, vital for heart and mind. A profound truth emerges: the absence of humor often precedes grave misdeeds, revealing its transformative power. True humorists recognize the beauty in others' wit, transcending mere joke-telling. Regarded as a human blessing, laughter defies boundaries of geography, culture, and intellect, uniting humanity in shared mirth. On World Laughter Day, we celebrate this universal language, acknowledging its intrinsic value beyond study and analysis. In a world filled with complexity and uncertainty, laughter remains an invaluable source of joy and resilience.



Dr. Ganapathi Bhat

Comment

China's geopolitical ambitions and the imperative for US response

Amidst the intricate weave of global geopolitics, China's bold ambitions to reshape the international order are unmistakable. With a vision that challenges American dominance, Beijing aims to dismantle the supremacy of the US dollar and technological hegemony, proposing a new world order based on state-defined political rights and economic development. In this paradigm shift, where China emerges as a formidable player, US policymakers face a critical choice: resist or adapt.

China's vision for a transformed world order centers on principles divergent from the status quo. It advocates for a common security framework, state-specific human rights, economic development as paramount, and the diminishment of US dollar dominance. This vision finds expression in initiatives like the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), the Global Development Initiative (GDI), and the Global Security Initiative (GSI), each designed to bolster China's influence and reshape global

dynamics.

The BRI, initially addressing infrastructure gaps in low- and middle-income countries, has evolved into a tool for expanding Chinese geopolitical influence. Meanwhile, the GDI promotes China's inclusive development model through various UN projects. The GSI presents itself as a panacea for global threats, advocating for balanced, dialogue-driven security architectures.

Yet, China's initiatives face hurdles. While some nations like Serbia and South Africa endorse the Global Civilization Initiative (GCI), which champions diverse development models, progress remains nascent. To garner broader support, China must address concerns within its own governance framework. However, the GDI has seen more widespread backing, with numerous nations engaging in projects and capacity-building programs.

Central to China's strategy is its extensive diplomatic network and media apparatus, which surpasses that of

the US. Leveraging both state-owned and private sector entities, China disseminates its political narrative globally, influencing popular perceptions and media landscapes in over 36 countries, as reported by Freedom House.

Despite China's strides, support for its alternative model remains limited, albeit with momentum in forums like the SCO, African Union, and BRICS. The erosion of US hegemony stems from its perceived failures in addressing pressing global challenges, from pandemics to poverty. Both China and the US must navigate this complex landscape, prioritizing global prosperity over direct conflict.

For the US, the imperative lies in embracing reform and innovation to meet the evolving geopolitical landscape. Emulating China's focus on economic, political, and military prowess, the US must champion democratic values and transparency. Reforms should prioritize the rule of law, good governance, wealth distribution, and accountability, laying the groundwork for a more

equitable international system.

In essence, while China's ascent reshapes global dynamics, the US must respond with strategic agility and principled leadership. Adapting to the evolving geopolitical paradigm, Washington must balance assertiveness with cooperation, forging new norms and institutions rooted in democratic principles. Ultimately, the goal is not merely to counter China's rise but to foster a world order that prioritizes openness, transparency, and shared prosperity—the hallmarks of vibrant democracies.

In conclusion, as China's geopolitical ambitions unfold, the United States faces a defining moment. Embracing reform and innovation, Washington can steer the international community towards a future grounded in democratic values and equitable development. Amidst the flux of global geopolitics, the imperative for US policymakers is clear: to navigate the shift with foresight, resilience, and a steadfast commitment to a better world for all.



Arka Goswami

Author is a writer from Durgapur, West Bengal

Coping with the pressures of academic competition

Navigating the complexities of academic competition requires understanding its impact on students' mental well-being and resilience. *by Dr. Manmohan Prakash Shrivastava*



Dr. Manmohan Prakash



Under pressure: Finding resilience amidst the storm of stress.

In today's society, competition permeates every aspect of life, shaping the journey from childhood to adulthood. From securing admission to prestigious schools to landing a desirable job, the pressure to succeed weighs heavily on students. Often, these expectations are imposed by well-meaning but overbearing parents who dictate every aspect of their children's lives, from education to personal choices. This authoritarian approach, while rooted in concern for their offspring's future, can stifle individuality and autonomy, leading to undue stress and, in extreme cases, tragic outcomes such as suicide.

Statistics reveal a grim reality, with a significant portion of suicides among students attributed to academic stress, familial issues, and mental health struggles. The alarming prevalence of such tragedies underscores the urgent need for improved parent-child communication and stronger familial bonds. Additionally, the role of supportive friends, teachers, and mental health professionals cannot be overstated in providing much-needed solace and guidance to struggling

students.

In response to mounting concerns, initiatives like the recent decision by the Madhya Pradesh government to restrict students under sixteen from attending coaching classes aim to alleviate academic pressure. While well-intentioned, this measure must be implemented thoughtfully to avoid inadvertently exacerbating the problem. Careful consideration should be given to students who require additional support and resources, particu-

larly those who may struggle academically without access to coaching facilities.

Moreover, addressing the root causes of academic stress requires a holistic approach that acknowledges the multifaceted nature of the issue. Rather than solely focusing on academic achievement, emphasis should be placed on nurturing well-rounded individuals who are equipped to navigate life's challenges with resilience and confidence. This entails fostering a cul-

ture of open dialogue, where students feel empowered to voice their concerns and seek help when needed.

Inspiring anecdotes from successful individuals who overcame adversity serve as beacons of hope for struggling students. Messages of perseverance and resilience, such as Dr. APJ Kalam's mantra of treating failure as a stepping stone to success, offer invaluable reassurance during times of uncertainty. By reframing setbacks as opportunities for growth and

learning, students can cultivate a positive mindset that propels them forward in the face of adversity.

Ultimately, creating a supportive environment that prioritizes student well-being requires concerted efforts from all stakeholders, including parents, educators, and policymakers. By fostering stronger parent-child relationships, implementing thoughtful interventions, and promoting a culture of resilience, we can mitigate the adverse effects of academic competition and cultivate a healthier, more balanced approach to education. In doing so, we empower students to chart their own paths to success while safeguarding their mental and emotional well-being. In conclusion, the findings of this study underscore the intricate interplay between sleep and synaptic remodeling, highlighting the importance of adequate sleep for brain function and cognitive performance. Continued exploration of these mechanisms holds promise for advancing our understanding of sleep physiology and developing strategies to mitigate the adverse effects of sleep disturbances on neural connectivity and cognitive function.

YOUR LETTERS

Battling hoax threats

Hoax messages, like the recent Delhi bomb scare, pose a growing challenge for law enforcement. These false alarms, targeting airports and beyond, signal a coordinated effort by miscreants to sow fear. With elections looming, heightened vigilance is imperative. Strengthening regulations on SIM card issuance and enhancing cyber tracing capabilities are vital steps. By preempting such threats and swiftly identifying perpetrators, authorities can thwart these disruptive tactics and ensure public safety.

MK Nair, Raipur

Politicization of enforcement agencies

Central agencies like the ED are increasingly weaponized by the ruling government to target political rivals. Opposition figures face arbitrary arrests, damaging their careers and undermining democratic principles. The agency's partisan actions, favoring the ruling regime, raise concerns about impartiality. With a significant majority of investigations focusing on opposition leaders, questions arise about political influence. The arrest of Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal has drawn scrutiny from the Supreme Court.

Rakesh Gupta, Korba

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

Business



Job creation by the Modi government has been the highest on record.

Surjit Bhalla,

Former India's executive director

Footwear Design & Development Institute convocation



Rajasthan Governor Kalraj Mishra during the convocation ceremony of the Footwear Design and Development Institute, in Jodhpur.

BizBriefs

BEST OF THE REST

MARKET VALUATION

Market valuation of 6 of top 10 firms declines by Rs 68,417 crore

NEW DELHI: The combined market valuation of six of the top-10 most valued firms declined by Rs 68,417.14 crore in a holiday-shortened last week, with Bharti Airtel and Reliance Industries taking the biggest hit. While Reliance Industries, Bharti Airtel, Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC), Infosys, TCS and Hindustan Unilever were the laggards, Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank and State Bank of India emerged as the gainers. Last week, the BSE benchmark climbed 147.99 points or 0.20 per cent. Domestic equity markets were closed on Wednesday on account of Maharashtra Day. The market capitalisation (mcap) of Bharti Airtel fell by Rs 27,635.65 crore to Rs 7,23,770.70 crore. The valuation of Reliance Industries declined by Rs 23,341.56 crore to Rs 19,40,738.40 crore. The mcap of LIC dropped by Rs 5,724.13 crore to Rs 6,19,217.27 crore, and that of Infosys went lower by Rs 5,686.69 crore to Rs 5,87,949.62 crore. **PTI**

INDIAN MARKET

India has 'unexplored' opportunities, says Warren Buffett

WASHINGTON: Billionaire investor Warren Buffett said that the Indian market has "unexplored" opportunities which his conglomerate holding company, Berkshire Hathaway, would like to explore "in the future". Buffett's remarks came at Berkshire's annual meeting on Friday when Rajeev Agarwal of DoorDarshi Advisors, a US-based hedge fund that invests in Indian equities, asked him about the possibility of Berkshire exploring in India, the world's fifth-largest economy. "It is a very good question. I am sure there are loads of opportunities in countries like India," he said. "The question, however, is whether we have any advantage or insights into those businesses in India or any contacts that will make possible transactions that Berkshire would like to participate in. **PTI**



Govt working on global trade topic to push ranking

Business Ready (B-READY) is the World Bank's new flagship report benchmarking the business environment and investment climate in most economies worldwide.

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: With the World Bank planning to come out with its first Business Ready report in September this year, the commerce ministry has started working on the international trade topic in detail to further push India's ranking, an official said. Business Ready (B-READY) is the World Bank's new flagship report benchmarking the business

environment and investment climate in most economies worldwide. The report assesses the regulatory framework and public services directed at firms, and the efficiency with which regulatory framework and public services are combined in practice. The first B-READY report will be launched on September 25, 2024. The Business Ready report is replacing the

NUMBER

54

India has over the years taken a series of measures to improve trade infrastructure and boost ease of doing business.

India's exports of goods and services have crossed over USD 760 billion in 2023-24.

World Bank Group's earlier Doing Business index. In 2020, the World Bank decided to pause the publication of its Doing Business report following a number of irregularities regarding changes to data in previous reports.

The new focuses on 10 topics covering the lifecycle of a firm in the course of starting, operating, or closing or reorganizing its activities. The topics are Business Entry, Business Location, Utility Services, Labor, Financial Services, International Trade, Taxation, Dispute Resolution, Market Competition, and Business Insolvency. Over the next three years, the project will grow to cover about 180 economies worldwide annually, starting with 54 economies in 2023-24, 120 economies in 2024-25, and reaching 180 economies in 2025-26.

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Market Analysis

'Corporate earnings, global trends to guide trading in markets this week'



NEW DELHI: The ongoing fourth quarter earnings season, global factors and macroeconomic data would guide the trends in the equity markets this week, analysts said.

Markets would also take cues from trading activity of foreign investors, rupee-dollar trend and movement of global oil benchmark Brent crude.

"Domestically, the next batch of Q4 earnings reports will drive stock-specific movements, Hero MotoCorp, Larsen & Toubro, BPCL, State Bank of India, Eicher Motors and Tata Motors are some of the big names in the list and the next phase of voting," said

Pravesh Gour, Senior Technical Analyst, Swastika Investmart Ltd. PMI data for the services sector will also influence trading in the equity markets. Industrial production data for March is scheduled to be announced on Friday. "On Monday markets will react to the US employment data and Q4 results of companies like Dmart and Kotak Bank," Siddhartha Khemka, Head - Retail Research, Motilal Oswal Financial Services Ltd, said.

"Moving forward, the ongoing results season will be a key detrimental factor for investors to align their portfolios. **PTI**

Aadhar Housing Finance sets IPO price band

NEW DELHI: Aadhar Housing Finance Ltd, which is backed by private equity major Blackstone, said it has fixed a price band of Rs 300 to Rs 315 a share for its Rs 3,000-crore initial public offering. The initial share sale will be open for public subscription during May 8-10 and the bidding for anchor investors will open for a day on May 7, the company said in a statement.

This will be the third maiden public issue opening next week after TBO Tek and Indegene. Aadhar Housing Finance's initial public offering (IPO) is a combination of a fresh issue of equity shares worth Rs 1,000 crore and an offer for sale (OFS) of Rs 2,000 crore by promoter BCP Topco VII Pte Ltd, an affiliate of Blackstone Group Inc. Currently, BCP Topco holds a 98.72 per cent stake in Aadhar Housing Finance and ICICI Bank owns a 1.18 per cent stake.

'Vedanta plans to invest \$20 bn in India in 4 years'

Press Trust Of India

Agarwal said the overall debt of the company stands at only USD 12 billion at present and seemed to suggest that the same is manageable.

MUMBAI: The Vedanta Group is aiming to invest USD 20 billion across all its businesses in India over the next four years, its Chairman Anil Agarwal said. The group will sell the steel business only at the right price, and is committed to continue running it if it does not get the right price, Agarwal told PTI on the sidelines of a company event. "At the moment, we have a plan to invest USD 20 billion across sectors in four years time," Agarwal said. The investments will be focused on technology, electronics, and glass businesses apart from the



Anil Agarwal, Founder and Chairman of Vedanta Group.

FACTFILE

The investments will be focused on technology, electronics, and glass businesses apart from other activities.

The group will sell the steel business only at the right price.

other activities that the group is engaged in, he said. Semi-conductors and glass -- used in making smartphones and laptops screens -- are very essential from a future perspective, he said, adding that the group is present in both the businesses already. It has land in Gujarat for a semiconductor plant and is scouting for a credible and strong partner, he

said. On the glass front, it is already into manufacturing in other countries but not in India, Agarwal said, hinting that the plan would involve undertaking some capacity building locally. Meanwhile, when asked about the steel business sale, which was supposed to be sold by March, Agarwal said a transaction depends on getting the right price.

FDI NORMS

Easing FDI norms in space sector to attract foreign players

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The government's decision to ease foreign direct investment (FDI) in the space sector will help attract foreign players as well as startups and will boost demand for high-tech jobs, experts say. The government has eased FDI norms in the sector by allowing 100 per cent overseas investment

in making components for satellites, as part of efforts to attract overseas players and private companies into the segment. The provisions were notified last month. Sreeram Ananthasayanam, Partner, Deloitte India, said that the recent amendment of higher FDI limits in the space sector is a significant step towards transforming India's space

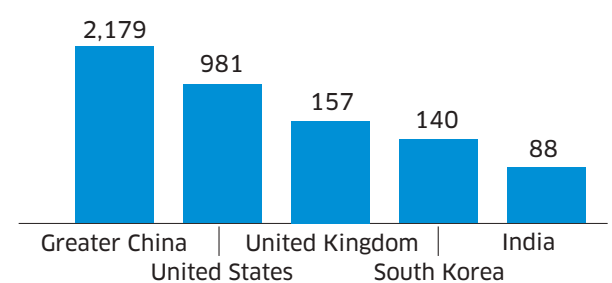


program, in terms of infrastructure development. "For the private sector, it opens doors to new business opportunities, it presents an opportunity to leverage private investments to enhance space capabilities, access to cutting-edge technologies to accelerate and develop next-gen space products, and collaboration with global players.

The Day's NUMBERS

Revenues in the e-commerce segment by country in 2023 (in billion U.S. dollars)

CHINA LEADS THE GLOBAL E-COMMERCE MARKET



Source: 000

INDIA'S PRODUCTIVITY

More than 58% of India's productivity is getting impacted reveals survey

MUMBAI: More than half (58%) of India's productivity is getting impacted as people feel stressed/drain out because of disturbed sleep due to mosquitoes. This crucial revelation emerged from a survey report unveiled by Goodknight, India's leading household insecticide brand from Godrej Consumer Products Ltd (GCPL). Titled 'One Mosquito, Countless Threats', this pan-India survey commissioned by Goodknight, and conducted by market research firm YouGov, examines public attitudes, and assesses the risks of mosquito-borne diseases. The survey report involved respondents across four regions of India - North (including central zone states), South, West and East.

The Goodknight report highlights that 62% of males and 53% females expressed that their productivity is getting impacted because of disturbed sleep due to mosquitoes. **PTI**

HOUSING PROJECTS

Godrej Properties to launch housing projects worth Rs 30,000 crore

NEW DELHI: Realty firm Godrej Properties plans to launch residential projects worth Rs 30,000 crore this fiscal across major cities to achieve 20 per cent growth in sales bookings amid strong demand, its executive chairperson Pirojsha Godrej said. In an interview with PTI, Pirojsha said, "We have given a sales bookings guidance of Rs 27,000 crore for the current fiscal, a 20 per cent growth from high base in 2023-24." In the last fiscal, the company's sales bookings jumped 84 per cent to a record Rs 22,527 crore, from Rs 12,232 crore in the preceding year. This is the highest sales reported so far by any listed entity for FY'24. Pirojsha said the housing demand continues to be strong, especially for reputed brands. **PTI**





Defeat those who want to malign Bengal

Abhishek Banerjee
TMC leaderBriefs
BEST OF THE REST

CASUALTY

Six of family killed two others injured in a road accident

JAIPUR: Six members of a family were killed and two others injured after their car was hit by a vehicle in Rajasthan's Sawai Madhopur district on Sunday, police said. The accident occurred on the Delhi-Mumbai Expressway near the Banas river bridge. The family was on its way to offer prayers at a Ganesh temple in Sawai Madhopur, police said.

"Six members of a family were killed and two injured in the accident after an unidentified vehicle hit their car," Sub-Inspector at Bonli police station, Dharampal Singh, said. Those killed in the accident are Manish Sharma and his wife Anita, Kailash Sharma and his wife Santosh, and Satish Sharma and his wife Poonam, police said. The injured, Sharma's children Manan and Deepali, have been hospitalised, they said.

WARNING

'Country will rise' if Constitution changed by the Central Government



DHARASHIV: Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray on Saturday claimed that the BJP wants to change the Constitution, and warned that the "country will rise" if that happens.

Central agencies had become "servants" of the BJP, he said at a rally at Dharashiv in central Maharashtra, adding that after the results on June 4, those who "troubled" his party men will be made to "pay with interest."

water crisis

As Thumbe reservoir levels plummet, water being rationed in Mangaluru



MANGALURU: The district administration and the Mangaluru City Corporation have decided to introduce water rationing in the city, as water levels in the city's only water source, the Thumbe reservoir, has fallen, officials have said. At a meeting held here on May 4, the administration announced that the city will receive water only once in two days for domestic use, as part of the water rationing system.

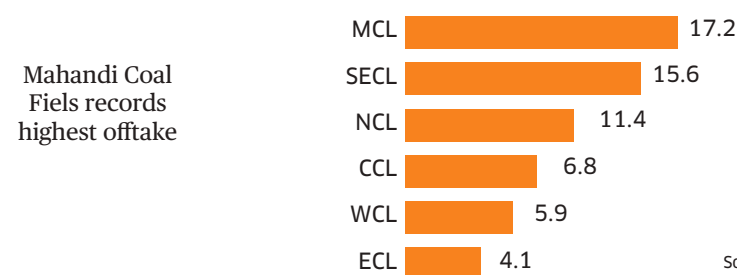
The administration has also advised citizens not to waste water, and to utilise the water only for necessary domestic purposes. Those found using tap water for watering gardens, washing vehicles, and other such unproductive purposes

will be penalised, it warned.

According to the officials, this is the first time in five years that Mangaluru city has faced this situation. The last time was in 2019 when the monsoons were delayed, and the city administration nearly imposed water rationing. Luckily, the heavens opened up in the last week of May, and the restrictive measure was not needed. But this time, taking stock of the dwindling water levels in the city's only water source, the Thumbe reservoir, Deputy Commissioner Mullai Muhilan and his officials have quickly taken steps to ensure that the water lasts, and is therefore distributing it with certain restrictions.

The Day's NUMBERS

COAL OFFTAKE IN APR 2024 (IN MN TONNES)



CRIME

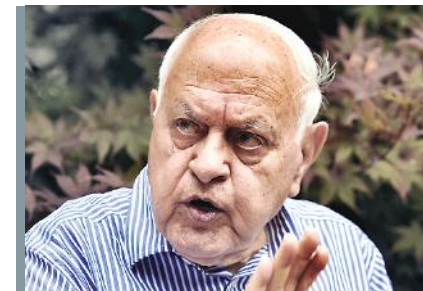
Assistant sub-inspector crushed to death by tractor-trolley in Badoli

SHAHDOL: An assistant sub-inspector (ASI) has been crushed to death by a tractor-trolley used for transporting illegally mined sand in Madhya Pradesh's Shahdol district, a police official said on Sunday. Two persons have been arrested in connection with the incident which took place on the intervening night of Saturday-Sunday in Badoli village under Beohari police station limits, 90 km from the district headquarters, Superintendent of Police Kumar Prateek told PTI.

ASI Mahendra Bagri, posted at the Beohari police station, was going along with two colleagues to arrest a person in some case. On the way, they saw a sand-laden tractor-trolley coming towards their direction and tried to stop it, the official said. Bagri and the other policemen gave a signal to the driver to stop the tractor carrying the illegally mined sand. But he did not stop and the vehicle ran over the ASI, the police official said.

ALLEGATION

Attack on IAF convoy shows terrorism still not over in Kashmir valley



SRINAGAR: National Conference president Farooq Abdullah on Sunday condemned the terrorist attack on a convoy of Indian Air Force (IAF) in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch and said the menace of terror is still alive in the Union Territory.

Abdullah, a former chief minister, said the BJP government's claim that Article 370 was responsible for terrorism now stands exposed, reiterating his stand that only dialogue between India and Pakistan can end the threat in the region.

'Navy performed 'miracle' in foreign waters'

Rajnath Singh dropped hints of the government's readiness to positively consider the Navy's proposal for construction of a second aircraft carrier.

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The Indian Navy has performed a "miracle" (karishma), Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has said, heaping wholehearted praise for the force's numerous operations in foreign waters where it assisted several merchant ships commandeered or threatened by pirates.

In an exclusive interview to PTI, Singh also dropped hints of the government's readiness to positively consider the Navy's proposal for construction of a second aircraft carrier. The Navy has been making a strong pitch for having

the second indigenous aircraft carrier (IAC-II) with a displacement of 45,000 tonnes which is estimated to cost close to Rs 40,000 crore with the envisaged specifications.

Exuding confidence of the National Democratic Alliance retaining power for a third straight term, he said the new government's focus would be to make India totally self-reliant in the defence sector. Singh said India's annual defence exports crossed Rs 21,000 crore mark for the first time in 2023-24 and that his ministry has set a target of increasing it to Rs 50,000 crore in the next five-six years. "We will

HIGHLIGHT

● India's annual defence exports crossed Rs 21,000 cr mark.

● INS Vikrant has a sophisticated air defence network and anti-ship missile systems.

take it to more than Rs 50,000 crore by 2029-30," he said. On Navy operations in the strategic waterways, Singh said the force deserves praise.

"The India Navy has done miracle. Congratulations to the Navy. (Indian Navy ne Kar-

ishma kiya. Nav ko Badhai)," he said.

In the last few months, the Indian Navy extended assistance to a number of merchant vessels in the Western Indian Ocean, the Gulf of Aden and strategic waterways around the Red Sea following attacks on them.

Late last month, the Indian Navy swiftly assisted a Panama-flagged crude oil tanker with 30 crew members, including 22 Indians, after the vessel came under missile attack from Houthi militants.

There have been growing global concerns over attacks on various commercial vessels in the

Red Sea by the Houthi militants. The Navy has foiled attacks by pirates on several ships in the region since January.

Asked about the Navy's push for a second indigenous aircraft carrier (IAC), Singh indicated that it is being favourably considered.

India's first indigenously-built aircraft carrier INS Vikrant (IAC I) was commissioned in September last year. Built at a cost of around Rs 23,000 crore, INS Vikrant has a sophisticated air defence network and anti-ship missile systems. It has the capacity to hold 30 fighter jets and helicopters.

IDENTITY CRISIS |

High-profile Vidisha has huge tourism potential

Manish Shrivastava

Flanked by world heritage sites like Sanchi and Bhim Baithika, which are a part of the Vidisha Lok Sabha seat, this town is home to many historically important sites, including the 10th-century Bija Mandal.

VIDISHA: Vidisha's links with former prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, late BJP stalwart Sushma Swaraj and Madhya Pradesh ex-chief minister



The exteriors of Bija Mandar Vijay Temple, in Vidisha.

FACTFILE

● Vidisha is back in focus with the nomination of Chouhan, one of the most popular party leaders in the state.

Shivraj Singh Chouhan may have brought it under the spotlight from time to time, but the town has the potential to create its identity as a

tourist destination, according to historians. Flanked by world heritage sites like Sanchi and Bhim Baithika, which are a part of the Vidisha Lok Sabha seat, this town is home to many historically important sites, including the 10th-century Bija Mandal. "It is a fact that a large number of tourists visit Sanchi, a renowned Buddhist site. But very few among them visit the city of Vidisha which is hardly 10 km from the world heritage site despite having historically and archaeologically important places like Bija Mandal," historian Govind Deolia told PTI. He claimed that the "design of the new Parliament building in Central Vista (in New Delhi) is inspired by the Bija Mandal-Vijaya Mandir". Vidisha is also surrounded by historical places like the Udaygiri caves having the world's oldest Ganesh idol and the Heliodorus Pillar, which is among the few monuments of the Before-Christ era, Deolia said. If Udaipur's Shiva temple and Gyaraspur are promoted well, it will create a lot of jobs in the tourism and allied sectors like hospitality, tours and travel, he said.

WATER CONSERVATION |

'There's no quick fix to water security'

Press Trust Of India

BENGALURU: Fifteen years ago, a 72-year-old retired Reserve Bank of India employee, and a resident of Koramangala's National Games Village complex, bought a plot of land in Bengaluru rural.

Jannet Hilda said

she fenced the land and is waiting for 'development' to catch up. Until a year ago, she wanted to resell it when the time was right. But when the water crisis hit Bengaluru this summer, she was glad she had access to "land". She decided to explore digging a borewell

in the empty plot, We must look for ways to recharge the groundwater.

V Ram Prasath
Manohar
Chairman, BWSSB

just to make sure she had access to water as well. "A friend told me to

visit M Visvesvaraya RWH theme park in Jayanagar, where she said they guide people about rainwater harvesting (RWH) and digging wells," said Hilda. It is while visiting the park that Hilda decided on an open well for the plot, with a recharge or seepage pit to collect rainwater.

Classifieds

आवश्यकता है

लायसन ऑफिसर/संपर्क अधिकारी की आवश्यकता कंपनी: लोहा और इस्पात उद्योग स्थान: रायपुर, छत्तीसगढ़ कार्य: रायपुर, छत्तीसगढ़

● नए इस्पात संयंत्र के निर्माण के लिए सरकारी अनुमतियों की प्राप्ति।
● जल संसाधन विभाग, तहसील कार्यालय, कलेक्टर कार्यालय आदि से विभिन्न अनुमतियों की प्राप्ति।
● कंपनी के प्रतिनिधित्व के रूप में स्थानीय जनप्रतिनिधियों के साथ संवाद करना।

● भूमि संबंधी प्रक्रियाएं एवं किये जाने वाले कार्य

अनुभव और योग्यता:

● 5-10 वर्षों का अनुभव सरकारी प्रक्रियाओं और अनुमतियों के क्षेत्र में।

● स्थानीय सरकारी नियमों और प्रक्रियाओं की समझ।

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'Parents should bear cost of air conditioning in school'

Acting CJ dismissed a PIL against a private school charging Rs 2,000 for AC in classes

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The cost of air conditioning in school has to be borne by the parents as it is a facility being provided to the students, which is no different from the other charges such as laboratory fee, the Delhi High Court has said.

A bench headed by Acting Chief Justice Manmohan dismissed a public interest litigation (PIL) against a private school charging Rs 2,000 per month for the air conditioning in classes and stated that such financial burden cannot be fastened on the school management alone and parents should be mindful of the facilities and their cost while selecting a school.

The petitioner, whose ward studied in class 9 in the private school, argued that the obligation to provide air conditioning facilities to the students rests with the management and it should, therefore, be provided by them from their own funds and resources.

Noting that the fee receipt duly records the entry of charges for air conditioning which is admittedly being provided to the students, the court opined that prima



A view of Delhi High Court. PTI Photo

facie there is no irregularity in the charge levied by the school. "The costs of air conditioning services provided to the children in the school have to be borne by the parents as it is a facility provided to the children and is no different from the other charges such as laboratory fee and smart class fee levied. The parents, while selecting the school, have to be mindful of the facilities and the cost of the facilities provided to children in school.

BSF jawan posted at International border in Raj commits suicide

JAISALMER: A 57-year-old BSF jawan serving at a post on the India-Pakistan International Border in Rajasthan allegedly committed suicide on Sunday by hanging from a tree, police said. Mukund Deka, who hailed from Assam and recently reported to duty after holidays, was posted at the Babliyanwala post. Police said the reason

HIGHLIGHT

● Victim hailed from Assam and recently reported to duty after holidays.

● His body was found hanging from a tree on the post's premises.

behind his alleged suicide is yet to be ascertained

and an investigation has been launched which will reveal why he took the extreme step. Police said the Babliyanwala BSF post is located about 140 km from Jaisalmer where Deka was posted as a constable. His body was found hanging from a tree on the post's premises by other jawans this morning and they informed the police.

Kerala's coastal hamlets witness sea incursion since Sat

Press Trust Of India

A number of houses were damaged and roads were flooded as massive waves hit the shores in many coastal hamlets.

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: Amidst warning of 'Kallakkadal' phenomenon in coastal areas of the state, several places in Kerala have been witnessing high tidal waves and intense sea incursion since Saturday night.

"Kallakkadal" is a phenomenon of sudden sea swells causing rough waves in coastal areas.

A number of houses were damaged and roads were flooded as massive waves hit the shores in many coastal hamlets.

Sea water gushed into houses forcing residents to shift to safer places in Anchuthengu and Poonthura areas of Thiruvananthapuram.

In several places, local people had to pay extra vigil to protect their fishing equipment, kept on the shores, from the high tidal waves.

Besides Anchuthengu, Poonthura and Muthalappozhi hamlets in Thiruvananthapuram, sea incursion was reported in Mundakkal and Alappadu areas in Kollam district, Purakkad in Alappuzha and Kodungallur and Perinjalam in Thrissur

district and so on, local people said.

The Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) on Saturday withdrew a 'red alert' issued for 'Kallakkadal' in coastal areas of Kerala and the south Tamil Nadu coast and revised it to an 'orange alert'.

The agency warned that low-lying areas of the Kerala coast were likely to experience rough seas and sea surge

FASTFACTS

● Local people paid extra vigil to protect their fishing equipment.

● Sea water gushed into houses forcing residents to safety.

due to extremely strong waves of 0.5 metres to 1.5 metres till 11.30 pm on Sunday as part of the phenomenon. INCOIS, the Central agency that issues weather warnings for fishermen in the country, advised people to safely moor their fishing vessels in the harbour. Authorities advised people to continue their caution and avoid trips to the beach and completely stay away from activities at sea. The term 'Kallakkadal' literally means a sea that comes suddenly like a thief.

NEWSLINE

PATNA

Thankful to PM for his blessings



Hailed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi as the "youngest candidate" of the NDA, Shambhavi Choudhary is determined to live up to the high expectations from her. A third-generation politician, the 25-year-old is contesting from the Samastipur reserved constituency in Bihar, on a ticket of Chirag Paswan's Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas). "I am overwhelmed by the attention I received from the PM at the Darbhanga rally on Saturday. It shows the respect he has for Dalits, especially women... It also gives me a sense of huge responsibility," Choudhary told PTI over the phone. "I am really thankful to the PM for this love, blessings and affection... The PM called me daughter, he appealed to the people of Samastipur Lok Sabha constituenc. PTI

LUDHIANA

Locomotive detaches from coaches in Punjab

The locomotive of a Jammu-bound train detached from its coaches in Sirhind in Punjab on Sunday, officials said. The incident occurred after the train departed from the Sirhind railway station and the locomotive travelled for three kilometres without its coaches, they said.

Keymen, working on section of the Delhi-Katra railway route, alerted the locomotives driver, the officials said.

They said it seems that the detachment happened due to loose coupling. The locomotive returned, coaches were attached and the train left for its onward journey, the officials said. PTI

BENGALURU

Blue corner notice issued against Revanna



Karnataka Home Minister Dr G Parameshwara on Sunday said a Blue Corner notice has been issued and Interpol's help is being taken to bring NDA's Hasnan Lok Sabha candidate Prajwal Revanna, who is facing sexual harassment cases, back to India. A Blue Corner Notice is issued by the international police cooperation body to collect additional information from its member countries about a person's identity, location or activities in relation to a crime. The minister said the Special Investigation Team formed to probe the sex scandal will decide on how to bring Prajwal back. PTI

Big B completes work on Tamil film 'Vettaiyan'

Press Trust Of India

Bachchan, who last worked with Rajinikanth in the 1991 film "Hum", shared the update on the project on his personal blog on Saturday.

NEW DELHI: Megastar Amitabh Bachchan says he has finished shooting for Tamil film "Vettaiyan", fronted by Rajinikanth. The movie is directed by TJ Gnanavel and backed by Lyca Productions.

Bachchan, who last worked with Rajinikanth in the 1991 film "Hum", shared the update on the project on his personal blog on Saturday.

"Another day at work comes to an end and the end too of this project, for me ..But ever the dissatisfaction of a

doubt, when in reflection, whether the work done was to satisfaction and whether there shall be an opportunity to have another try to redo and maybe improve the previous .. "There is ever the apprehension that the Production or the Director may not give you another chance .. but as you reminisce at night, it disturbs you and you wonder ..

So a request has been made and there is promise that the opportunity to redo and improve shall be given .. but let us see .. (sic) the 81-year-old wrote alongside a series of pictures from the film set in Mumbai.

"Vettaiyan", billed as an entertainer with a message, marks Rajinikanth's 170th feature film. It also stars Fahadh Faasil, Rana Daggubati, Ritika Singh, Manju Warrier and Dushara Vijayan in key roles.

Woman killed, two injured in bus accident

MUMBAI: A woman was killed and two others were injured when a private bus rammmed into the state transport bus they were travelling in on the Nagpur-Mumbai Samruddhi Expressway in Maharashtra's Buldhana district, police said on Sunday. The accident occurred on the Chikhali-Mehkar road on Saturday morning, an official said. The private bus was heading towards Mehkar from Surat (Gujarat) when it rammmed into a state transport bus from behind, he said. A woman travelling in the state transport bus sustained injuries and was rushed to a nearby hospital, where she was declared dead, and two other passengers in the bus were injured, the official said. The police have arrested the driver of the luxury bus under section 304-A (causing death by negligence) and other relevant provisions of the Indian Penal Code, he said.

T'gana Padma Shri recipient struggles to make ends meet

| HARSH REALITY |

Central Chronicle News

The 73-year-old artiste, who plays the rare musical instrument 'Kinnersa', was awarded the Padma Shri.

HYDERABAD: Awarded with the prestigious Padma Shri two years ago and given a purse of Rs one crore by the state government, popular folk artiste Darshanam Mogulaiah is now working as a daily wageer to make ends meet.

The 73-year-old artiste, who is popular for playing the rare musical instrument 'Kinnersa', was awarded the Padma Shri and the then BRS government honoured him with Rs one crore, which he spent on various family exigencies. A father of nine, Mogulaiah said he used the Rs one



Folk artiste Darshanam Mogulaiah working as a daily wageer.

FASTFACTS

● State Govt honoured him with Rs 1cr, which he spent on various family exigencies.

● Financial assistance of Rs 10,000 every month, is adequate to meet his needs.

crore and performed the marriage of two of

his children and took up the construction of a three-storey house after purchasing a house site. However, the construction work stopped after he ran out of money, he told PTI here. Of the nine children, three died and another son needs medication due to ill-health. About Rs 20,000 a month has to be spent on medicines for his son

and himself as he is diabetic and hypertensive, he said. Though the state government provides a financial assistance of Rs 10,000 every month, it is not adequate to meet his needs. Meanwhile, BRS Working President K T Rama Rao extended financial assistance to Mogulaiah when he met him on Sunday, Rama Rao's office said.

ETHNIC VIOLENCE |

'School on Wheels' for children staying in relief camps in Manipur

Press Trust Of India

IMPHAL: Manipur Governor Anusuiya Uikey on Sunday launched a "School on Wheels" initiative to reach out to students staying in relief camps in the ethnic violence-hit state, a Raj Bhavan statement said.

Uikey during the launch of the programme at Bal Vidya Mandir Complex said the school bus is equipped with a library, smart TV, computer and

sports items will visit relief camps along with a teacher.

"The incidents which started on May 3 last year affected thousands of people especially students of the state," the governor said, adding "The school on wheels scheme will reach out to students and impart them with necessary education." Stating that she understands the pain and sorrow of the displaced persons, the governor



said she had instructed the chief minister and chief secretary to initiate a process for permanent

settlement for displaced people staying in relief camps. The initiative is implemented by Vidya

This school will reach out to students and give them necessary education

Anusuiya Uikey
Manipur Governor

Bharati Shiksha Vikas Samiti which decided that children staying in relief camps should not

face any kind of inconvenience, the governor said. Around 18,000 students are currently staying in 480 relief camps. More than 219 people were killed and thousands displaced from homes after ethnic clashes broke out on May 3 last year, when a "Tribal Solidarity March" was organised in the hill districts to protest against the Meitei community's demand for Scheduled Tribe (ST) status.

Meiteis account for about 53 per cent of Manipur's population and live mostly in the Imphal Valley. Tribals - Nagas and Kukis - constitute little over 40 per cent and reside in the hill districts. Manipur Governor Anusuiya Uikey on Sunday launched a "School on Wheels" initiative to reach out to students staying in relief camps in the ethnic violence-hit state, a Raj Bhavan statement said.

World



India has 'unexplored' opportunities
Warren Buffett
Billionaire investor

Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

GERMANY-TEEN-SURRENDER German teen turns himself in over attack on European election candidate

BERLIN: A teenager surrendered to police on Sunday over an attack on a candidate from the party of Chancellor Olaf Scholz that fueled concern about intimidation and violence in the run-up to next month's election for the European Parliament. The 17-year-old, accompanied by a parent, turned himself in at a police station in the eastern city of Dresden at 1 a.m., Saxony state police said. "He admitted the act but didn't go beyond that," police spokeswoman Silvine Reiche said. Matthias Ecke, a candidate for the Social Democrats in the June 9 election, was attacked by four people while putting up posters in Dresden on Friday evening. The party said he was taken to a hospital and required surgery for his injuries. Both government and opposition parties say their members and supporters have faced a wave of physical and verbal attacks. **PTI**

ISRAEL-AL JAZEERA Netanyahu's Cabinet votes to close Al Jazeera offices in Israel



TEL AVIV: Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on Sunday that his government has voted unanimously to shut down the local offices of Qatar-owned broadcaster Al Jazeera, escalating Israel's long-running feud with the channel at a time when cease-fire negotiations with Hamas - mediated by Qatar - are gaining steam. Netanyahu announced the decision on X, formerly Twitter. **PTI**

From around the world

Saree's tradition, elegance celebrated in heart of NYC's Times Square at special global event



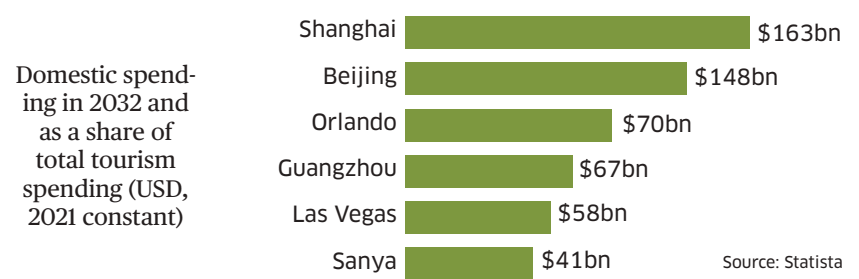
NEW YORK: The iconic Times Square here was awash with varied hues and styles of sarees as hundreds of women from the Indian-American community as well as other nations showcased the timeless elegance, heritage and cultural diversity of the garment at a special event.

The 'Saree Goes Global' event was held in the heart of Times Square Saturday, with participation from over 500 women from the Indian community as well as those from at least nine countries where the nine-yard garment is popular and much-loved, including Bangladesh, Nepal, the UK, the USA, the UAE, Uganda, Trin-

idad and Guyana. Adorning colourful sarees with exquisite embellishments, embroidery, styles and fabrics, including Khadi, the women proudly showcased their collection as they waved the national flags, danced together, took pictures and shared stories about their sarees, culture and heritage. The event, hosted by 'British Women in Sarees' in partnership with Uma, showcased the timeless elegance of the saree through music, dance and a vibrant Saree Walkathon. 'British Women in Sarees' is dedicated to raising awareness of the saree while supporting handloom artisans in India through global events. **PTI**

The Day's NUMBERS

CITIES WITH HIGHEST DOMESTIC TOURISM SPENDING: 2032 FORECAST



US-CAMPUS-PROTESTS Police surround pro-Palestine student encampment at University

NEW YORK: Police surrounded a pro-Palestinian encampment early Sunday at the University of Southern California, days before commencement events are set to begin on the Los Angeles campus. The university said campus safety officers assisted by the Los Angeles Police Department were clearing the area. "If you are in the centre of campus, please leave. People who don't leave could be arrested," USC said on the social media platform X. Protesters were loudly chanting "Free Palestine" inside the encampment. Protesters in the encampment were given 15 minutes to leave the area before facing arrest, according to Annenberg Media, a student-led campus publication. The encampment had restarted after the Los Angeles Police Department first arrested 93 people on April 24. The atmosphere on the private university campus had largely remained calm since, while attention turned to arrests at the University of California, Los Angeles. **PTI**

UKRAINE-EASTER Ukraine marks its third Easter at war under fire from Russian drones



KYIV: As Ukraine marked its third Easter at war, Russia launched a barrage of drones concentrated in Ukraine's east where the situation on the front line is worsening. President Volodymyr Zelenskyy urged Ukrainians in an Easter address to be united in prayer and called God an "ally" in the war with Russia. Ukraine's air force said on Sunday that Russia had launched 24 Shahed drones, of which 23 had been shot down by air defenses. Six people, including a child, were wounded in a drone strike in the eastern Kharkiv region. **PTI**

Putin entering a new era of extraordinary power in Russia

Since becoming acting president on last day of 1999, Putin has shaped Russia into a monolith - crushing political opposition, running independent-minded journalists out of country.

Press Trust Of India

MOSCOW: Just a few months short of a quarter-century as Russia's leader, Vladimir Putin on Tuesday will put his hand on a copy of the constitution and begin another six-year term as president wielding extraordinary power.

Since becoming acting president on the last day of 1999, Putin has shaped Russia into a monolith - crushing political opposition, running independent-minded journalists out of the country and promoting an increasing devotion to prudish "traditional values" that pushes many in society

into the margins. His influence is so dominant that other officials could only stand submissively on the sidelines as he launched a war in Ukraine despite expectations the invasion would bring international opprobrium and harsh economic sanctions, as well as cost Russia dearly in the blood of its soldiers. With that level of power, what Putin will do with his next term is a daunting question at home and abroad. The war in Ukraine, where Russia is making incremental though consistent battlefield gains, is the top concern, and he is showing no indication

HIGHLIGHT

● His influence is so dominant that other officials could only stand submissively on the sidelines as he launched a war in Ukraine despite expectations the invasion would bring international opprobrium and harsh economic sanctions

● The war in Ukraine, where Russia is making incremental though consistent battlefield gains, is the top concern, and he is showing no indication of changing course.

of changing course. "The war in Ukraine is central to his current political project, and I don't see anything to suggest that that will change. And that affects everything else," Brian Taylor, a Syracuse University professor and author of "The Code of Putinism," said in an interview with The Associated Press. "It affects who's in what positions, it affects what resources are available and it affects the level of repression internally," he said.

In his state of the nation address in February, Putin vowed to fulfill Moscow's goals in Ukraine, and do what

ever it takes to "defend our sovereignty and security of our citizens." He claimed the Russian military has "gained a huge combat experience" and is "firmly holding the initiative and waging offensives in a number of sectors." That will come at huge expense, which could drain money available for the extensive domestic projects and reforms in education, welfare and poverty-fighting that Putin used much of the two-hour address to detail. Taylor suggested such projects were included in the address as much for show as for indicating real intent to put them into action.

UK-SUNAK

Sunak promises to work 'as hard as ever'

Press Trust Of India

British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak on Sunday promised to work "as hard as ever" after a disastrous set of election results saw his Conservative Party being unseated across several local authorities and even losing a mayoralty stronghold in the West Midlands region of England.



UK PM Rishi Sunak during a skit inspired by 1990s Hollywood film | Photo: PTI

LONDON: The British Indian leader admitted his disappointment after Sunday night, turning Rio de Janeiro's vast stretch of sand into an enormous dance floor teeming with a multitude of her fans. It was the last show of The Celebration Tour, her first retrospective, which kicked off in October in

leaves Sunak with a solo sliver of hope in Ben Houchen, who had held on to the party's mayoralty in Tees Valley on Friday amid a virtual sweep for the Opposition parties, with Labour in the lead.

"It's been disappointing of course to lose dedicated Conservative councillors and Andy Street

in the West Midlands, with his track record of providing great public services and attracting significant investment to the area, but that has redoubled my resolve to continue to make progress on our plan," Sunak said in a statement. "So we will continue working as hard as ever to take the fight to Labour and

FASTFACTS

● Changing leader now won't work: time to do so came and went. The hole to dig us out is PM's, and it's time for him to start shovelling," writes sacked Indian-origin ex-minister, who is at forefront of backbench rebellion.

deliver a brighter future for our country," he said.

While Tory rebels have begun circling, the echo this time does not seem to be around replacing Sunak as party leader but piling pressure on him to get tougher on the party's core issues like setting a cap on legal migration and dramatically cutting taxes. Former Home Secretary Suella Braverman is leading this charge and issued a stinging rebuke in 'The Daily Telegraph'

to demand that it was time for Sunak to move on from "managerialism" and show strong leadership.

"Let me cut to the chase so no one wastes time over-analysing this: we must not change our leader. Changing leader now won't work: the time to do so came and went. The hole to dig us out is the PM's, and it's time for him to start shovelling," writes the sacked Indian-origin ex-minister, who is at the forefront of the backbench rebellion. "Either we start fighting to win now, or we'll have no one else to blame when this week's political earthquake is made to look like a mere tremor come the general election night," she said. Others have chimed in to say it was time for Sunak to "wake up and smell the coffee".

MADONNA'S CONCERT

Copacabana beach transforms into a dance floor

Press Trust Of India

RIODEJANEIRO:Madonna put on a free concert on Copacabana beach Saturday night, turning Rio de Janeiro's vast stretch of sand into an enormous dance floor teeming with a multitude of her fans. It was the last show of The Celebration Tour, her first retrospective, which kicked off in October in

London. The "Queen of Pop" began the show with her 1998 hit "Nothing Really Matters."

Huge cheers rose from the buzzing, tightly packed crowd, pressed up against the barriers. Others held house parties in brightly lit apartments and hotels overlooking the beachfront.

Helicopters and



drones flew overhead, and motorboats and sailboats anchored off the beach filled the bay. "Here we are in the most beautiful place in the world," Madonna, 65, told the crowd. Pointing out the ocean view, the mountains and the Christ the Redeemer statue overlooking the city, she added: "This place is magic."



Wellness

WELLNESS

Balancing high testosterone with PCOS naturally

From consuming herbs to adopting an anti-inflammatory diet, here are a few natural ways to lower testosterone levels.



Supplements help balance testosterone levels when taken daily. High insulin can lead to increased testosterone levels.



HIGHLIGHT

Embracing natural remedies and lifestyle changes, we reclaim control over PCOS, fostering hormonal harmony and holistic wellness.

extends beyond the teacup to the plate, where vibrant fruits, vegetables, and lean proteins stand as allies in the anti-inflammatory diet that nourishes our bodies and soothes our souls. With every mindful bite, we inch closer to hormonal equilibrium and reclaim ownership of our well-being. But let us not overlook the power of movement - whether it's lifting weights at the gym or dancing in the comfort of our living rooms, each step and stretch brings us closer to hormonal harmony and a life brimming with vitality and joy. So, let us raise our cups in solidarity, united in our determination to reclaim our bodies, our lives, and our fierce feminine energy. For with a little help from nature and a lot of self-love, we are unstoppable. Together, we stride forward on this journey towards holistic wellness, knowing that within us lies the power to rewrite our stories and thrive despite the challenges of PCOS.

Health Tips

COOL DRINKS FOR HOT SUMMERS

Healthy Greens Smoothie

Ingredients
Fresh cucumber, crisp celery, vibrant spinach, fragrant coriander, zesty ginger, tart amla, invigorating mint leaves, and a slice of lemon.

Instructions
Blend cucumber, celery, spinach, coriander, ginger, and amla. Serve with a garnish of mint leaves and a slice of lemon for a revitalizing sip packed with goodness.



Roasted Chana Sattu Banana Smoothie

Ingredients
Ripe banana, creamy almond milk, roasted chana sattu, two plump seedless dates.

Instructions
Blend together ripe banana, creamy almond milk, roasted chana sattu, and sweet dates for a lusciously creamy smoothie. Rich in protein, vitamins, fiber, and healthy fats, this indulgent treat offers a refreshing and satisfying way to boost your summer nutrition.



Watermelon Mint Smoothie

Ingredients
Juicy watermelon chunks, crisp mint leaves, freshly squeezed lime juice, pure honey.

Instructions
Combine fresh watermelon chunks, vibrant mint leaves, zesty lime juice, and a touch of pure honey in a blender. Blend until smooth for a cooling and hydrating summer sensation. Sip and let the revitalizing nutrients nourish your body from within, keeping you refreshed all day long.



Mango Papaya Smoothie

Ingredients
Ripe mangoes, papaya, homemade coconut milk.

Instructions
Blend together ripe mangoes, papaya, and homemade coconut milk for a creamy and tropical treat. This rich and creamy smoothie offers the perfect blend of taste and nutrition to beat the searing summer heat.



Pineapple Berry Blast Smoothie

Ingredients
Mixed berries (strawberries, raspberries), pineapple, almond milk.

Instructions
Combine mixed berries such as strawberries and raspberries with pineapple and almond milk for a burst of antioxidants and protein. This smoothie is perfect for berry lovers craving the citrusy appeal of pineapple.



Tropical Sunrise Smoothie

Ingredients
Fresh mango, ripe banana, pineapple chunks, coconut water, Greek yogurt.

Instructions
Blend together fresh mango, ripe banana, pineapple chunks, coconut water, and Greek yogurt for a taste of the tropics in every sip. This vibrant smoothie offers a burst of exotic flavor and a refreshing dose of vitamins and minerals, perfect for starting your day with a tropical sunrise sensation.



Title: Unveiling benitoite: California's captivating gem

Dive into the world of Benitoite - California's cherished treasure! With a mesmerizing blue shade reminiscent of the ocean's depths, its brilliance rivals that of diamonds, boasting a refractive dispersion that dazzles the eye. Aply named after its birthplace in California, Benitoite's allure is further enhanced by its unique UV fluorescence, adding an enchanting mystique. Prized for its rarity, specimens with intense blue hues and flawless clarity command premium prices. Immerse yourself in the captivating beauty of Benitoite - a gem that embodies the essence of California's natural splendor.



GOOD LIVING

Checkerboard revival: Timeless chic for modern living spaces



Remember the childhood joy of playing checkers? Now, imagine that same timeless pattern gracing your home's floors, walls, and even textiles. In 2024, the checkerboard design is making a stylish comeback in interior décor. Its bold black and white palette exudes sophistication, whether it's adorning the living room or framing the kitchen floor. With its versatility and charm, the checkerboard pattern offers a fresh perspective on timeless interior design, adding flair and personality to any space.

| SELF-SILENCING |

Mastering heart rate zones: Your fitness roadmap

Central Chronicle News

With the advent of wearable technology, monitoring your heart rate has never been easier, catapulting heart rate zones into the limelight of fitness discussions.

Embark on an exhilarating fitness journey as we delve deep into the intricacies of heart rate zones! Imagine your heart as your personal fitness coach, navigating you through various levels of exercise intensity with precision and expertise. With the advent of wearable technology, monitoring your heart rate has never been easier, catapulting heart rate zones into the limelight of fitness discussions.

These zones serve as the blueprint for your fitness journey, each zone representing a specific intensity level based on a percentage of your maximum heart rate. From the gentle warmth of the recovery zone to the fiery intensity of the peak performance zone, understanding and harnessing these zones can elevate your workouts to new heights.

Picture yourself effortlessly gliding through the fat-burning zone, where your body efficiently utilizes stored fat as fuel. Then, feel the adrenaline surge as you push through the peak performance zone, maximizing your output and pushing your limits. Finally, revel in the endurance zone, where your stamina and resilience are put to the test as you sustain



Maximize your workout potential with heart rate zone guidance.

activity over extended periods. By incorporating heart rate zone training into your fitness routine, you can tailor your workouts to suit your specific goals, whether it's shedding excess pounds, enhancing endurance, or optimizing athletic performance. With each beat of your heart, you're one step closer to achieving your fitness aspirations.



Every time you see Mohammed Siraj, you know that he's going to give his heart out.

Sunil Gavaskar
Former Cricketer

Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

WORLD ATHLETICS RELAYS

Indian men's 4x400m team fails to finish World Relays heat race

NASSAU: Second leg runner Rajesh Ramesh pulled out due to cramps as the Indian men's 4x400m team failed to finish its heat race at the World Athletics Relays here on Sunday, during round one of Paris Olympics qualifications.

The Indian quartet of Muhammed Anas Yahiya, Rajesh Ramesh, Muhammed Ajmal and Amoj Jacob was hoping to book a Paris ticket with a top-two finish in heat number four, but in a utter heartbreak, Ramesh left the race midway while clutching his left leg. Anas had already run the first leg.

"The men's 4x400m relay team had a good start. Muhammad Anas clocked 45.93 seconds in the first leg, but the second runner -- Rajesh Ramesh -- fell down due to cramps in leg muscles at the first bend," Athletics Federation of India (AFI) said in a statement.

IPL CRICKET

Shubman has lot to learn, but he's adjusting well: Miller backs skipper

BENGALURU: Shubman Gill is having a tough initiation into Gujarat Titans captaincy, but senior batter David Miller backed him, saying the 24-year-old is increasingly "adjusting" to the role. Under Gill's captaincy the Titans -- who were champions in 2022 and runners-up last year under Hardik Pandya -- are languishing at the ninth place on the table with no real hope of entering the playoffs. "Shubman is an exceptional player, as we all know. He is still young and has a lot to learn. But I feel he is adjusting really well to the captaincy."

"But I feel it's a tough one too because the margins are so small," said Miller in his post-match press meet after GT went down to Royal Challengers Bengaluru by four wickets here on Saturday. Miller also identified the absence of veteran pacer Mohammed Shami, who is recuperating after an ankle surgery, as a reason for their inefficiency with the ball in the Power Play.

MADRID OPEN TENNIS

Swiatek saves 3 match points to beat Sabalenka in Madrid Open final



MADRID: Iga Swiatek avenged her loss in last year's final to Aryna Sabalenka and won the Madrid Open after a third-set tiebreaker.

The top-ranked Swiatek beat No. 2 Sabalenka 7-5, 4-6, 7-6 (7) for her third title of the season. The 22-year-old Polish player became the youngest player to reach 20 titles since Caroline Wozniacki in 2012.

Swiatek faced two match points when she was struggling with her

serve at 5-6 in the third set. But she held on to force the tiebreaker, where she saved a third match point.

Swiatek collapsed on the red clay after Sabalenka hit long to end a match that lasted 3 hours, 11 minutes, the longest WTA final so far in 2024. Each player broke serve five times. "Who is going to say that women's tennis is boring now?" Swiatek said. "Congrats as well to Aryna because we both had an amazing effort today."

The Day's NUMBERS

TOP 5 FASTEST TIMES IN THE 100-METER FREESTYLE SWIMMING EVENT.

Rank	Swimmer (Country)	Time (Seconds)
1.	César Cielo (Brazil)	46.91
2.	Cameron McEvoy (Aus)	47.04
3.	Eamon Sullivan (Aus)	47.05
4.	Nathan Adrian (US)	47.52
5.	Vladimir Morozov (Russia)	47.62

SPANISH LEAGUE

Real Madrid wins its record-extending 36th Spanish league title

BARCELONA: Real Madrid put its Spanish rivals out of their misery by clinching the league title on Saturday with four games remaining, just in time to turn its full focus to its Champions League semifinal with Bayern Munich.

Madrid did the expected and beat relegation-threatened Cadiz 3-0 even though it was mostly with bench players. Barcelona then lost 4-2 at Girona with a collapse that coach Xavi Hernández admitted was typical of his team's trophyless season.

That combination of results secured Madrid its record-extending 36th Spanish league title with Girona, which leapfrogged Barcelona into second place, facing an insurmountable 13-point deficit with only a maximum 12 points left in play.

Only a victory by Barcelona at Girona would have stopped Madrid from celebrating the title on Saturday. Madrid now has a chance to add to its unequalled 14 European Cups.

SAUDI PRO LEAGUE

Ronaldo scores his 4th hat trick of Saudi Pro League season



RIYADH: Cristiano Ronaldo scored his fourth hat trick of the Saudi Pro League season as Al-Nassr thrashed Al-Wehda 6-0. The five-time Ballon d'Or winner now has 32 league goals this season, two short of Abderrazak Hamdallah's record tally of 34 back in the 2018-19 campaign, with four games still to play. Ronaldo opened the scoring in Riyadh in the fifth minute after intercepting a poor clearance from goalkeeper Munir Mohamedi. Seven minutes later, the former Real Madrid and Manchester United star grabbed his second, heading home a cross from Marcelo Brozovic.



Members of the Chinese women's badminton team celebrate. Photo PTI.

China beats Indonesia to win Uber Cup for 16th time

Press Trust Of India

CHENGDU: China once again asserted its dominance in badminton by clinching the Uber Cup for an impressive 16th time. Facing off against Indonesia in the final, China showcased its prowess with a resounding 3-0 victory, marking a triumphant return to the Uber Cup final after a gap since 2008.

The Chinese team, eager to avenge their loss to South Korea in the previous final in Bangkok, commenced their quest for victory with

Olympic champion Chen Yu Fei leading the charge. Chen delivered a flawless performance, securing the first point for China by defeating Gregoria Mariska Tunjung with a commanding scoreline of 21-7, 21-16. Maintaining the momentum, the Chinese duo of Chen Qing Chen and Jia Yi Fan, ranked world No. 1, demonstrated their exceptional skills on the court. They outplayed Indonesia's Siti Fadia Silva Ramadhanti and Ribka Sugiarto with a dominant score of 21-11,

HIGHLIGHT

● Chen delivered a flawless performance, securing the first point for China by defeating Gregoria Mariska Tunjung with a commanding scoreline of 21-7, 21-16.

● Ribka Sugiarto with a dominant score of 21-11, 21-8, extending China's lead to 2-0.

21-8, extending China's lead to 2-0 in the final. Although

Indonesia's teenager Ester Nurumi put up a valiant fight, China's He Bing Jiao showcased remarkable resilience. After dropping the first set, He staged a remarkable comeback, ultimately clinching victory with scores of 10-21, 21-15, 21-17, sealing China's triumph in the Uber Cup.

Reflecting on their victory, He Bing Jiao expressed the team's determination over the past two years to reclaim the Uber Cup, especially after the disappointment of their previous

defeat. Playing on home turf added to their motivation and readiness, culminating in a well-deserved victory for China. The significance of this win was further underscored by the upcoming Thomas Cup final, where both China and Indonesia would once again cross paths. Notably, this marked the first time since 2012 that the same nations would compete in both the men's and women's finals, highlighting the exceptional prowess of badminton powerhouses.

Pujara hits first ton of County season

LONDON: India batter Cheteshwar Pujara's unbeaten 104 helped Sussex extend their first innings lead to 111 runs in their County Championship Division Two match against Derbyshire. Pujara's unbeaten 167-ball knock was studied with 10 fours as he notched up his first hundred of the County season in his third match, having scored 86 and 44 not out against Gloucestershire and 38 in his only outing against Leicestershire. On Saturday, Sussex reached 357 for five riding on Pujara's ton and fifties from Tom Haines (58), Tom Alsop (64) and James Coles (72) in reply to Derbyshire's first innings total of 246 in an away game at the County Ground in Derby. The right-handed India batter was at the crease with Jack Carson when stumps were drawn.

Leader Siraj regains swing as India hopes rise high in WC T20

Press Trust of India

BENGALURU: In a pivotal turn of events, Mohammed Siraj's resurgence has propelled Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) in the latter stages of the IPL, potentially easing concerns for the Indian cricket team ahead of the T20 World Cup. His impactful performance against Gujarat Titans, including crucial wickets in the Power Play, showcases his transformation as a key asset.

Siraj's exceptional figures of 2 wickets for 9 runs in the Power Play signify his regained form and accuracy, offering a promising outlook for his role alongside Jasprit Bumrah in the upcoming ICC tournament. RCB assistant coach Adam Griffith



RCB's Cameron Green and Mohammed Siraj celebrate the wicket of Sai Sudharsan. Photo PTI.

FACTFILE

● Mohammed Siraj's resurgence strengthens RCB's campaign.

● Siraj's impactful performance against Gujarat Titans showcases his regained form.

attributes Siraj's success to his regained ability to swing the ball and his assertive approach on the field, vital elements for both RCB and the national team. Griffith emphasizes the significance of Siraj's leadership and aggressive bowling style, revitalizing

RCB's bowling unit, which faced challenges earlier in the season. Siraj's nine-day break in April, strategically allocated for rest and rejuvenation, appears to have played a crucial role in restoring his sharpness and effectiveness on the field.

MLS SOCCER

Messi's record-breaking performance fuels Inter Miami victory

Press Trust of India

FLORIDA: In a historic performance, I led Inter Miami to a stunning 6-2 victory over the New York Red Bulls. With a goal and five assists, I set three MLS records, showcasing my prowess on the field. This remarkable display solidified my position as one of the greatest players in MLS history, earning recognition as the league's Player

of the Month for April. Alongside teammate Luis Suárez, who secured a hat-trick, we propelled Inter Miami to the top of the Eastern Conference standings. Despite trailing 1-0 at halftime, our relentless offensive onslaught resulted in six unanswered goals, extending our unbeaten streak to six matches. The victory under-



I had an incredible game, scoring a goal and providing five assists, setting three MLS records.

Lionel Messi
Footballer

scored the importance of my presence on the field, as Inter Miami's

turnaround since my return from injury has been remarkable. Despite the Red Bulls' early dominance, our team's resilience and determination prevailed, with each goal reflecting our cohesive teamwork and strategic execution. As we continue our MLS campaign, the momentum from this victory propels us forward with confidence and determination.

Sports News



1. Chennai Super Kings' players celebrate after their teams win against Punjab Kings. 2. Chennai Super Kings bowler Ravindra Jadeja celebrates the wicket of Punjab Kings batter Sam Curran.. Photo PTI

Jadeja's heroics propel CSK to 28-run win

Press Trust of India

The left-arm spinner grab three for 20 in four overs in the crucial middle-over phase to derail PBKS' chase.

DHARAMSALA: Ravindra Jadeja orchestrated a masterclass all-round show as Chennai Super Kings regained their winning touch with a comprehensive 28-run win over Punjab Kings in a low-scoring IPL fixture here on Sunday. Wily leg-spinner Rahul Chahar (3/23) and seamer Harshal Patel (3/24) put up a spirited

show but Jadeja made a crucial 43 that came off just 26 balls to prop CSK to a par 167/9 after they were sent in to bat by Sam Curran.

The left-arm spinner then returned to grab three for 20 in four overs in the crucial middle-over phase to derail PBKS' chase, which ended at 139 for nine. Comeback pacer Tushar Deshpande (2/35) and impact sub Simarjeet Singh (2/16) also featured among wickets.

Mitchell Santner, who was playing his first match of the season, was brilliant during his tidy

1/10 from three overs. Eyeing to secure a sixth successive win over CSK in the IPL, PBKS found themselves at 78 for seven against Jadeja's match-turning spell. Having lost three of their last four matches, the five-time champions CSK thus returned to winning ways and jumped to third place in the standings. CSK now have 12 points with three more matches left to secure their playoff spot.

PBKS - eight points from 11 matches - slumped to eighth spot after enduring their seventh loss of the season. Kiwi left-arm

HIGHLIGHT

● Having lost three of their last four matches, the five-time champions CSK thus returned to winning ways and jumped to third place in the standings.

spinner Santner set it up early for CSK. Bowling with the new ball, he gave away just four runs from his two overs and took the key wicket of Shashank Singh (27; 20b, 4x4) against the run of play.

Deshpande inflicted a twin blow, cleaning up Jonny Bairstow (7) and

Rilee Rossouw (0) in three balls.

PBKS found some rhythm going as Prabhsimran Singh and the in-form Shashank took the attack to CSK bowlers and collected 31 runs to end the power play on a high. Prabhsimran smashed Richard Gleeson for one four and a six in a 15-run over, while Prabhsimran took on Deshpande, smacking him for two fours and one six. It seemed a one-way traffic for the home side before Santner cleverly varied his pace as Shashank holed out to long-on.

Chennai Super Kings faltered after good powerplay

CHENNAI:

During the Power Play, Chennai Super Kings (CSK) seemed on track with Ruturaj Gaikwad (32) and Daryl Mitchell forging a promising 57-run partnership. However, CSK's momentum faltered when Chahar initiated a collapse, snatching two wickets in as many balls. The partnership met an abrupt end as Harshal Patel dismissed the dangerous Mitchell (30) amidst a contentious DRS review.

HIGHLIGHT

● For bowlers now, if you can bowl well, you can make a lot of money. Batting has evolved and bowling is catching up," the Royals' bowling coach Shane Bond said.

CSK's hopes further dwindled as Harshal struck again in the death overs, removing Shardul Thakur (17) and the legendary MS Dhoni for a golden duck.

In a crucial moment, Harshal deceived Thakur with a well-disguised slower off-cutter, leaving Dhoni, known for his miraculous finishes, with a challenging task. However, Dhoni's departure on the first ball, bowled by Harshal's impeccably executed slow yorker, left CSK fans in disbelief. Jadeja emerged as CSK's beacon of hope, resiliently accumulating runs amidst a flurry of wickets.

WRESTLING

Bajrang Punia handed provisional suspension

Press Trust of India

Bajrang was handed a provisional suspension on April 23 by National Anti Doping Agency (NADA) and asked to send his reply by May 7.

NEW DELHI: Bajrang Punia has been handed a provisional suspension for refusing to give his sample for dope test during recent trials and the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) is furious that NADA kept it "in dark" on the development and is planning to write to World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) on the matter. Bajrang was handed a provisional suspension on April 23 by National Anti Doping Agency (NADA) and asked to send his reply by May 7 to avoid further disciplinary action.

The trials to pick the men's national team for



HIGHLIGHT

● If Bajrang fails to come out clean with his reply, he will be out of the race for Paris Olympic Qualification.

the Asian Olympic Qualifiers in Bishkek were held in Sonepat on March 10 and Bajrang had walked off the venue without providing his urine sample after losing his bout.

Reacting to his suspension, Bajrang said he never refused to provide his sample to NADA officials. "I want to clarify that I never refused to give my

sample to NADA officials. I requested them to first answer me as to what action they took on the expired kit they brought to take my sample and then take my dope test," Bajrang wrote on X.

"My lawyer Vidush Singhania will reply to this letter," he wrote further. If Bajrang fails to come out clean with his reply, he will be out of the race for Paris Olympic Qualification.

Meanwhile, WFI President Sanjay Singh expressed his surprise that NADA did not inform them about the suspension.

India women eye stronger outing in 4th T20I

SYLHET: With the series already in their kitty, India women will be eager to iron out certain flaws, particularly on their batting front, during the fourth T20I against Bangladesh here on Monday. India have taken an unassailable 3-0 lead in the five-match series, but the scoreline has masked some rust in their batting unit.

Across the three matches, India have only one fifty to show, a 51 by Shafali Verma in the first match, and other batters like Smriti Mandhana and skipper Harmanpreet Kaur will be eager to join the party.

Shafali is the top run-getter for India in this series with 82 runs. It's imperative for them to slip into upper gears as they will be up against a far formidable rival in South Africa next month in an all-format series.

India, Australia placed in Group A for Women's T20 World Cup in Bangladesh

Press Trust of India

DUBAI: India were on Sunday placed in Group A alongside defending champions Australia, New Zealand, Pakistan in the Women's T20 World Cup, which will be held in Bangladesh from October 3-20 this year.

With all their group matches scheduled to be played at Sylhet, India will open their campaign against New Zealand on

HIGHLIGHT

● With all their group matches scheduled to be played at Sylhet, India will open their campaign against New Zealand on October 4.

October 4 and face off against arch-rivals Pakistan on October 6 as the ICC announced the schedule for the ninth edition of the Women's T20 WC.



India's next assignment will be against yet-to-be-identified Qualifier 1 team on October 9 while their clash against six-time world champions Australia will be on October 13.

"Each side will play four group matches at the tournament, with the top two teams from each group progressing to the cut-throat semi-finals on 17 and 18 October ahead of the Final in Dhaka on 20 October," the ICC posted on its website. "In total, there will be 23 matches played across 19 days in Dhaka and Sylhet, with reserve days in place for both semi-finals and the final.

'Siraj's resilience and self-belief shine bright'

Press Trust of India

BENGALURU: Mohammed Siraj's self-belief and never-say-die attitude are his real strengths, said batting legend Sunil Gavaskar after the pacer set up Royal Challengers Bengaluru's four-wicket win over Gujarat Titans in the Indian Premier League here.

Siraj's two-wicket burst in the powerplay to remove Shubman Gill and Wriddhiman Saha



played a crucial role as GT could manage just 147 all-out in 19.3 overs on Saturday.

"Every time you see Mohammed Siraj, you know that he's going to give his heart out. Remember the time

when his father passed away when he was in Australia. He carried on," Gavaskar said on Star Sports Cricket Live.

"A lot of people would want to go back because your parents are so dear to you. But I think he

realised that playing for India was important. Also, he was not established at that stage. An established player would 100 per cent have gone back.

"And remember how spectacularly he bowled in that Gabba Test match. Getting somebody like Steve Smith out when he was on 55... so this is the real strength of Mohammed Siraj, the self-belief and the never-say-die attitude on the field."

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"I am not at all somebody who believes in these crash diets. I believe in keeping a balanced diet. I like to eat home food."

Saiyami Kher
Actress



& Finally

O.T.T Watch



Akelli: Nushratt's resilience on JioCinema

Nushratt Bharuchcha's 'Akelli' now streams on JioCinema. Directed by Pranay Meshram, it's a tale of resilience. Bharuchcha portrays Jyoti, facing survival amidst conflict. She expresses excitement for its digital premiere, hoping it inspires courage.



Murder in Mahim: JioCinema release

JioCinema announces May 10 release for 'Murder in Mahim', starring Ashutosh Rana and Vijay Raaz. Based on Jerry Pinto's book, it delves into Mumbai's underbelly, exploring friendship amidst a murder mystery.



Baahubali: animated prequel

"Baahubali: Crown of Blood" animated series, a prequel to the blockbuster movies, hits Disney+ Hotstar on May 17. Created by S S Rajamouli, it delves into epic adventures, brotherhood, and conflicts.



Jake Gyllenhaal's legal drama

Apple TV+ debuts Jake Gyllenhaal's "Presumed Innocent" series on June 12. Based on Scott Turow's novel, it delves into murder's impact on a prosecutor's office, exploring themes of love and obsession.



Panchayat season 3 update

Chandan Roy teases "Panchayat" Season 3, promising crazier events. Returning to Prime Video on May 28, the series adds new characters. Roy also discusses his lead role in "Tirich: Portrait of a Dying Man."

Central Chronicle news

Priyanka Chopra Jonas is exposing favoritism and other unfair causes due to which she lost roles in Bollywood.

Priyanka Chopra Jonas, a global icon revered for her talent and grace, embarked on her illustrious journey after clinching the Miss World 2000 title and stepping into Bollywood with "The Hero: Love Story of a Spy." Despite her undeniable talent and captivating presence on screen, Priyanka faced formidable obstacles in her path to success. The pervasive culture of favoritism and discriminatory attitudes in Bollywood posed significant challenges, compounded by the industry's relentless emphasis on physical attributes and conventional beauty standards. However, Priyanka's resilience and unwavering determination shone through, propelling her past these adversities. Her journey stands as a testament to her indomitable spirit and determination to break barriers in the entertainment industry.



Priyanka Chopra spoke about facing challenges as an Indian actor in Hollywood.



Resilience and determination shows Priyanka's unyielding spirit

In a candid discussion on the podcast "Read the Room," Priyanka shares her experiences navigating rejection in the competitive film industry. She emphasizes the importance of fully processing rejection,

likening it to a form of grieving, before moving forward. Despite setbacks, Priyanka remains determined, balancing her career with international projects like "The Bluff" while eagerly anticipating her return to Bollywood with "Jee Le Zara" alongside Alia Bhatt and Katrina Kaif.

| HOLLYWOOD |

Beyoncé's legacy enshrined: French dictionary to include pop icon's name

Central Chronicle News

In a historic stride, global megastar Beyoncé secures her place of honor in the revered Larousse dictionary, marking a watershed moment in cultural recognition. Handpicked among a select cohort of 40 luminaries, Beyoncé's designation as a proper noun crystallizes her towering influence across the realms of music, artistry, and activism. With her Louisiana Creole heritage proudly acknowledged, this accolade cements her status as an indomitable force, shaping the cultural landscape and inspir-



HIGHLIGHT

● Beyoncé joins a prestigious lineup of 40 individuals, including Cate Blanchett, slated for inclusion in the upcoming edition of a French dictionary.

ing millions worldwide. From her groundbreaking music to her unwavering commitment to social justice, Beyoncé's journey epitomizes triumph, diversity, and the celebration of excellence on a global scale. As her name graces the pages

of linguistic history, it serves as a testament to her enduring legacy. Beyond her unparalleled musical talents, Beyoncé's influence extends far and wide, transcending geographical and cultural boundaries. From her empowering anthems to her unapologetic advocacy for social justice, Beyoncé has emerged as a symbol of empowerment and inspiration worldwide. Her inclusion in the Larousse dictionary not only celebrates her Louisiana Creole heritage but also recognizes her as a beacon of representation and diversity in the entertainment industry.

CineBriefs

BEST OF THE REST

Bollywood

Fardeen Khan anticipates hilarious chaos in 'No Entry' Sequel

Fardeen Khan, nostalgic about the 2005 comedy "No Entry," eagerly awaits its sequel. Despite missing out on the cast, he sends his best wishes, urging the team, "don't mess it up." With Varun Dhawan, Diljit Dosanjh, and Arjun Kapoor stepping in, the sequel promises fresh hilarity. Fardeen believes the essence of Anees Bazmee's original script will shine through. "No Entry" fans anticipate the chaos as married men grapple with their womanizing friend, Prem, in this uproarious sequel.

Web Series

The Great Indian Kapil Show: season 2 confirmed by Kiku Sharda

Kiku Sharda confirms the return of Season 2 of The Great Indian Kapil Show after Archana Puran Singh hinted at the season wrap. With 13 episodes in the first season, Sharda assures fans of a short gap before the next season, highlighting the show's evolving format. Premiering on Netflix, the show has already hosted notable guests like Ranbir Kapoor, Aamir Khan, and cricketers Rohit Sharma and Shreyas Iyer, promising more entertainment in the upcoming season.

The Bollywood hot pair

Hrithik's heartfelt support for Saba 'minimum' at UK Asian Film Festival



Hrithik Roshan continues to showcase his unwavering support for girlfriend Saba Azad, this time by endorsing her upcoming film, "Minimum." The renowned actor, known for his global fanbase, proudly champions Azad's work, expressing his admiration on social media. The couple's love story,

now Instagram official, unfolds publicly as they navigate their relationship with grace. With Roshan's recent Instagram story, he amplifies anticipation for Azad's film, set to open the 26th UK Asian Film Festival in London, encapsulating his pride and excitement with heartfelt words and emojis.

Fashion

Uorfi Javed's paparazzi-worthy 3D outfit

Leave it to Uorfi Javed to steal the spotlight with her latest fashion creation. Donning a stunning black gown adorned with lifelike 3D flowers and delicate artificial butterflies, she mesmerized onlookers during a recent appearance in Mumbai. As the paparazzi clamored for more glimpses, Uorfi unveiled the enchanting secret behind her ensemble, earning accolades and admiration across the internet.



Trending on Insta



@ananyapanday

Ananya Panday's monochrome elegance

Ananya Panday exuded sharpness in a monochrome photo series on Instagram, donning a fitted backless dress with diamond jewelry and smoky cat-eye makeup.

@divyankatripathidahiya

Divyanka Tripathi Dahiya: serene joy on Instagram

Despite a recent forearm fracture, Divyanka Tripathi Dahiya shares glimpses of her serene joy on Instagram, donning a black kurta with minimal makeup and straight, flowing hair.

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