

Central Chronicle

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ED attaches assets worth Rs 205 cr

Press Trust of India

ANAND: The ED Friday said it has attached assets worth over Rs 205 crore of retired IAS officer Anil Tuteja, the Raipur mayor's brother and a former excise department special secretary, besides others, in a money-laundering probe linked to an alleged liquor scam in Chhattisgarh. The attached

properties include 14 assets of Tuteja worth Rs 15.82 crore, 115 properties of Anwar Dhebar, the elder brother of Raipur Mayor and Congress leader Aijaz Dhebar, worth Rs 116.16 crore, properties of Vikash Agarwal alias Subbu worth Rs 1.54 crore and 33 properties of Arvind Singh worth Rs 12.99 crore, it said in a statement. A property

worth Rs 1.35 crore of Arunpati Tripathi, an Indian Telecom Service officer and special secretary of the excise department, nine properties worth Rs 28.13 crore of liquor businessman Trilok Singh Dhillon and jewellery worth Rs 27.96 crore of Naveen Kedia (linked to the Durg-based Chhattisgarh Distillery Limited) were attached as well.

Focus on the middle class

THIS IS MODI'S GUARANTEE

- Home ownership for middle class families
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Right Intent, Right Results

Phir Ek Baar Modi Sarkar

Press the lotus button Make BJP win

Rahul shifts to Rae Bareilly

Gandhi hopes that the move will checkmate opponents

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Rahul Gandhi describes himself as the best chess player among Indian politicians, and his latest gambit appears to be his decision to contest from Rae Bareilly instead of his home ground Amethi. "He is an experienced player of politics and chess. The party leadership takes its decisions after much discussion, and as part of a larger strategy. This single decision has befuddled the BJP, its supporters, and its sycophants," Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said in a post on the much-anticipated decision. "The BJP's self-proclaimed Chanakya, who used to



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi waves to supporters after filing his nomination for the Lok Sabha elections.

talk about 'paramparagat seat' is now not sure how to respond," he said. The chess reference by Ramesh comes days after the Congress put out a video of Gandhi talking about his interest in the board game and its sim-

ilarities with politics. In the video, when Gandhi is asked who is the best chess player among Indian politicians, he said, "Me". Gandhi had made his poll debut from Amethi in 2004 and saw relative smooth sailing in the first

10 years with the UPA being in power, while the last 10 years have been challenging. He won the 2014 polls against the BJP's Smriti Irani by over a lakh votes but she had run a spirited campaign and made inroads into the

HIGHLIGHT

• Gandhi filed his papers from Uttar Pradesh's Rae Bareilly constituency in the afternoon, barely an hour before nominations closed for the Lok Sabha seat on Friday.

Congress citadel of Amethi. She finally breached the fortress in 2019, beating the Gandhi family scion by over 55,000 votes. However, Gandhi's 'Plan B' seemed to have worked as he contested the polls from two constituencies and won from Kerala's Wayanad, ensuring that his stint in Parliament continued.

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Raipur



Congress should learn political and leadership skills from PM Modi

Vijay Sharma,
Deputy CM, Chhattisgarh Govt



Congress Working Committee member Gurdeep Sappal addressing a press conference.

Why is BJP running away from elections in Kashmir?

PM Modi who himself looked afraid was advising Congress not to be afraid. Charging the Prime Minister Modi with spreading lies about Congress' manifesto.

Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: Congress Working Committee member Gurdeep Sappal today asked Prime Minister Narendra Modi as to why Bharatiya Janata Party is running away from elections in Kashmir. BJP could not field even a single candidate in any of three seats in Kashmir, he said. 'Rahul Gandhi's 'Bharat Jodo Yatra' was started from Kashmir where Rahul Gandhi told the people of the country not to be afraid. Kashmir is an integral part of India', Sappal who is also

the AICC administration in-charge said in a press conference here today.

He said that PM Modi who himself looked afraid was advising Congress not to be afraid. Charging the Prime Minister Modi with spreading lies about Congress' manifesto, Sappal said that Modi was lying because he was afraid of the truth of Congress manifesto about inflation. Inflation has increased in the last 10 years and the data of Reserve Bank of India shows that in the last one year, the liability of the general public in India

HIGHLIGHT

● **BJP could not field even a single candidate in any of three seats in Kashmir.**

● **RBI data shows that gold loans in the country have increased five times in the last 5 years.**

has increased by 75 percent, he said, adding that it is the people who are suffering from inflation.

PM Modi talks about Mangalsutra again and again and that too, the

data of Reserve Bank of India shows that gold loans in the country have increased five times in the last five years, Sappal said. When the Congress' INDIA Alliance government comes to power at the Centre, first of all women will be given Rs 1 lakh annually under the Mahalaxmi Yojana and women will get 50 percent reservation in government jobs, he said.

According to him unemployment in this country has increased the most in 4 decades. 'The policy that Modi government talks about

was never implemented, like neither smart city was made, nor Make in India was made, nor was it able to clean the Ganga, nor was it able to double the income of the farmers', he said. According to him manufacturing has fallen by almost a quarter during the Modi government and therefore there is no employment. Modi brought GST which every businessman is unhappy with and the entire business class has been ruined, he said. Moreover recruitment in railways and banks has stopped, he said.

Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

BOOTH CAMPAIGN

'Come Know Your Booth' campaign for voters before voting on May 5

RAIPUR: In a groundbreaking move ahead of the Lok Sabha Elections 2024, voters in Raipur will have the chance to acquaint themselves with their respective polling booths and available facilities through the "Come Know Your Booth" campaign. Spearheaded by Collector and District Returning Officer, Dr. Gaurav Singh, this initiative is poised to redefine the voter experience. Under the initiative, slated for May 5th between 8 am to 11 am, voters will be able to inspect their designated booths, thanks to Dr. Singh's proactive instructions to all zone commissioners to ensure basic amenities. The campaign aims to provide transparency and comfort to voters, ensuring a hassle-free polling experience. Dr. Singh's meticulous planning includes provisions for essential facilities such as lemonade, juice, and cold drinking water to combat the heat.

LIQUOR SCAM

STF of UP takes Vidhu Gupta into arrest in Rs 2000 cr liquor scam

RAIPUR: The businessman Vidhu Gupta supply fake holograms in the Excise scam in Chhattisgarh has been arrested by STF from UP. Vidhu Gupta is Director of Prizm Holography and Security Films Limited. It was in view of the FIR lodged in Thana Kasna Gautam Budh Nagar in case of the liquor scam by ED under Prevention of Corruption Act (PCA), that the STF from UP nabbed Vidhu.

The ED or EOW team can go to Noida in order to interrogate Vidhu Gupta. It is notable here that in case of liquor scam in Chhattisgarh, case has been filed against the then Excise Commissioner Niranjan Das.



Festival with devotion

Jain community celebrates Muni Suvratnath Bhagwan's Birth and Penance Festival with devotion



RAIPUR: The birth and penance festival of the revered 20th Tirthankara of Jainism, Muni Suvratnath Bhagwan, was celebrated with fervor and devotion by members of the Jain community at the Adinath Digambar Jain Bada Mandir on Malviya Road in the capital city. Devotees thronged the temple complex to pay homage to Lord Munisuvrat Nath, filling the air with chants and praises. The atmosphere was imbued with spiritual fervor as religious rituals were conducted with enthusiasm. Sanjay Jain Nayak, President of Digambar Jain Bada Mandir, and Vice President Shreyash Jain Balu shared details of the day's festivities.

The celebrations commenced at 8:30 am with the ritualistic anointment of Lord Pushpadant in front of Lord Parshvanath, accompanied by the pouring of 'Prasuk' water from silver urns. Amidst chants invoking peace and prosperity, devotees offered prayers and performed Aarti with deep reverence. Offerings of Arghya, lamp, and 'srefal' were made at the Lord's feet, symbolizing heartfelt devotion and spiritual fulfillment. The celebration resonated with joyous praises for Lord Munisuvratnath, as devotees expressed gratitude for spiritual enlightenment and liberation from the cycle of birth and death.

EoW to conduct inquiry into irregularities scam

RAIPUR: The Economic Offence Wing (EoW) is going to conduct inquiry into the alleged irregularities into School Education Department and for this decision has been taken to take departmental permission from the School Education Department. This news has created sensation in the entire School Education Department. It was earlier learnt that the EoW is going to conduct inquiry into the alleged irregularities in the promotion and now it is not this issue, but that of appointment of compassionate grounds and it is linked to Bilaspur. Actually during the Corona period in 2020, the office of the District Education Officer in Bilaspur district granted compassionate appointment to family members of the deceased.

Consumers are encouraged to actively engage in the safety process by requesting checks from delivery personnel upon their arrival.

RAIPUR: In a move aimed at enhancing consumer safety, LPG delivery personnel will now conduct free inspections of gas appliances during cylinder deliveries. This initiative, spearheaded by government oil companies and their distributors, seeks to educate consumers on safety protocols while ensuring the integrity of gas installations. During the Basic



LPG Gas Cylinders in stock at Godown

FACTFILE

● **By prioritizing safety and awareness, this initiative aims to bolster consumer confidence and ensure the secure usage of LPG appliances.**

Safety Check (BSC), delivery personnel will

meticulously examine gas appliances, encompassing eight crucial safety measures, to mitigate risks such as leaks. It is mandatory for consumers to undergo a comprehensive inspection of gas installations and equipment every five years, a service previously subject to fees but now offered at no cost.

Notably, if any gas appliance fails the safety assessment or if the orange-colored pipe is deemed unfit for use, replacements will be provided at discounted rates. The ongoing safety checks will gradually expand to encompass a wider range of gas appliances in consumers' homes.

LPG APPLIANCES SAFETY |

Free Gas Appliance safety checks introduced for consumers

PARENTS MEET |

Collector encourages student's at 'Parents Meet'

Press Trust Of India

RAIPUR: In a thought-provoking discourse at the Shaheed Smarak Auditorium, Raipur District Collector, Dr. Gaurav Kumar Singh, emphasized the importance of nurturing well-rounded individuals over academic achievers in a "Parents Meet" session. Dr. Singh urged parents and educators to focus

on fostering qualities that shape students into exemplary citizens rather than solely prioritizing academic success. Addressing a packed hall of over 700 parents and teachers, Dr. Singh shared his insights on child psychology, holistic development, and resilience in facing challenges. He stressed that excellence should be measured by individual character and

Focus on fostering qualities that shape students into exemplary citizens

Dr. Gaurav Kumar Singh,
Raipur District Collector

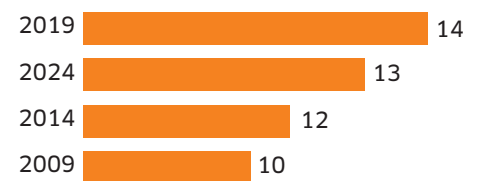


not just academic performance, advocating for a curriculum that nurtures students' innate talents and encourages them to navigate life's obstacles with positivity. Highlighting the abundance of information available in the digital age, Dr. Singh underscored the importance of instilling moral values, self-discipline, and integrity in students.

The Day's NUMBERS

For Lok Sabha Elections 2024

NUMBER OF CANDIDATES FROM RAIGARH CONSTITUENCY



Source: Statista

HELPLINE SUPPORT

CGBSE launches Helpline to support students ahead of results

RAIPUR: In a bid to alleviate the stress and anxiety faced by students awaiting the results of their 10th and 12th board exams, the Chhattisgarh Board of Secondary Education (CGBSE) has initiated a helpline service. This proactive step aims to provide support and guidance to students and their families during this crucial period.

The helpline, established in collaboration with CGBSE, offers students and their parents direct access to career counselors. These counselors are equipped to address a wide range of concerns related to exam results and career choices. The helpline, which commenced operations on May 1st, operates from 10:30 am to 5 pm and can be reached toll-free at 18002334363. Dr. Varsha Varvandar, a prominent psychologist and career counselor, responded promptly to calls, resolving various queries and concerns raised by candidates and their parents.

ASSOCIATION ELECTION

Omkar Singh elected President of Advertising Agency Association



RAIPUR: Omkar Singh has been elected as the President of the Chhattisgarh Advertising Agency Association, with Afsar Khan assuming the role of General Secretary. The decision was made following a unanimous vote by all members, supported by election officers Deepak Jain, patron Shivaji Manthani, and Ajay Jain.

The newly elected President, Omkar Singh, wasted no time in constituting a new executive committee. This committee comprises prominent figures in the advertising industry, including patrons Ajay Jain, Deepak Jain, and Shivaji Manthani, along with General Secretary Afsar Khan and Vice President Ritesh Agarwal.

Raipur News



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Sachin Tendulkar
National Icon, ECI



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LOK SABHA ELECTION 2024

Scan & download the Voter Helpline App

People will not be swayed away by Congress: CM Sai

'Modi, who is concerned about happiness and sorrow of people, has to be made PM again'

Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: 'Tribal people have been uplifted because of Prime Minister Modi and BJP. BJP is the real well-wisher of the tribals. Today, Draupadi Murmu, the daughter of a tribal community, is occupying the highest position in the country and for the first time in Chhattisgarh, the son of a tribal has been made the Chief Minister. All this has been possible only because of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and BJP', Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai said while addressing a public meeting under election campaign. He addressed huge public meetings in Premnagar of Surajpur, Parsada of Takhatpur and Gudelia of Bhatapara.



Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai addressed public meetings in Surajpur, Takhatpur and Bhatapara.

was spreading various kinds of confusion among the people today. Congress is creating confusion over tampering with the Constitution and abolishing reservation and scrapping of public welfare schemes, Sai said. He said that being a Chief Minister, he neither told the public about any scheme being closed nor about ending of reservation. Sai said that the Congress Party was making women fill the forms by promising to give them Rs 1 lakh per year.

The country will develop even more in the third innings

On BJP's Sankalp Patra in the meeting held at Parsada in Takhatpur, Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai said 'we also call our Sankalp Patra a guarantee of Modi'. A total of 4 crore PM houses were built during the 10 years of Modi's government, he said. Prime Minister has announced to build 3

HIGHLIGHT

- A total of 4 crore PM houses were built during the 10 years of Modi's government.
- Under Mudra Yojana, sons and daughters will get loans up to Rs 20 lakh instead of Rs 10 lakh.

crore new PM Awas in the next 5 years, he said, adding that under the Modi government, now elderly people up to 70 years of age will also get free treatment under the Ayushman Bharat scheme. Under Mudra Yojana, sons and daughters will get loans up to Rs 20 lakh instead of Rs 10 lakh, he said.

People have made up their mind to make Cong win: PCC chief

Central Chronicle News

Pradesh Congress President Deepak Baij said that given his party's ongoing election campaign in the entire Chhattisgarh he was quite hopeful of his party's victory.

RAIPUR: According to PCC Chief Deepak Baij there is an atmosphere against BJP and Modi. It is clear from the statement of BJP after the first and second phase that Congress government is being formed, he said. The public has made up its mind to make Congress win and there is a strong atmosphere in favor of Congress, he said. The PCC chief described Prime Minister Narendra Modi as an artist saying that no one can be a greater artist than Modi. BJP fought its first election on the issue of black money, second election on Pulwama and this time instead of talking on issues he is playing drama, Baij said to make his point.

On the statement of Deputy Chief Minister Arun Sao on Rahul Gandhi contesting elections from Rae Bareilly, Deepak Baij said 'Rahul Gandhi is the leader of the country. He can fight on

whichever seat he wants to fight and that Arun Sao's statement has no significance'. Regarding the investigation report on Radhika Kheda's case, Baij said 'we still have time, we will reply soon'. 'BJP should first look into itself. BJP should answer why PM Modi is going to campaign in favour of an accused in Karnataka. Our international players sat on the road in front of the PM's House. If you are wor-

FASTFACTS

- This time instead of talking on issues Prime Minister Modi is playing drama.
- BJP should answer why PM Modi is going to campaign in favour of an accused in Karnataka.

ried about your daughters then why didn't you go and ask?', Baij said. Regarding cabinet minister and BJP Lok Sabha candidate Brijmohan Agrawal, Deepak Baij said that Agrawal was contesting the elections reluctantly. He said that people of the area want him to remain MLA. The public wants to see Brijmohan Agrawal as MLA, hence they will make Vikas Upadhyay as MP, Baij added.

NEWSLINE

LIQUOR SHOPS

Three dry days Chhattisgarh in view of LS polls



RAIPUR: In view of the third phase of Lok Sabha elections to be held on May 7, liquor shops will remain closed for 3 days in Chhattisgarh. Liquor shops will remain closed on 5, 6 and 7 May. The shutters of the shops will open only on the next day of elections i.e. on 8th May.

The Excise Department has declared three days as dry day in view of the Lok Sabha elections. Liquor shops will remain closed 48 hours before voting i.e. from 5 pm on May 5. This order will be applicable to Durg, Bilaspur, Janjgir-Champa, Korba, Raigarh, Surguja Lok Sabha constituencies including Raipur.

CRIME

Gang of thieves busted, 4 arrested for stealing lakhs

RAIPUR: Cases of theft are continuously being reported in Raipur. More than Rs 15 lakh was stolen from Tikrapara and Purani-Basti area recently. Raipur Police have arrested 4 persons in connection with the incidents of theft. Additional SP Crime Sandeep Mittal has given information about the matter in a press conference. According to the information received from the police, 4 persons including Raju Sikka were carrying out incidents of theft from marriage programs and empty houses. More than 20 theft cases are registered against Raju Sikka so far. Raju Sikka had allegedly committed theft of jewelry and cash worth lakhs of rupees in an empty house located at Laxmi Nagar Jhanda Chowk. In this incident, he had allegedly used a stolen Activa (CG/04/PR/9928), the report of which was lodged in the Civil Line police station.

Sai meets society heads, seeks support for Saroj

Central Chronicle News

With just four days left for polling in 3rd phase of Lok Sabha elections, Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai is on a stormy election campaign.

RAIPUR: Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai had a long discussion with more than fifty society heads in Korba today. Sai told all the prominent people that the people of Korba were

fortunate to have got a capable candidate like Saroj Pandey. He called Saroj Pandey a lioness. While discussing the ten years of work of PM Modi with the society heads, he expressed the need of the country to make him the Prime Minister again. PM Modi has always been concerned about the progress of every society, he said. He said that Chhattisgarh government took decisions in public interest in minimum time and this pace of quick decisions will continue.

68 EVMs dispatched to NIT for training

Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: The preparations for the May 7 elections in the Raipur district for Lok Sabha (LS) polls 2024 have now gained momentum. The government officers and employees on election duty would be imparted two-day training in NIT Raipur. A total of 68 EVMs to be used in the training to officers and employees who are going to work in the polling centre were dispatched in a truck amidst tight police security in the morning today. The training will be organized for two days till Saturday.

Rly admn makes misting system operational at station

Central Chronicle News

In order to provide relief to passengers from scorching heat railway administration has made misting system operational.

RAIPUR: The Divisional Railway Administration is making effort to provide better weather-appropriate passenger facilities to the passengers at Raipur station. To this end the facility of misting machine



Misting system installed at Raipur station becomes operational.

FASTFACTS

- Misting machine installed in Platform 01, Platform 02 - 03, Platform 05- 06 of Raipur station.

installed in Platform 01, Platform 02 - 03, Platform 05- 06 of Raipur station has been made operational. Misting system will provide relief from heat to the passengers besides creating a cool environment in the platforms of the stations during summer days.

CONFERENCE

India moving ahead to regain its lost glory and pride

Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: 'The history of India has been very glorious and powerful. The culture and civilization here has been unimaginable in the world. Our country has always been a giver to the world, never a taker. Since ancient times, we have given a lot to the world, like medicine, mathematics, science, Vedas, Puranas, culture and ethics. There is nothing that

India has not given to the world' Deputy Chief Minister Arun Sao said in an intellectual conference organized by BJP in the auditorium of Maharaja Agrasen College located in Samta Colony, Raipur on Thursday. He, however, said that at one time India had to suffer the slavery of the Mughals and the British. 'During this period, a feeling of inferiority and self-consciousness was filled in the minds of all of us.



Lord Macaulay's education policy is an example of this. Due to this, India's respect in the world gradually started decreasing', he said. According to him Country's progress stopped due to political selfishness. But BJP and Modi took the country forward with a vision of developed India, he said. According to Sao today Modi ji has a stable and strong government, a government which has the power to take tough and

big decisions. In these last 10 years, India is moving forward at a fast pace to regain its lost glory and pride and because of this India's respect has increased in the world today, he said. India is the largest and oldest democratic country in the world. But with the aim of winning the elections, the political parties did not work towards taking the country forward by creating a far-reaching vision, he said.

APPOINTMENT Central Chronicle

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"Cast your vote and encourage others to make their valuable contribution in nation building"

Richa Prakash Chaudhary
Collector, Durg

Tackle heat wave situation on the day of polling: Collector

Collector reviewed LS preparations and directs to complete all arrangements before voting.

Central Chronicle News

BHILAI: On Friday, Collector and District Election Officer Richa Prakash Chaudhary chaired a review meeting regarding the preparations for the Lok Sabha elections at the meeting hall of the Public Works Department. She reviewed all the important preparations related to election activities including the status of polling stations, route chart, issuance of postal ballot for police and security personnel, webcasting, etc.

While reviewing the status of basic facilities in the polling stations, the Collector gave instructions to ensure all the necessary facilities in all the polling stations. She added that the Election Commission of India has given special instructions in view of the possibility of heat wave on the day of polling (May 07). She asked all the sector officers to inspect the booths and instructed to make all the necessary arrangements including pure drinking water, cold water in earthen pots, glasses, mugs, shade, chairs, benches, coolers, fans, etc. In view of the summer season, drinking



Collector addressing the AROs and SOs during review meeting.

water should be available in sufficient quantities.

She added that the voting percentage in the assembly elections was low but at some places, long queues were seen. Reserve teams should be used at the places where long queues were formed during the assembly elections. All Sector Officers and Assistant Returning Officers should take special care that voters do not face any kind of problem and make preparations as per ECI instructions and the statutory provisions.

Wheel chair facility at all polling stations to enable PwDs, elderly

Collector Richa Prakash Chaudhary instructed to keep wheelchairs in all the polling stations to enable PwDs and elderly voters to reach the polling stations. She also spoke about ensuring the presence of volunteers in the polling stations to assist the voters and the elderly. The Collector said that the officials should take

HIGHLIGHT

- Polling booths to have drinking water, shade, chairs, coolers, etc
- EVMs to be transported in GPS equipped vehicles

special care that women having small children, PwDs and senior citizens

should not have to stand in long queues. Arrangements of chairs should be made for voters to sit in polling stations. In the meeting, the Collector reviewed the arrangements made for distribution and return of voting material. She directed the officials to ensure necessary arrangements at Government Polytechnic College.

Police apprehends five members of Pardhi gang

Central Chronicle News

One of the accused was hired by the villagers to scare monkeys. He identified the targets after which the gang committed the crime.

BHILAI: Police arrested five members of the Pardhi gang on charges of robbery. One of the accused is at large. ASP Vedavrat Sirmaur informed that four ruffians trespassed into the house of Baishakhin Sahu in village Pendri (Dhamdha PS), overpowered her and robbed Rs 10000 cash and jewellery from her on the intervening night of March 29. An FIR was lodged under section 457, 394 of IPC at Dhamdha Police Station and taken up for investigation.

Police team carefully inspected the crime scene

and collected CCTV footage of nearby places. As such incidents are often carried out by the Pardhi Gang, Police searched for the presence of any suspect nearby. Soon it was discovered that the villagers had hired a Pardhi man to scare monkeys. The locals informed that he was spending lavishly for the past few days. The suspect Chunu Pardhi was taken into custody and during interrogation; he confessed involvement in the robbery.

While working in the village, he found that the house of Baisakhin Sahu was located on the corner and she used to wear gold and silver jewellery. Chunu gave information about her to his brother-in-law Manglu. Thereafter, Manglu accompanied by Kishan, Durgesh, Pintu, Jitendra and Chunu committed robbery on the intervening night of March 29.

Cash and valuables worth Rs 7.59 crore

BHILAI: As per the ECI instructions, the enforcement agencies including Police, Income Tax Department, Central / State GST, Excise and Railway Police are working to stop illegal election expenditure in Durg. Apart from this, 66 flying squads and 66 static surveillance teams are also deployed. Deputy District Election Officer Bajrang Dubey informed that after the announcement of elections on March 16, nine teams of FSTs are working in three shifts in each assembly. Each team has 1 magistrate, 1 police officer, 1 assistant and 1 videographer. 22 check posts have been identified for 66 static surveillance teams. They are working from April 12. A total of Rs 3,76,10,000/- (Rs 3 crore seventy-six lakh ten thousand) in cash as well as liquor, intoxicants, precious jewelry etc worth Rs 3,83,15,000/-.

Friendly volleyball match played for Voter Awareness

| VOTER AWARENESS |

Central Chronicle News

Friendly match was played to encourage people to strengthen democracy by massive participation in general elections through voting.

BHILAI: District Administration, Bhilai Municipal Corporation in association with Bhilai Steel Plant organized a Friendly Floodlight Volleyball Match for voter awareness. Volleyball teams of District Administration and BSP, comprising of both male and female players played a friendly match to encourage people, especially youngsters, to strengthen Democracy by massive participation through voting in the General Election.

District Administration Team won the friendly match. General



General Observer and Collector getting introduction with players.

FASTFACTS

- District Administration Team won the friendly match
- General Observer and Collector also play volleyball to encourage people

Observer Shrikesh Latkar and Collector Richa Prakash Choudhary also played volleyball for a while with the players, to encourage people to step ahead to vote and strengthen democracy.

Pawan Kumar, ED (P&A), stated that we have aimed to motivate every individual at our Plant and township to step out of their houses,

and cast their valuable vote at the Lok Sabha Elections 2024. Several voting awareness activities including Cultural Evening, Voting Awareness Cycle Rally, and Marathon are also being conducted to spread voter awareness. We are motivating the BSP Collective to ensure a hundred percent voting on May 07, because every vote matters, he said.

"Adopt preventive practices to safeguard from Cyber frauds and other Cybercrimes, especially related to unknown lucrative online offers"

Hemprakash Nayak
DSP (Crime and Cyber
Cell-Durg)

ing emails, etc. Necessary procedural information on lodging Cyber Crime complaints, Toll-free Nos., and using Cyber Prahari: an online awareness website for raising awareness about cyber frauds was also provided at the Workshop. During the interactive session, the attendees also asked questions on cyber fraud and shared their experiences, which were resolved by the Cyber Security Expert.

| PRACTICAL ASPECTS OF CYBER SECURITY |

Workshop on Cyber Security marks Materials Mgmt Day-2024 at BSP

Central Chronicle News

BHILAI: The Material Management Department of SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant, in association with the Indian Institute of Material Management (IIMM), Bhilai Branch organized a workshop on Cyber Security on Materials Management Day-2024, and IIMM Foundation Day recently.

Chief Guest, Ajoy Kumar Chakraborty, ED (MM), inaugurated the

Programme, in the presence of Tapan Kumar, CGM (MM), Mahendra Kumar Kulkarni, Chairman (IIMM-Bhilai Branch), Hemprakash Nayak, Deputy Superintendent of Police (Crime and Cyber Cell-Durg), and other Senior Officials.

Chief Guest, spoke on the significance of Material Management System as a focused core supply chain function and shared insights on



supply chain planning and supply chain execution capabilities. MK Kulkarni, Chairman (IIM-

M-Bhilai Branch), shared the journey of evolution of the IIMM, Bhilai Branch.

Keynote Speaker of the Cyber Security Workshop Hemprakash Nayak, DSP (Crime and Cyber Cell-Durg) shared insights on the practical aspects of Cyber Security in our day-to-day lives and spoke on several preventive practices to safeguard from Cyber frauds and other Cybercrimes, especially related to unknown lucrative online offers, fraud Customer Care calls, fake social media accounts, Phish-

BETTING

Newai Police arrests Satta Bookie



BHILAI: Newai Police Station team nabbed a person on charges of accepting bets on the banned Satta - Patti. Betting record slips and Rs 2650 cash was seized from the possession of the accused. City Superintendent of Police (Bhilai) Satyaprakash Tiwari informed that they are conducting an operation against people involved in online and off-line betting. In this sequel, Newai Police Station received a tip off regarding a bookie who was accepting bets at Newai Bhatha Kajal Chowk. Police team swung into action and conducted a raid. The accused Lochan Kumar Banjare (23) son of Ramsai Banjare, a resident of Kajal Chowk, Newai Bhatha was arrested red handed while accepting bets on Satta Patti.

SMUGGLING

Excise Dept nabs bootlegger involved in smuggling

BHILAI: As per the instructions of Collector Richa Prakash Chaudhary, the Excise Department is continuously taking action against the people involved in smuggling and peddling of illicit liquor. Assistant Commissioner (Excise) Rajesh Jaiswal informed that they are taking action to control and prevent the sale of illegal liquor in the district in view of the Lok Sabha elections 2024. In this sequel, the Excise Team nabbed a bootlegger during night patrolling on May 01. 54 quarters of liquor (Sholay brand) were seized from the possession of accused Jhalwa Kosre at Nandini - Semaria road under Dhamdha circle.

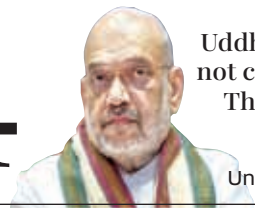
CRIME

Youth held on charges liquor smuggling



BHILAI: Police arrested a youth on charges of liquor smuggling. He was caught during a routine vehicle checking at Newai. City Superintendent of Police (Bhilai) Satyaprakash Tiwari informed that in view of general elections, vehicle checking is being conducted on all the main roads. The local police had received a tip off regarding a youth who was smuggling liquor in the dickey of a motorcycle bearing registration number CG07 CP 0469. During the routine vehicle checking, cops spotted the bike bearing registration number CG07 CP 0469 and rounded up the biker.

Battle'24



Uddhav Thackeray can not claim his father Bal Thackeray's legacy
Amit Shah,
Union Home Minister

Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

ODISHA BJP names Santosh Khatua for Nilgiri assembly seat

BHUBANESWAR: The BJP on Friday named Santosh Khatua as its candidate for Nilgiri assembly seat in Odisha's Balasore district, thus completing the process of announcing nominees for the simultaneous elections in the state. The Lok Sabha and assembly polls will be held in the state from May 13 to June 1. Khatua had on Thursday resigned from the BJD after being denied a party ticket from Nilgiri seat. He joined the BJP and was nominated by the saffron party. In the 2019 polls, Khatua had contested from the seat as a BJD candidate but lost to BJP's Sukant Nayak. Nayak, on the other hand, joined the BJD on March 31 and has been nominated by the regional party for the Nilgiri seat. Nayak had won the Nilgiri seat twice, in 2014 and 2019. In 2014, he had contested as a BJD candidate and in 2019, he fought on the BJP's symbol and defeated Khatua by a margin of 1,577 votes.

NOMINATION Karan Bhushan Singh files nomination



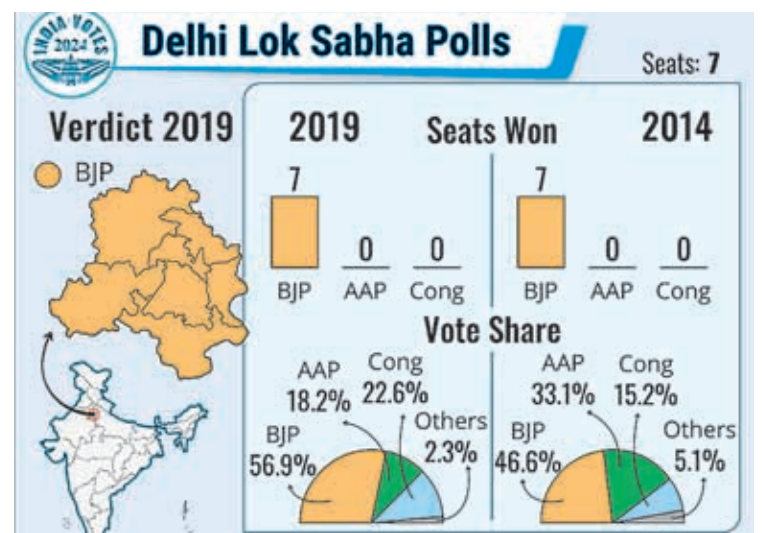
BAHRAICH: Karan Bhushan Singh, son of BJP MP Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh and party candidate from Kaiserganj constituency, filed his nomination papers for Lok Sabha elections, in Kaiserganj of Bahraich district on Friday. The party replaced Brij Bhushan Singh, who faces criminal charges of sexually harassing women wrestlers, with his son from the seat. This will be Karan Bhushan Singh's first political battle. Born on December 13, 1990, Karan Singh is a law graduate and was elected the chairman of the Uttar Pradesh wrestling federation last year.

Uddhav running 'nakli' Shiv Sena Real party lies with Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, says Amit Shah



RATNAGIRI: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday hit out at Shiv Sena (UBT) president Uddhav Thackeray, saying that he is running 'nakli' (fake) Shiv Sena and that the real party lies with Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde. Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday said "fake Shiv Sena chief" Uddhav Thackeray can not claim his father Bal Thackeray's legacy which lies with Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and former Sena leaders Raj Thackeray and Narayan Rane.

Addressing a rally at Ratnagiri in Maharashtra to campaign for his cabinet colleague Narayan Rane, who is contesting the election from the Ratnagiri-Sindhudurg Lok Sabha constituency, Shah said making Narendra Modi the prime minister once again means making the country secure. "Uddhav Thackeray is running 'nakli' (fake) Shiv Sena, real Shiv Sena is with Eknath Shinde," Shah said. He said Thackeray should clarify whether he wants the CM post or the Congress and NCP that defended Article 370.



CHALLENGE Modi must release 'White Paper' on funds released by Centre to under PMAY

NANOOOR: Trinamool Congress leader Abhishek Banerjee on Friday urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to release a 'White Paper' detailing the funds allocated by the Centre to West Bengal under the 'PM Awas Yojana' over the past three to four years. Banerjee said if Modi could prove that his government has provided a single penny to Bengal for the scheme, he would cease campaigning for party candidates in the ongoing Lok Sabha election. "The central government has conspired not to release funds for the people of Bengal. I would urge the PM that instead of giving lectures, he must release a 'White Paper' detailing the funds disbursed to the people of Bengal for the Awas Yojana," Banerjee said while speaking at an election rally in support of party candidate Asit Pal.

NOMINATION FILED Jailed separatist leader's brother files nomination from Baramulla

BARAMULLA: Jailed separatist leader Nayeem Khan's brother, Munir Khan, on Friday filed his nomination papers from Jammu and Kashmir's Baramulla Lok Sabha constituency, which is going to polls in the fifth phase on May 20. Nayeem Khan was arrested on July 24, 2017 in a terror-related case. He headed the Jammu Kashmir National Front, which was banned by the government under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act. Munir Khan, who is a part of the Jammu Kashmir Nationalist People's Front Party, launched two years ago, filed the nomination papers before Baramulla Deputy Commissioner Minga Sherpa, the returning officer of the constituency. Former J&K chief minister and National Conference VP Omar Abdullah, People's Conference president and separatist-turned-mainstream-politician Sajad Lone, former RS MP and PDP leader Mir Fayaz and former MLA SA Rashid, who is currently in jail, have also filed nominations from the seat.



Rahul Gandhi along with party leaders Sonia Gandhi, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and Robert Vadra, during a 'puja' after filing his nomination for Lok Sabha elections.

LDF, BJP in Kerala criticise Rahul nomination from Rae Bareilly

Congress leader cheated the people of Wayanad where he contested the general election on April 26

Press Trust Of India

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: The CPI(M)-led Left Democratic Front and the BJP in Kerala lashed out at Rahul Gandhi on Friday for filing his nomination from Rae Bareilly in Uttar Pradesh for the Lok Sabha polls. They alleged that the Congress leader cheated the people of Wayanad in Kerala, where he contested the general election on April 26, and said that fighting polls from another seat "does not align with political morality". Gandhi, the sitting MP of

Wayanad, today filed his nomination papers from Rae Bareilly.

The Congress, however, justified the decision, saying that contesting from Rae Bareilly was an emotional matter for him as it had been represented by his grandmother Indira Gandhi and later by his mother Sonia Gandhi.

"The party had entrusted the decision on Amethi and Rae Bareilly seats with the Congress president. After discussing with the senior leadership the party asked Rahul Gandhi to con-

HIGHLIGHT

● Fighting polls from another seat "does not align with political morality"

● Rahul Gandhi has done injustice to the people of the constituency

test in Rae Bareilly and he agreed," said AICC general secretary in-charge of Organisation, K C Venugopal.

He also added that if Rahul wins both seats, the decision to retain one seat will be taken

accordingly.

However, senior CPI leader and the Left candidate from Wayanad, Annie Raja, told the media that Rahul Gandhi has done injustice to the people of the constituency. Meanwhile, senior leader of the Indian Union Muslim League (IUML), a major ally of the Congress in Kerala, PK Kunhalikutty supported the decision of Gandhi and said this was not the first time a politician was contesting from two seats. The IUML leader asked the Left to refrain from criticising

the decision and claimed that Rahul's candidature in Rae Bareilly will increase the chances of the INDIA bloc parties winning the polls.

BJP state chief K Surendran said Rahul fooled the people of Wayanad constituency. Surendran, who was also the NDA's Wayanad candidate in the recently concluded polls in Kerala, said the "double standards" of Rahul Gandhi were exposed today. The BJP leader also said that the decision to contest from Rae Bareilly instead of Amethi "shows his cowardice."

MP Congress chief Jitu expresses regret

BHOPAL: Madhya Pradesh Congress chief Jitu Patwari on Friday expressed regret after his alleged derogatory remarks about state BJP leader Imarti Devi sparked a controversy, prompting criticism from Union minister Jyotiraditya Scindia. It started after an audio clip went viral on social media in which a woman can be heard supporting the Congress candidates from the Bhind and Gwalior Lok Sabha seats, with the claim that the voice was of Imarti Devi, a former MLA from Dabra in Gwalior district. Imarti Devi, however, denied that it was her voice in the audio clip and termed it a conspiracy. Asked about the piece of audio and the ex-MLA's denial, Patwari allegedly made some offensive remarks using wordplay with the term 'imarti', a popular sweet.

Mamata lashes out at governor for 'misconduct' against woman

BANERJEE QUESTIONED WHY PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA MODI, WHO VISITED RAJ BHAVAN LAST NIGHT, REMAINED SILENT ON THE ISSUE



Mamta Banerjee Addressing an election rally in Purba Bardhaman.

KOLKATA: West Bengal Chief Minister and Trinamool Congress leader Mamata Banerjee on Friday strongly criticised Governor C V Ananda Bose for his alleged misconduct towards a woman employee of Raj Bhavan, which came to light yesterday evening. Addressing an election rally in Purba Bardhaman, Banerjee expressed astonishment at the governor's behaviour towards the woman who

FACTFILE

● TMC leaders claimed that the woman had lodged a police complaint

had gone to Raj Bhavan looking for a job. Banerjee questioned why Prime Minister Narendra Modi,

who visited Raj Bhavan last night, remained silent on the issue. And these are the people who talk about the dignity of our mothers and sisters?" Banerjee said.

"You (PM) are doing so much drama on Sandeshkhali. We had taken necessary action the moment we found some aberrations. But you spent the entire night at Raj Bhavan even after the allegations by the hapless woman came to light. Why are you silent?" she asked at a second rally at Purbasthali in Purba Bardhaman district.

Bose on Thursday said he will not be cowed down by "engineered narratives" and the "truth shall triumph", hours after TMC leaders claimed that the woman had lodged a police complaint against the governor for molestation.

Banerjee also criticised the Election Commission for transferring around 1,500 police officers from West Bengal to other states for election duties, without reciprocal assistance from other states.

CRASH LANDING

Helicopter scheduled to pick Sena (UBT) leader tilts

Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI: The pilot of a private helicopter scheduled to pick up a Shiv Sena (UBT) leader was injured after it tilted during landing in Maharashtra's Raigad district on Friday, a police official said.

The chopper was to ferry Sushma Andhare of Sena (UBT) for a public rally in connection with

the ongoing Lok Sabha polls, he said.

The helicopter got tilted when the pilot tried to land on a makeshift helipad at Mahad around 9.30 am, said Raigad Superintendent of Police Somnath Garge. Prima facie, the helicopter got enveloped by a lot of dust when it was about to touch the ground which might have caused the accident, the official

Helicopter got tilted when the pilot tried to land on a makeshift helipad

Somnath Garge
SP, RAIGAD



said. The rotor blades were broken and the chopper was partially damaged, he said. The pilot was injured and rushed to the hospital, the official said.

Andhare was in Mahad for an election rally of Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) candidate Anant Gite, nominated by the Sena (UBT) from the Raigad Lok Sabha constituency, he said.

All ROs, nodal officers were directed to ensure peaceful LS polls

Ajit Vasant
Collector Korba



Chhattisgarh



One-day workshop was organized in Delhi on the topic of adhering to Indian traditions in convocations held in universities and institutions.

'We must embrace Indianness in its entirety'

Presentations were given by the chancellors and directors of 14 higher educational institutions in various technical sessions

Central Chronicle News

BILASPUR: Vice-Chancellor of Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya (a Central University) and coordinator of the workshop, Prof. Alok Kumar Chakrawal, emphasized upon the necessity of embracing Indianness in its entirety on May 3 in Delhi, during the inaugural session of a one-day workshop organized on the topic of adhering to Indian traditions in convocations held in universities and institutions.

Addressing the workshop organized jointly by the All India Council for Technical Education, New Delhi, the Sanskriti Shiksha Uthan Nyas, New Delhi, and the Association of Indian Universities, New Delhi, Prof. Alok Kumar Chakrawal emphasized that since education is a

liberating force, there is a need to acquaint students with India's glorious and prestigious knowledge tradition. Through this workshop, efforts are being made to bring Indian attires in their entirety into convocation ceremonies. The convocation ceremony is a significant moment in a student's life, and it is our responsibility to make it memorable. Dr. Atul Kothari, National Secretary, Sanskriti Shiksha Uthan Nyas, New Delhi, said that the National Education Policy 2020 aims to build citizens who are inherently Indian in thought, intellect, and behaviour. The explanation of the term 'convocation' is necessary because life derives its form from the meanings of words, their essence, and feelings. Dr Kothari appreciated the fact that various

HIGHLIGHT

- One-day workshop organized on the topic of adhering to Indian traditions in convocations held in universities and institutions

- Prof. T.G. Sitaram, President, AICTE, Delhi, stressed the necessity of Indian identity for unity and uniqueness

policy-making individuals from different higher education institutions are present at this workshop, enabling creative thinking on convocations and the related processes. He suggested creation of a book at the end of the workshop that provides an ideal format for all institutions.

Prof. T.G. Sitaram, President, All India Council for

Technical Education, New Delhi, stressed the necessity of Indian identity for unity and uniqueness during convocation ceremonies. The life of Lord Rama reinstates Indian tradition. We must pay attention to arrangements while keeping the number of female students in mind. Indian traditions should also be incorporated into the educational process alongside Indianness and Indian identity during convocations. Prof. Pankaj Mittal, Secretary-General, Association of Indian Universities, emphasized upon the inclusion of Indian qualities in education. She said that not only during convocation ceremonies but also in daily life, Indianness needs to be incorporated. She suggested that a coffee table book could be created to pro-

vide information about the attire worn during convocation ceremonies held at various universities.

Dr. Abhay Jere, Vice-President, AICTE, New Delhi, stated that convocation ceremonies should go beyond the protocol and be associated with traditions so that students can communicate cultural customs and exemplary behaviors in line with India's civilized values. Indian tradition should be applied in all aspects of university life. The planning of convocation ceremonies should be done in such a way that it helps connect students and alumni with their respective universities.

Presentations were given by the chancellors and directors of 14 higher educational institutions in various technical sessions.

Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

SCHEMES REVIEW

Collector takes stock of Developmental Schemes in rural areas

BIJAPUR: As per the instructions of Collector Anurag Pandey, the concerned district officials are taking stock of the development works and in this sequence, Deputy Collector Uttam Singh Panchari inspected the social buildings under construction and gave necessary instructions to the engineer. Whereas Assistant Commissioner Tribal Development Department Mr. K.S.Mashram also informed about the under construction building of Ekalavya Model Residential School Rudraram, and after inspecting the residential school Dugaiguda and Kanya Ashram building Dudheda, the concerned officials also gave necessary guidelines. The Collector has given instructions to pay special attention to time limit and quality, during construction of government aided buildings in the region.

INSPECTION

Observer PS Meena inspects polling stations of Pali



KORBA: General Observer IAS appointed by the Election Commission of India for Korba district, Prem Singh Meena here inspected various polling stations of Korba assembly constituency under Lok Sabha Elections 2024 and observed the facilities and necessary arrangements of the polling stations. SDM Ms. Ruchi Sharadul and concerned booth label officers were present.

Menace of sand mining MLA gives instructions to take strict action against sand mafia



RAJIM: Regional MLA Rohit Sahu has called for strict action against alleged sand excavators, and has instructed the officials to curb the menace of sand mining with stern steps. The MLA also instructed the officials to curb hooliganism going on in the name of sand excavation and told the Mineral Officers of the district that Illegal excavation of sand using chain mounting will not be tolerated under any circumstances.

He reprimanded the officials and said that both raid and action taking should be done without chaos and

apart from this, illegal liquor, ganja and gambling prevalent in the area should also be curbed.

He further said that the business of illegal liquor, gambling and betting is booming in many villages of the assembly constituency, in which many criminal elements are involved, which should be stopped at once. He also said that due to the Model Code of Conduct for Lok Sabha elections, the morale of illegal businessmen is high and by running a campaign and taking strict action, such activities will be curbed soon.

Necessary preparations for LS polls in Korba dist

KORBA: Necessary preparations for conducting voting in Korba district under Lok Sabha Elections 2024 have almost been completed. Materials will be distributed to polling parties on 06 May and since this year the material will be distributed to the polling parties of Katghora and Pali-Tanakhar assembly constituencies from Government Mukutdhar College, Katghora, in view of this, on May 04, it will be shifted from the strong room of IT College to the temporary strong room of Mukutdhar College, Katghora. After this, the machines will be distributed to the polling centres on May 6. After the completion of voting, on May 07, the voting material will be given to the temporary strong room of Mukutdhar College.

Tension prevails in Dudhkaiya as culprits are still at large

| SHIVA TEMPLE VANDALISM |

Situation remained tense in Village Dudhkaiya, as accuse of the Shiva Temple vandalism remained out of reach, 36 hours after the incident

RAJIM: Situation remained tense in Village Dudhkaiya, as accuse of the Shiva Temple vandalism remained out of reach, 36 hours after the incident. The villagers are continuously demanding to arrest the culprits and a peace committee meeting with officers and villagers was solemnised, in which SDM Arpita Pathak, Tehsildar, Additional SP, TI, village Patel



Bajrang Dal member burnt an effigy at the Pt Sunderlal Sharma Chowk

FACTFILE

- In the meeting, the villagers uniformly demanded both peace and justice in the village

Lakhan Lal Sahu, village development committee members were present in large numbers. Additionally police force has also been deployed to keep

the situation under control.

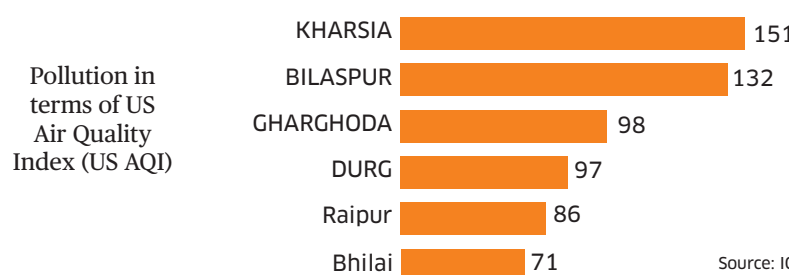
In the meeting, the villagers uniformly demanded both peace and justice in the village and described the act as heinous, demanding stringent punishment for the miscreants. Meanwhile members of Bajrang Dal also reached the village and staged their protest and

an effigy was burnt by the members at the Pandit Sunderlal Sharma Chowk bus stand of the city. Also, Vishwa Hindu Parishad reached Gariaband and submitted a memorandum to District Collector Deepak Agrawal.

MLA Rohit Sahu speaking on the incident said that an attempt has been made by some people to attack the Hindu Sanatan culture, about which the villagers have informed the administration and action will be taken soon. Such incidents are extremely condemnable

The Day's NUMBERS

WHAT ARE THE TOP FIVE MOST POLLUTED CITIES IN CH'GARH?



TRAINING TO MICRO OBSERVERS |

'Discharge your responsibilities without doubt'

Central Chronicle News

KORBA: The second phase of training was given to officials and micro observers appointed for the safe conduct of the Lok Sabha elections 2024, under the chairmanship of General Observer Prem Singh Meena. In the training, detailed information was given about the election work and they were

Micro-observers were instructed to discharge their responsibilities sincerely:

Prem Singh Meena
General Observer, Korba LS



instructed to discharge their responsibilities sincerely for the smooth conduct of the election work.

Chief Executive Officer District Panchayat Sambit Mishra, Municipal Commissioner Pratishta Mangai, Joint Collector Manoj Kumar Banjare, Master Trainer Dr. M.M. Joshi and other officers, employees and micro observers were present.

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5000 lives in turmoil amid crusher mine chaos

Nightly blast and incessant noise from blasting activities have become the harsh realities of daily life.

Central Chronicle News

KHAIRAGARH: The rural heartlands of Khairagarh continue to grapple with a pressing issue as the devastating impact of crusher mines persists, leaving a population of 5000 in dire straits. Despite fervent appeals and widespread concern, the Mineral Department remains under fire for what many perceive as mere lip service in the face of mounting adversity.

In the blocks of Kalkasa, Tekapar, Baldevpur, Salhebhari, and Juralakala, the situation remains bleak as stone mines continue to operate with reckless abandon, plunging residents into a state of perpetual fear and uncertainty. Nightly blast and incessant noise from blasting activities have become the harsh realities of daily life, prompting calls for urgent intervention.

While promises of departmental action echo through the corridors of power, the ground reality paints a starkly different picture. Residents lament the lack of tangible progress, accusing officials of turning a blind eye to the rampant illegal excavation and encroachment on government land by crusher operators.



Digging and crushing in crusher mines in many blocks of Khairagarh continue unabated.

Despite repeated assurances, little has been done to address the root causes of the crisis. Villagers, disillusioned by years of neglect, lament the absence of meaningful change and accountability within the system. They recount tales of cracked homes and shattered dreams, a poignant reminder of the toll exacted by unchecked exploitation of natural resources.

tion and encroachment on government land by crusher operators.

While promises of departmental action echo through the corridors of power, the ground reality paints a starkly different picture. Residents lament the lack of tangible progress, accusing officials of turning a blind eye to the rampant illegal excavation

Rural mining chaos: Regulations ignored, villages face fallout

In Kalkasa, Dapka, Baldevpur, Juralakala, Ghotiya, crusher operators have egregiously exceeded stone excavation limits, flouting regulations with impunity. Despite this, the Mineral Department remains inactive, failing in its duty to enforce compliance. Recent changes in leasing rules exacerbate

HIGHLIGHT

● Crusher operators in Kalkasa, Dapka, Baldevpur, Juralakala, Ghotiya flout regulations, with Mineral Department's negligence worsening the situation.

● Illegal stone excavation exceeds permitted area fourfold, with government land also targeted, exposing widespread rule flouting.

the situation, extending leases from five to thirty years. This means communities are trapped in the aftermath of uncontrolled mining until at least 2048. With no respite in sight, residents face ongoing environmental degradation and social disruption, underscoring the urgent need for intervention.

Illegal sand mining going on in full swing; villagers troubled

Central Chronicle News

The situation in Fingeshwar is particularly alarming, with relentless illegal sand mining operations conducted round the clock.

FINGESHWAR: In response to widespread reports of illegal sand mining, the Mineral Department has initiated formal actions, sparking a wave of public concern and outcry. The department's recent seizure of 2-4 Hywa vehicles involved in illegal transportation is perceived as a mere token gesture in the face of rampant excavation and transportation activities that continue unchecked, day and night, throughout the region.

The situation in Fingeshwar is particularly alarming, with relentless illegal sand mining operations conducted round the clock. Despite the ostensible crackdown, hundreds of trucks remain stationed at sand mines, waiting to load their illicit cargo, casting doubt on the effectiveness of the government's efforts.

The issue has gained significant traction in the media, both traditional and social, highlighting the urgent need for decisive action from the authorities. Reports of corruption within the

sand mining industry have further fueled public outrage, leading to accusations of collusion between the sand mafia and powerful political figures.

Concerns have been raised regarding the reluctance of senior district officers to address the issue, amid allegations of pressure from influential politicians. The failure to curb the activities of the sand mafia syndicate not only undermines the

FASTFACTS

● Illegal mining and transportation activities, along with corruption, are becoming public.

● Concerns have been raised regarding the reluctance of senior district officers to address the issue.

rule of law but also erodes public trust in the government's ability to uphold justice.

The problem extends beyond Fingeshwar, with illegal excavation and transportation activities reported in neighboring areas such as Gariaband, Mainpur, and Devbhog. The apparent inaction of authorities in the face of such widespread criminal activity underscores the gravity of the situation.

NEWSLINE

CAMPAIGNING

Marpacchi is amplifying support for Saroj Pandey



MARWAHI: Marwahi MLA Pranav Marpacchi is continuously visiting various villages of Marwahi and campaigning in favor of BJP candidate Saroj Pandey in Korba Lok Sabha.

Marwahi MLA Pranav Marpacchi is going from village to village of Marwahi Assembly asking for votes in favor of Saroj Pandey and telling about the achievements of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government.

MLA Pranav went to village Shivni, Devgawan of Marwahi assembly and met the villagers and said that we have got Saroj Pandey ji as a candidate, who is a big leader of Bharatiya Janata Party and whose name is also recorded in the Guinness Book of World Records.

BLOSSOMING BEAUTY

The irresistible charm of Dhanbaher's clustered flowers



PANDARIA: The flowers 'Palash' on the Amaltas tree is now coming in full bloom, in the forest areas including the city. As the heat reaches its peak, yellow bush-like flowers have emerged in the plants of Amaltas. The yellow clustered chandelier-like flowers of Amaltas look very beautiful, that are attracting people in huge numbers. Amaltas is found more in the forest area of Pandariya. Baiga tribals know it by the name of Keedora. The community also uses it to decorate their wedding pavilions. Its flowers are also used to make different dishes. It is also known as Dhanbaher. The height of the Amaltas tree ranges from 4 to 14 feet. Amaltas also has Ayurvedic importance. Its leaves, flowers, fruits, seeds and bark are also useful.

AWARENESS

Voting awareness created by Shri Ram Prabhat Pheri in Mungeli

MUNGELI: Shri Ram Prabhat Pheri Committee Mungeli is making voters aware every morning by visiting every village and street of Mungeli city under the campaign of 100% voting in Mungeli district to get full participation in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections. The aim of this pheri is to motivate rural women, elders and soldiers of village Lalakapa to vote by giving them voter awareness songs and slogans. Another aim is to motivate people to vote by telling voters about their rights and taking an oath and pledge to vote.

'Necessary facilities should be ensured in polling stations'

Central Chronicle News

Keeping in mind the summer season, instructions were given to provide health facilities for first aid at every polling station.

KOREA: Regarding Lok Sabha Elections 2024, Collector and District Election Officer Vinay Kumar Langeh held a meeting of the officials and gave instructions to ensure necessary facilities at the polling stations.

In the meeting, Collector Langeh asked the Chief Medical and Health Officer to provide necessary medicines, glucose, ORS solution etc. to every polling station for first aid and relief from common diseases caused by insects and heat, keeping in mind the summer season. Along with this,

instructions were given to ensure the presence of 1 departmental staff, field officers-employees and ambulances to ensure quick treatment during emergencies.

The Collector directed the Chief Executive Officer of the District Panchayat and the Chief Municipality Officer to provide all the basic facilities as well as pitchers, jugs, coolers, clean toilets for cool drinking water for the voters in all the polling stations to protect them from heat wave as per the instructions of the Election Commission of India.

In the meeting, Chief Executive Officer of District Panchayat Dr. Ashutosh Chaturvedi, Additional Collector Arun Kumar Markam, Deputy Collector Vinay Kumar Kashyap and Mr. Umesh Patle, Chief Medical and Health Officer along with others were present.

HTPS bids touching farewell to retirees

KORBA: A touching farewell was given by honoring the officers and employees who retired from Hasdev Thermal Power Station (HTPS) in the month of April 2024. From the plant, Superintendent Engineer Anil Kumar Bhavsar, Executive Engineer Chandrashekhar Baghel, Junior Engineer Lakhn Lal Patel, Senior Supervisors Saheb Lal Karsh, Gauri Nath Chatursh, Chautram Uike and Gopal Krishna Kanwar, Junior Supervisors Ram Gopal Gupta and Narayan Singh Kamal, Fireman Narendra Kumar Jharia and Plant Par. Category 2 Sheikh Karim retired after attaining the age of superannuation. In whose honor the function was organized at Erector Hostel, Korba West. On this occasion, retired employees were honored by the plant chief and special guests on the stage by presenting them with flower bouquets, citations and wrist watches.

SVEEP campaign promotes 100% voting awareness

EMPOWERING THE VOTE

Central Chronicle News

Voter awareness campaign chariot flagged off as part of SVEEP activity in Katghora.

KORBA: Under the guidance of Collector and District Election Officer Ajit Vasant, and with the direction of SVEEP Nodal Officer Sambit Mishra, CEO Chief Executive Officer of District Panchayat, during the Lok Sabha elections of 2024, awareness was raised among people, including youth, women, and men in urban and rural areas, through various programs such as street plays, rallies, slogans, essay competitions, speeches, mehendi competitions, and poster making, to educate voters about voting.

In this series, a voter



Voter awareness program was organized in the colony of special backward tribe Birhor community.

awareness program was organized by the officers and employees of District Panchayat Pali in the colony of special backward tribe Birhor community in Gram Panchayat Donganala where villagers including the people of Birhor community were administered the oath for voting. Similarly, in Gram Panchayat Pondi, Bhupendra Sonwani, CEO District Panchayat Pali, conducted a meeting regarding voter awareness of NRLM

cadre of 20 Gram Panchayats, in which it was told about voting and the villagers were administered an oath of 100 percent voting.

Voter awareness campaign was conducted by the officers and employees of District Panchayat Katghora during which the voter awareness campaign chariot was flagged off. Along with this, a voting awareness rally was taken out by the officers and employees of the Health Department,

FASTFACTS

● A voting awareness rally was taken out by the officers and employees of the Health Department

● CEO District Panchayat Pali, conducted a meeting regarding voter awareness of NRLM cadre of 20 Gram Panchayats

ment, taking the oath of compulsory voting and a message was given to the citizens to vote 100 percent in the Lok Sabha elections.

Last day, as part of the SVEEP program voter awareness campaign, doctors and employees of SECL Central Hospital Korba took the oath of 100 percent voting in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections.

DRINKING WATER PROBLEM

Tank Ornamentation: A stark contrast to dwindling drinking water reserves

MUNGELI: Amidst the scorching heat, villages are facing problems regarding drinking water. The tank built for drinking water in rural areas remains a showpiece. At many places, water is not reaching homes due to deficiencies in the system. The situation is such that people are wandering from village to village to get a drop of water.

Along with the scorching heat, the problem of drinking

water has started to arise in village Madanpur, 15 km away from the district headquarters. In the current situation, burning of pumps and technical faults are becoming the reasons. Under the Jal Jeevan Amrit Mission Scheme, water tanks and pipelines have been laid and made operational in many villages of the district such as Sheetalakunda, Khairwar, Bachhera, Palchua,



Limha, Chhatauna, Birgaon and Dhangaon Panchayat. There are water problems in vil-

lage Madanpur every year during the summer season. Despite this, the administration does not make any preparations in advance. Until people become worried about water, PHE department remains in deep sleep. People have to suffer the consequences of this. Anyway, the heat is in full swing during the summer months. People are facing water problem. Most of the hand pumps are sub-



Villagers said that the concerned department has been made aware of this problem but the result remained only a shade of cover

- Residents of Madanpur village.

mersible. Some people have captured the government hand pump. In rural areas, the tank built for drinking water remains a showpiece and even if the tank is running in some places, there is no fixed time limit for providing water. In such a situation, people are facing the problem of water. In the morning and evening, women, children and elderly people struggle to get fresh water.



QUOTE FROM THE QUOTABLE

I suppose leadership at one time meant muscles, but today it means getting along with people.
[Mahatma Gandhi.]

OUR VIEW |

India's Stand Against Chinese Border Encroachments

India has vocalized its unwavering opposition to China's construction activities in the Shaksgam Valley, situated in the sensitive region of Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) has vehemently condemned these actions as illegal attempts to tamper with ground realities. The stance adopted by India resonates with historical and legal assertions regarding the Shaksgam Valley. It is imperative to underscore that India steadfastly refutes the validity of the 1963 China-Pakistan agreement, which purportedly transferred control of the region to China. This steadfast refusal underscores India's principled stand on territorial integrity. Randhir Jaiswal, spokesperson for the MEA, emphasized India's sovereign rights over the Shaksgam Valley. The assertion of these rights is not merely a matter of rhetoric but a testament to India's commitment to safeguard its territorial boundaries. The MEA's declaration of intent to take necessary measures reflects the gravity of the situation and the resolve to protect national interests. The Shaksgam Valley issue is not an isolated concern but part of a broader pattern of Chinese encroachments along the Line of Actual Control (LAC). China's strategic maneuvers, as evidenced by incursions and military infrastructure development, pose a significant challenge to India's security paradigm. The international community has increasingly recognized the gravity of China's aggressive posturing along the border. Recent studies underscore the strategic calculus behind China's incursions, aimed at establishing a lasting presence in contested regions. India's response to these provocations is not only a defense of its own sovereignty but also a deterrent against unilateral alterations of the status quo. While the path to resolution may be protracted, India remains steadfast in its commitment to dialogue and diplomatic engagement. The forthcoming engagements signify a concerted effort to address these complex issues and uphold the principles of peaceful coexistence. The onus lies on the international community to uphold principles of justice and respect for established borders in the face of such provocations.

GUEST VIEW |

Press Freedom: Democracy's Essential Guardian

Press freedom, celebrated annually on May 3rd through "World Press Freedom Day," is pivotal in democratic societies, molding public opinion and fostering informed citizenry. In historical contexts where press independence faced daily threats, the steadfast integrity of newspaper owners and editors served as a bulwark against coercion. Upholding journalistic ethics ensures the dissemination of fair and unbiased information, a cornerstone of democracy. As Thomas Jefferson famously stated, he would opt for a free press even without a government, highlighting its indispensable role. While the press serves as democracy's watchdog, it also necessitates an engaged populace to hold it accountable.



Dr. Ganapathi Bhat

Journalists, equipped with both training and innate qualities, navigate the responsibility of providing accurate and insightful reporting. Despite continuous scrutiny, the press remains vital in safeguarding democratic principles, empowering citizens with the information required to make informed decisions and actively participate in civic life.

New words are continuously added to the political lexicon in India and one such and the latest being the frenemy politics. The Congress and Left parties are the ones who popularized the frenemy concept through their weird policy of friends in Bengal and enemies in Kerala. Ideologically, both Congress and Left, accept that there nothing common between them and their manifestos for the current Lok Sabha elections testifies that. Congress continues to abide by the bourgeois democratic system while the Left follows the diametrically opposite socialist agenda with a single party dominance as proscribed by Lenin-Mao. They are bitter enemies even during the pre-independence time and continues to be except during the formation of opportunistic alliance, this time to keep their bitter foe Right away from the power.

The Left is adept at defending its political moves, however wrong or disastrous they may, as they had a huge

media support. The liberal editors, columnists never questioned the Left collaborations without ideological cohesion. Intellectual silence on Left blunders, including its ideological compromises is stunning. This lack of scrutiny by liberal groups lead to the 'frenemy politics' of Left in India.

The Left has never grown out of their red pockets of Kerala, West Bengal and Tripura and it was with Congress they were proclaimed to be fighting, though there were reports of un-declared local understanding with both Congress and BJP at village levels. Having seen the Congress culture of opportunistic politics with the CPM, the firebrand Mamata Banerjee took the decision of leaving Congress, floating her own party to successfully throw the Left out in Bengal. Once out of power the Left parties declined so fast in that state that its vote share got reduced to 7% in 2021 assembly elections with out a single red flag holding member getting entry into assem-

bly. Tripura voter preferred BJP over the frenemy politics of Left.

The recent election campaign in Kerala exposed frenemy character of Left and Congress. Rahul Gandhi wondering why the Kerala CM Pinarayi Vijayan is not in jail along with Kejriwal and Hemant Soren though facing the same financial scandals and the CPM leaders questioning the genetic as well as intellectual credentials of Rahul Gandhi. The CPI on its part questioned the rationale of Rahul Gandhi's contest in Kerala's Waynad without challenging the BJP in North. That party doubted the sincerity of Congress in taking on BJP ideology. It is strange that despite such a bitter relation in the west coast state that Congress and CPM and other Left parties still stay in INDI alliance and Congress party entertain Left parties despite their bitter attack on Rahul Gandhi.

The current frenemy political arrangement of Left and Congress is the best example for the self-serving, negative



Dr. Duggaraju Srinivasa Rao

Author is a Retired Professor and contributes on the Politics and Environment.

Collapse of earth's magnetic field may made life complex

Discoveries suggest Earth's magnetic field collapse over 500 million years ago could have spurred the complexity and diversity of life. by *Press Trust of India.*



Weakening magnetic shield 500 million years ago linked to surge in complex life forms. | Photo AP

The Earth's magnetic field, a crucial shield against harmful space radiation, has long intrigued scientists with its fluctuations and potential impact on life. Recent research suggests a fascinating link between the weakening of this magnetic shield over 500 million years ago and the diversification of complex biological life forms, shedding new light on Earth's ancient past.

The emergence of complex multicellular organisms, such as the Ediacaran fauna, between 575 and 565 million years ago marks a pivotal period in Earth's biological evolution. Fossil records reveal a significant uptick in complexity and diversity during this timeframe, sparking curiosity among researchers about the driving forces behind this evolutionary leap.

Previous studies have highlighted the role of rising oxygen levels in facilitating the proliferation of complex life forms. However, the mechanisms triggering this increase remained elusive until recent investigations delved deeper into the Earth's magnetic history.

An international team of researchers, spearheaded by the University of Rochester, US, embarked on a ground-

breaking study to unravel the mysteries of Earth's magnetic field during the Ediacaran period. Their findings, published in the journal 'Communications Earth and Environment,' provide compelling insights into the interplay between geomagnetism and biological evolution.

By analyzing 21 plagioclase crystals extracted from a 591-million-year-old rock formation in southern Brazil, the researchers uncovered a remarkable revelation: the Earth's magnetic field was at

its weakest ever recorded during this epoch. These crystals, ubiquitous in the Earth's crust, preserve invaluable information about the magnetic field intensity at the time of their formation.

The team's analysis revealed that the magnetic field strength was approximately 30 times weaker than the current intensity. This unprecedented weakening, termed a "near-collapse" by the researchers, had profound implications for Earth's atmospheric composition and, consequently, the

evolution of life.

The weakened magnetic field likely facilitated the escape of hydrogen from the Earth's atmosphere, leading to an increase in atmospheric oxygen levels. This surge in oxygen concentration provided a conducive environment for the development and proliferation of complex organisms, fueling the diversification observed in the fossil record.

The researchers postulate that extreme coronal mass ejection (CME) events, dur-

ing which the Sun ejects large quantities of plasma and magnetic field from its corona, played a pivotal role in exacerbating the weakening of Earth's magnetic field. These events may have pushed the boundary of the magnetic field closer to the planet's surface, facilitating hydrogen escape and amplifying the oxygen-rich environment.

Remarkably, the ultra-low magnetic field strengths persisted for an estimated 26 million years, coinciding with the timeframe of increased oxygen levels and biological diversification. This temporal alignment reinforces the potential causal link between geomagnetic fluctuations and biological evolution during the Ediacaran period.

The implications of these findings extend beyond mere geological curiosity. Earth's magnetic field, a fundamental component of its habitability, exerts a profound influence on the planet's climate, atmosphere, and biological evolution. Understanding the intricate dynamics between geomagnetism and life's emergence sheds light on the intricate interplay shaping Earth's history and underscores the delicate balance sustaining life on our planet.

YOUR LETTERS

AstraZeneca's Vaccine side effects

AstraZeneca's acknowledgment of the rare but severe side effect, thrombosis with thrombocytopenia syndrome (TTS), linked to its Covid-19 vaccine is deeply concerning. Urgent investigation into these incidents is imperative, with the pharmaceutical company held responsible. Addressing vaccine risks is crucial to alleviate public concerns. With reports of recipients facing life-threatening complications, swift government inquiry and transparent dissemination of findings are essential to maintain public trust and safety.

MK Nair, Raipur

A call for change in Pakistan

Ayesha Rashaan's heart transplant at MGM Healthcare, Chennai, symbolizes a heartwarming tale of humanity. Applauding the hospital's efforts to fundraise for her surgery is essential. Despite countless instances of Indian doctors aiding patients from neighboring countries, Pakistan's leadership remains unmoved. Islamabad must recognize the potential benefits of fostering friendly ties with India. It's time for Pakistan to embrace a new perspective, acknowledging the goodwill gestures extended by its neighbors for a brighter future.

Shiv Kumar Mishra, Raipur

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



AMD set to fuel growing demand for AI compute

Mark Papermaster
Chief Technology Officer,
Chipmaker AMD

Cutting-edge tech, novelties and affordability wow visitors



A woman gets out of a Polestar 3 at the Beijing Auto Show in Beijing on May 3.

BizBriefs

BEST OF THE REST

RESULT DECLARED

Results of Vellore Institute Entrance Examination declared

VELLORE: The results of Vellore Institute of Technology Engineering Entrance Examination (VITEEE) has been declared. The results are available in the portal "https://ugresults.vit.ac.in/viteee" which can also be accessed through VIT website "www.vit.ac.in." First Rank was obtained by Mr. Rupinder Singh of Haryana, Second rank by Mr. Bhanu Mahesh Chekuri of Rajasthan, Third rank by A Vedaanth of Andhra Pradesh, Fourth rank by Ms. Aayushi Baid of Assam, Fifth rank by Ms. Sanvi Singh from Uttar Pradesh, Sixth rank by Mr. Abhiraj Ramakant Yadav from Maharashtra, Seventh Rank by Mr. Chaitanya Ramesh Bochre of Uttarakhand, Eighth rank by Mr. Vicky Kumar Singh of Uttar Pradesh, Ninth rank by Mr. Sohan Hazra of Himachal Pradesh and Tenth rank by Mr. Sahil of Bihar.

INDICATORS

Share MARKETS

Market	Close	%chg
Sensex	73,878	-0.98
Nifty	22,475	-0.76
Nifty, MidCap	50,935	-0.35
Nifty SmallCap	16,936	-0.49
Nifty Bank	48,923	-0.62

Closing rates as on May 3, 2024 at 5:30p.m. (IST)

Forex RATES

Foreign currency Vs Rupee

US Dollar	83.37
Euro	89.87
Chinese Yuan	11.51
UAE Dirham	22.70
Pakistan Rupee	0.29
Sri Lanka Rupee	0.28

On May 3, 2024

World INDICES

Stock	Value	% chg
Dow Jones (US)	38,795	-0.85
FTSE 100 Index	8,220	+0.59
Nikkei 225 (JPN)	38,236	-0.10
CSI 300 (CHN)	3,604	-0.54

Index at 05:30 p.m. (IST, May 3, 2024)

How the stock market behave today

Sensex tumbles 700 points amid broadbased selloff; Nifty slips 172.35 points



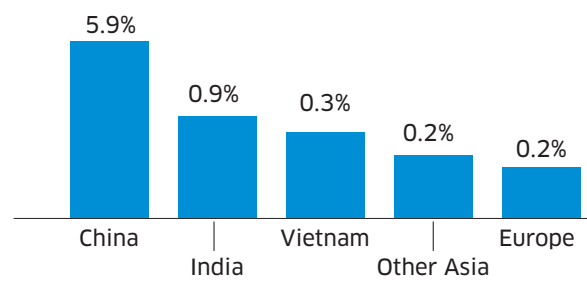
MUMBAI: Equity benchmark Sensex plummeted over 700 points to sink below the 74,000 level and Nifty retreated from a record high on Friday as investors pared exposure to telecom, capital goods and tech stocks. Heavy selling pressure in Reliance Industries, L&T and HDFC Bank counters also pulled indices down, traders said. The 30-share BSE Sensex dropped 732.96 points or 0.98 per cent to settle at 73,878.15 after soaring 484.07 points earlier in the day. From its intra-day high of 75,095.18, the benchmark tanked 1,627.45 points to the

day's low of 73,467.73. The NSE Nifty also declined 172.35 points or 0.76 per cent to 22,475.85. The benchmark hit a record 22,794.70 in the early trade, up 146.5 points or 0.64 per cent. On the weekly front, the BSE benchmark climbed 147.99 points or 0.20 per cent. The NSE Nifty advanced 55.9 points or 0.24 per cent. **MAJOR GAINERS:** Bajaj Finserv, M&M, SBI, ICICI Bank and Infosys. **MAJOR LOSERS:** L&T, Maruti, Reliance Industries, Nestle, Bharti Airtel, UltraTech Cement, Kotak Mahindra Bank and JSW Steel. **PTI**

The Day's NUMBERS

Countries with the highest sales of Two-Wheelers EVs in 2023

BIGGEST MARKETS FOR ELECTRIC TWO-WHEELERS



Source: Statista

PAYMENT EXPERIENCE

Airtel Payments Bank introduces Business Solution Suite

MUMBAI: Airtel Payments Bank announced the launch of its Business Solution Suite, designed to revolutionise the banking and payment experience for its merchant partners across the country. The innovative suite seamlessly integrates banking and payment functionalities into one unified platform, offering unparalleled convenience and efficiency to merchant partners.

Anubrata Biswas, MD and CEO of Airtel Payments Bank said "We are delighted to launch this Business Solution Suite – a truly innovative, differentiated and relevant offering designed to address the banking and payment needs of our Merchant partners. The solution stands apart in the industry for being user-need-focused, developed after extensive research, and designed to encourage the adoption of digital banking among small and mid-size merchants. Its introduction underscores our commitment to driving the vision of a digital India."

BANKING

RBI says 97.76 pc of Rs 2000 currency notes returned



NEW DELHI: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Thursday said 97.76 per cent of the Rs 2000 denomination banknotes have returned to the banking system, and only Rs 7,961 crore worth of the withdrawn notes are still with the public. On May 19, 2023, the RBI announced the withdrawal of Rs 2000 denomination banknotes from circulation. The total value of Rs 2000 banknotes in circulation, which was Rs 3.56 lakh crore at the close of business on May 19, 2023, when the withdrawal of the high value banknotes was announced. **PTI**

ADB open to funding space sector in India, says Dasgupta

It is committed to achieving a prosperous, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable Asia and the Pacific, while sustaining its efforts to eradicate extreme poverty.

Press Trust Of India

GEORGIA: The Asian Development Bank is open to funding the space sector in India in addition to focusing on climate finance to mitigate the associated risks, said its Vice President Bhargav Dasgupta on Friday. ADB has done some projects in satellite in the Asia Pacific region, but has not provided any assistance in the Indian space

sector. "We have not done much till now. We are always open to look at new areas, we understand it has been opened up and there is lot of interest on startup side, if we find alignment with our objectives in terms of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), we will look at it," he said. Last month, the government notified amendments to the foreign direct investment policy

NUMBER

68

● India, a founding member of ADB, is now ADB's fourth largest shareholder and its top borrower since 2010

● Last month, the govt notified amendments to the FDI policy in the space sector

in the space sector to attract offshore investors in satellite manufacturing and satellite launch vehicles segments. Talking about initiatives in India, Dasgupta said, "we are very excited about the work that is happening in the country including recently launched rooftop solar projects, large solar projects, pump hydro, and battery storage." Besides, he said there is a lot of interest

in the corporate sector in energy transmission, conversion of older coal-fired power projects into green energy units. Dasgupta, former MD and CEO of ICICI Lombard, was appointed Vice President of ADB in September last year. He is responsible for management of ADB's Private Sector Operations Department, established in 1966, is owned by 68 members, 49 from the region.

| BIGGEST MARKET |

Expect India to become 2nd largest market: Thierry

Press Trust Of India

The company looking to rope in a brand ambassador to push the brand's visibility in India.

CHENNAI: French automaker Citroen expects India to become its second biggest market after home country in the next five years, for which it will accelerate network expansion besides introducing new products, company global CEO Thierry Koskas said. The company will be incorporating learnings from the past few years of its presence in India to attract more consumers besides looking to rope in a brand ambassador to push the brand's visibility in India. "India is an important market for Citroen and in a few years, it will become the second biggest market for us after



Citroen's CEO Thierry Koskas focuses on Indian market.

FACTFILE

● Citroen sold around 2 lakh units in France whereas the company had sold around 9,500 units in India

● Citroen will "heavily invest" to build brand awareness in India

our home market France," Koskas told PTI here in an interview. At the moment, India is "probably in the top 10 markets for Citroen, more towards the 10th rather than upwards", he said, adding, "So, there is a lot of room for improvement, but I think it's absolutely possible." Asked by when Citroen expects India to become its second

biggest market, he said, "To become the number two, I think it's absolutely doable in the next five years." He admitted that there is a lot of gap to be bridged for India to come up to that level. In 2023, Citroen sold around 2 lakh units in France whereas the company had sold around 9,500 units in India.

| CHANDRASEKARAN TO IIT-B GRADS |

'Start thinking about contributions to nation's future'

Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI: Tata Sons chairman N Chandrasekaran on Friday urged graduating students at the IIT-Bombay to start thinking about contributing to the future of our society and nation. Addressing the commencement event at the institute here, Chandrasekaran advised the students to focus on

the mantras of building trust, character and having a purpose to have fulfilling careers and a life.

"It's better to start thinking (about) how you will contribute to the future of our society and our nation.

Such a purpose will enrich your life and I guarantee you, will make it very, very fulfilling," he said. The chairman



of the diversified group told the students from the Indian Institute of Technology-Bombay (IIT-B) that they will create huge impacts in various fields, and pointed out that some of them will become entrepreneurs, some will go into academics, or pursue science as a researcher or some of them may also become Nobel laureates.



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi will win in Pakistan if elections are held there.
Himanta Biswa Sarma
Assam CM

Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

KERALA
NIA chargesheets 4 CPI (M) cadres in case related to firing at commandos

NEW DELHI: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Friday chargesheeted four cadres of CPI (Maoist) in a case related to firing at the commandos of the Special Operations Group (SOG) in Thalappuzha area of Wayanad district in Kerala last year, according to an official statement.

The incident occurred on November 7, 2023, when the SOG team of Kerala Police was on a combing operation in Perya, Wayanad, to track and nab armed cadres of the banned naxal outfit, the CPI (Maoist). The team came under attack as it zoomed in on the cadres present in a house, it said. In the ensuing operation, two CPI (Maoist) members, identified as Thiruvendikam alias Chandru alias Chandu and Shreemathi alias Unnimaya alias Unni, were apprehended, said the statement issued by the probe agency. **PTI**

CRIME
3 held for duping people on pretext of providing confirmed railway tickets

NEW DELHI: Three people were arrested for allegedly impersonating Travelling Ticket Examiners (TTEs) and duping Bihar-based people under the pretext of getting their railway tickets confirmed, officials said on Friday.

The accused were identified as, Santosh (27), Ashutosh (26), and Afrooz Ansari (37), all residents of Bihar, they said. "These accused took cash, debit cards and other valuable articles by duping innocent people especially the railway passengers hailing from Bihar by representing themselves as TTEs, on the pretext of getting their railway tickets confirmed," Additional Commissioner of Police (crime) Sanjay Bhatia said. The officer further said that on April 29, a tip-off was received about one of the accused. A trap was laid near IFFCO Chowk in Gurgaon and Santosh was apprehended. **PTI**

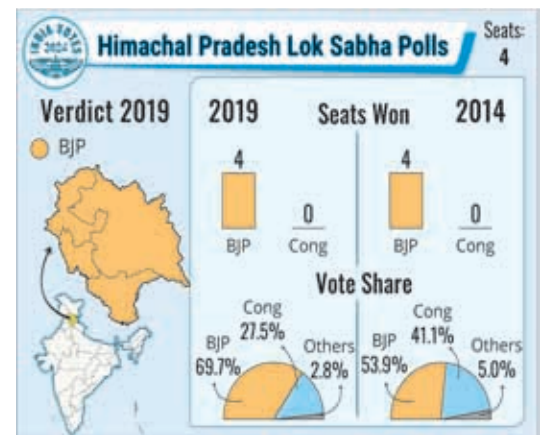
From around the web on India

ED intended to arrest Kejriwal from day 1, Shah admitted in interview: AAP minister Atishi



NEW DELHI: The Aam Aadmi Party on Friday claimed that Amit Shah in an interview made it clear that Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal was arrested by the ED under a conspiracy. Addressing a press conference, party leader Atishi alleged that Union Home Minister Shah in an interview with a news channel made it clear that the Enforcement Directorate intended to arrest Kejriwal from the very first time it sent him a summons. "Since the day Kejriwal started getting ED summons, AAP openly said that this was a conspiracy to arrest him," Atishi said.

The Delhi minister said these were not ED, but "BJP summonses." "Even then BJP spokespersons used to say that ED is an independent investigation agency and they have nothing to do with the summons," she said. She alleged that the BJP is afraid of Kejriwal for he can expose the 10 years of its misuse. "Amit Shah himself said that the BJP-ruled central government and their ED had the intention from the very first day to arrest Shri Arvind Kejriwal and put him in jail," Atishi said. She claimed that Shah said that the summonses were a pretext to call Kejriwal and arrest him. **PTI**



AMIT SHAH MORPHED VIDEO
Five T'gana Cong workers arrested by Hyderabad police, out on bail

HYDERABAD: The city police on Friday said they arrested five Telangana Congress party social media activists in connection with Union Home Minister Amit Shah's alleged morphed video that went viral recently.

The accused were produced before a local court which granted them bail with a condition that each person will have to submit two sureties worth Rs 10,000 each and appear before the investigating officer on Monday and Friday till further orders.

According to a statement issued by the police, the deliberate and mischievous act of morphing the video is aimed at misleading people and voters creating fear amongst the OBC communities, the police said, adding they registered a case under Sections 469 (forgery), 505(1)(C) (circulating rumour), 171G (spreading false information), among others. According to police, on April 23, during a public meeting in Medak, Amit Shah made a speech. **PTI**

LS POLLS
SC to consider hearing arguments on interim bail to Arvind Kejriwal



NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Friday told the Enforcement Directorate that it would consider hearing arguments on the interim bail plea of Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal in the excise policy-linked money laundering case on account of the Lok Sabha elections in Delhi. A bench of Justices Sanjiv Khanna and Dipankar Datta told Additional Solicitor General SV Raju, appearing for the ED, that the hearing on Kejriwal's plea against arrest is likely to take time and therefore, the court was considering hearing the probe agency on interim bail to him. **PTI**



Prime Minister Narendra Modi during a public meeting for Lok Sabha elections, in Krishnanagar, West Bengal.

Congress tally to be all-time low in LS polls: PM Modi

Modi said that if Congress is voted to power, it would "snatch" quotas meant for the Scheduled Caste, Dalits and OBCs and give those to its "jihadi vote bank".

Press Trust Of India

BARDHAMAN/KRISHNANAGAR: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday asserted that Congress' tally in the Lok Sabha polls will be an "all-time low", as the grand old party would struggle to cross even the "half-century" mark in the hustings.

He also mocked Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's decision to contest from Uttar Pradesh's Rae Bareilly seat, "sensing defeat" in Kerala's Wayanad, where he is a sitting MP.

Addressing back-to-back rallies in the Bardhaman-Durgapur and Krishnanagar Lok Sabha

constituencies, Modi said that if Congress is voted to power, it would "snatch" quotas meant for the Scheduled Caste, Dalits and OBCs and give those to its "jihadi vote bank" to pursue the party's "appeasement politics". The PM slammed the opposition bloc INDIA and the Congress for "supporting" the "vote jihad" comments made by a candidate of the Samajwadi Party (SP), an ally of the grand old party in Uttar Pradesh. "There is no need for opinion polls or exit polls, as I had talked about their (Congress) defeat long back in Parliament. When their senior leader quit her Lok

HIGHLIGHT

● Hitting out at the alliance, the PM said the INDIA bloc of Congress, TMC and the Left parties "has only one policy - appeasement".

● Only the BJP-led NDA can win the polls and form a stable government," he said.

Sabha seat and entered Parliament through Rajya Sabha from Rajasthan, it was evident they sensed defeat," he said, in an apparent dig at Sonia Gandhi. "Now, the 'shehzada' of Congress, who went to

Wayanad after losing the Amethi seat, is also contesting from Rae Bareilly. He knows he will lose Wayanad this time," Modi said, referring to Rahul Gandhi's decision to contest from Rae Bareilly. He said Rahul Gandhi should not be afraid and "keep running away".

"I had said earlier that the 'prince', after the polling in Wayanad, would look for another seat, due to fear of defeat in that constituency. Now, he had to run away from Amethi and choose the Rae Bareilly seat. They go around and ask people not to feel afraid. I would tell them the same thing - don't be afraid and don't

run away," the prime minister said.

"The Congress' tally in the Lok Sabha polls will be an all-time low. Let the Congress try as much as it wants, but the party won't be able to cross the half-century mark this time. They would struggle to get even 50 seats," Modi asserted. "Can the TMC by winning 15 seats, the Congress by getting less than 50 seats or the Left Front, which has lost its support base, win the elections and form a stable government? The answer is no. Only the BJP-led NDA can win the polls and form a stable government," he said.

EXCISE POLICY 'SCAM'

HC asks CBI, ED to respond to Sisodia's bail pleas

Press Trust Of India

The Delhi High Court sought the response of the CBI and ED on Friday on former deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia's pleas seeking bail in the corruption and money-laundering cases lodged by the agencies in relation to the alleged excise policy scam.

NEW DELHI: Justice Swarana Kanta Sharma issued notices to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and Enforcement Directorate (ED) on



AAP leader Manish Sisodia at Rouse Avenue Court.

Sisodia's pleas challenging a trial court's April 30 order by which his bail petitions were dismissed.

The high court listed the matter for further hearing on May 8.

Sisodia's lawyers said an application has also been filed seeking an interim relief for the continuation of the trial court's order allowing him to meet

FACTFILE

● The ED arrested the former deputy chief minister in a money-laundering case stemming from the CBI FIR on March 9, 2023. Sisodia resigned from the Delhi cabinet on February 28, 2023.

his ailing wife once a week in custody during the pendency of his bail pleas.

As the counsel for the ED submitted that the agency has no objection if the trial court order is continued, the judge allowed the request.

SYMBOLIC PROTEST

Women shave head, take out rally

Press Trust Of India

IMPHAL: In a symbolic protest, seven women shaved their heads and staged a cycle rally to spread the message of peace and unity in the ethnic violence hit Manipur on Friday. The women wearing black clothes rode from Sekmai, a fringe village to Kangla, at the heart of Imphal, covering a distance of at least 19 km. Kh Shanti, a middle-aged woman who accompanied the seven women said, "Shaving off hair is a symbolic gesture

and to protest the government's inability to check on periodic gun attacks on

fringe areas of Imphal valley by militants.

based in adjacent hill areas of Churachandpur and Kangpokpi. We all are tired. We want peace."

"May 3 marks the completion of one year of violence in the state. Today we once again remember the losses and atrocities committed on farmers, daily wage earners of Torbung and Phougakchao which was attacked by an armed mob from Churachandpur without provocation" M Sobita Devi, a Meira Paibi leader said at Kangla.

Classifieds

आवश्यकता है
लायसन ऑफिसर/सफेक अधिकारी की आवश्यकता
कंपनी: लोहा और इस्पात उद्योग
स्थान: रायपुर, छत्तीसगढ़
कार्य:
• नए इस्पात संयंत्र के निर्माण के लिए सरकारी अनुमतिपत्रों की प्राप्ति।
• जल संसाधन विभाग, तटसैनिक कार्यालय, कनेक्टर कार्यालय आदि से विभिन्न अनुमतिपत्रों की प्राप्ति।
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Central Chronicle
रायपुर, छत्तीसगढ़

TN conducts synchronised survey on animal Nilgiri Tahr

Locally known as 'Varai Aadu', the Nilgiri Tahr is the state animal.

Press Trust Of India CHENNAI: The Tamil Nadu forest department conducted the first ever Nilgiri Tahr synchronised survey and the data is likely to be made avail-

able within three weeks from now, Additional Chief Secretary, Environment Climate Change & Forests, Supriya Sahu said on Friday. This endangered species is endemic to the

Western Ghats and is known for its gravity-defying skills in climbing steep cliffs. "The first ever Nilgiri Tahr Synchronised Survey by the Tamil Nadu Forest Department suc-

cessfully concluded on May 1," Sahu said. "Survey teams from 138 blocks included 700 members from 13 forest divisions and 100 forest beats," she said in a post on social media platform X.

UP'S BANDA Three killed after Bolero jeep hits their bike

BANDA (UP): Three people, including a minor, were killed after their motorcycle collided with a Bolero jeep here, police said on Friday. Deputy Superintendent of Police Rajveer Singh said the incident occurred on Thursday night when the victims, identified as Gulam Mohammad (18), his brother Rajju (12) and their neighbour Kamlesh Sahu (26), were returning home from a market in Musiwa village.

A Bolero jeep hit the victim's motorcycle on Kamasin-Dadaun road near the Sikri bus stop, the DSP said.

Upon receiving the information, the police rushed the victim to the Community Health Center (CHC) where the doctors declared Kamlesh Sahu and Gulam Mohammad dead on arrival.

While Rajju died on the way to Kanpur for treatment, he said. The bodies were sent for post-mortem.

A case was registered and efforts are being made to arrest the jeep's driver who fled after the accident, he added.

AFFIDAVIT/SELF DECLARATION (FOR CORRECTION OF D.O.B. OF MOTHER OF SERVING SOLDIER)

I, SHARDA DEVI is mother of No. 15706023W Rank - Naik, Name - Ajeet Kumar Maurya presently residing at Block No. - 1/C, Street No. - 24, Zone - 1, Sector-11, Khurshihar, Bhalai, Post - Khurshihar, Teh - Durg, Dist - Durg, State - Chhattisgarh, PIN - 490011 and local Address is Unit - 16 RSR, C/o 56 APO, Pin - 917816. My date of birth is wrongly entered as 01 July 1968 in the service record of my Son. My correct Date of Birth is 01 July 1971 vide our affidavit No. 58AE 472684.

SHARDA DEVI Block No. 1/C, Street No. - 24, Zone - 1, Sector-11, Khurshihar, Bhalai (C.G.)

NAME CHANGE

It is informed to all the general public that I, MOHD. USMAN S/O MOHD. FARUQU resident of WARD NO-09 MANGAL BAZAR GARIABAND DIST GARIABAND (C.G.). I swear that I have given up my old name and have taken the new name MOHD. USMAN KHAN S/O MOHD. FARUQU. Therefore from today onwards, I should be known as my new name MOHD. USMAN KHAN S/O MOHD. FARUQU in all government, semi-government and other documents. "MOHD. USMAN KHAN S/O MOHD. FARUQU" Residence WARD NO-09 MANGAL BAZAR GARIABAND DIST GARIABAND (C.G.) My AADHAR NO. 2962 7577 7139 MOHD. USMAN KHAN S/O MOHD. FARUQU WARD NO-09 MANGAL BAZAR GARIABAND DIST GARIABAND (C.G.)

Canara Bank, Specialised ARM Branch. E-AUCTION (SALE NOTICE) Appendix-IV-A [See proviso to rule 8(6) & 8(2)] SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF MOVABLE & IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

Table with columns: Sr. No., Name of Borrower(s), Particulars of Mortgaged property/properties, Date of NPA, Outstanding amount (Rs.).

Canara Bank, Specialised ARM Branch. E-AUCTION (SALE NOTICE) Appendix-IV-A [See proviso to rule 8(6) & 8(2)] SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF MOVABLE & IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

CORRIGENDUM With reference to the Possession Notice for Immovable Properties published in 'Central Chronicle'...

AFFIDAVIT/SELF DECLARATION (FOR CORRECTION OF D.O.B. OF FATHER OF SERVING SOLDIER) I, RAM MILAN MAURYA is father of Army No. 15706023W Rank - Naik, Name - Ajeet Kumar Maurya...

RAM MILAN MAURYA Block No. 1/C, Street No. - 24, Zone - 1, Sector-11, Khurshihar, Bhalai (C.G.)

UCO BANK Branch: B.R.P. Chowk, Maroda, Dist- Durg (C.G.) DEMAND NOTICE NOTICE U/S 13 (2) OF THE SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002

UCO BANK KRISHAK NAGAR BRANCH, RAIPUR (C.G.) POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Properties) [Under Rule-8(1) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002]

Canara Bank E-Auction Date: 21.05.2024/04.06.2024 SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) & Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged / charged to the secured creditor...

Canara Bank E-Auction Date: 03.06.2024, END AUCTION DATE 04.06.2024 DATE OF EMD DEPOSIT/PROPERTY INSPECTION 03.06.2024, END AUCTION DATE 04.06.2024

"I am really glad that he came to me with this character and this series. It is his biggest project to date."

Sonakshi Sinha
Actress



& Glitters

CLOSE UP

Bhansali's artistry: Behind the scenes of "Heeramandi: The Diamond Bazaar"

Aditi Rao Hydari reveals that "Heeramandi" director Sanjay Leela Bhansali told her 'khana mat khana' for this reason.

Central Chronicle News

During a recent interview, she also recalled Bhansali's warm gesture of offering her food during a visit.

Aditi Rao Hydari, starring in "Heeramandi: The Diamond Bazaar," shared a fascinating anecdote about working with director Sanjay Leela Bhansali. In a recent interview with Rediff.com, she revealed Bhansali's unconventional approach to a scene, where he instructed her not to eat before filming to capture a simmering sense of injustice. This insight into Bhansali's directing methods underscores his dedication to authenticity and his willingness to push boundaries to achieve artistic excellence. Hydari's revelation sheds light on the meticulous preparation and attention to detail that Bhansali brings to his projects. By asking his actors to immerse themselves fully into their characters' emotions, even to the extent of altering their physical states, Bhansali creates an environment where every scene brims with intensity and authenticity.



Aditi Rao Hydari stuns her ethnic look every time with elegance.



The Bhansali touch: A blend of discipline and warmth

Aditi Rao Hydari also recalled a lighter moment with Bhansali when he jokingly commented on her weight, offering her food during a visit. This juxtaposition of strict discipline and warm hospitality illustrates Bhansali's

personality, where he balances intense dedication to his craft with genuine care for his collaborators. Despite his exacting standards on set, Bhansali's affectionate gesture towards Hydari showcases his warmth and camaraderie, fostering an atmosphere of trust and creativity among his cast and crew.



| HYPER LOCAL |

Met gala 2024: A night of elegance with 'Sleeping Beauty' and 'The Garden of Time'

Central Chronicle News

The highly-anticipated Met Gala, fashion's grandest occasion, returns on May 6 at The Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City. This magical night draws A-listers worldwide, captivating global curiosity as fans anticipate the captivating ensembles of their favorite stars. Guests adorn themselves in extravagant outfits, inspired by the annual theme and dress code, adding to the anticipation and allure of the evening. This year's theme, 'Sleeping Beauties: Reawakening Fashion,' reflects



HIGHLIGHT

Met Gala 2024 ignites excitement as A-listers gather at the metropolitan museum of art in new york city on May 6. let's uncover this year's theme and dress code.

the Costume Institute's Spring 2024 exhibition, focusing on reviving unique garments from four centuries. Despite its title, the theme celebrates fragile pieces of fashion deemed too delicate for wear, affectionately termed the 'sleeping beauties.' The

exhibition will showcase approximately 250 garments and accessories, symbolizing the delicate and fleeting essence of fashion.

The Met Gala 2024 dress code, entitled 'The Garden of Time', emphasizes 'fleeting beauty', drawing inspiration from natural imagery such as flowers. Attendees can interpret this code in various ways, embracing floral prints, motifs, or exploring the theme through vintage pieces, evoking a sense of historical resonance. Whether opting for floral prints or vintage pieces, guests will undoubtedly create memorable looks for the gala.

CineBriefs

BEST OF THE REST

Bollywood

Alia Bhatt and Sharvari Wagh dive into YRF spy-verse film prep

Alia Bhatt and Sharvari Wagh have embarked on their journey into the upcoming Yash Raj Films' (YRF) spy-verse movie, a pioneering female-centric addition to Aditya Chopra's expanding YRF Spy Universe. Though details of the film remain shrouded in mystery, viral snapshots capture the actresses diligently honing their craft. In one image, Alia strikes a determined pose alongside her trainer in the gym, while another depicts Sharvari and her coach clad in workout attire, hinting at the intense preparation for their roles in this eagerly awaited project. With production scheduled to commence later this year, excitement for this adrenaline-fueled venture has reached unprecedented levels.

Web Series

Tom Felton joins cast of Hansal Mehta's 'Gandhi' series

Renowned "Harry Potter" actor Tom Felton has officially joined the ensemble cast of Hansal Mehta's highly anticipated "Gandhi" series. Felton, celebrated for his portrayal of Draco Malfoy in the iconic film franchise, is one of eight esteemed actors announced by the filmmaker. Set against an international backdrop, the series is currently in production, generating immense excitement among fans globally. Directed by Mehta himself, the project boasts a stellar lineup, promising an enthralling narrative. With production in full swing, Mehta recently took to Instagram to express his enthusiasm for the project, further igniting anticipation for this ambitious venture.

The hot pair

Virat Kohli's birthday tribute to Anushka Sharma



Virat Kohli's heartfelt birthday message to wife Anushka Sharma celebrates their love. Kohli, on Anushka's 36th birthday, shared adorable pictures of her on Instagram, declaring, "I would have been completely lost if I didn't find you. Happy birth-

day my love. You are the light to our world. We love you so much." The couple met during a shampoo commercial shoot, dated for years, and married in 2017. They welcomed daughter Vamika in January 2021 and son Akaay in February.

Music

Kareena Kapoor in royal regal ivory anarkali

Kareena Kapoor shines in an ivory anarkali suit with striking eye makeup. A fashion icon, she stuns on red carpets and in everyday life. Recently spotted in Mumbai, she wore an elegant ivory and gold anarkali suit, shared on Instagram. The outfit features a scoop neckline, full-length sleeves, cinched detail, and pleated skirt, paired with ivory churidar pants, a gold cropped jacket, and embroidered juttis.



Trending on Insta

@nimratofficial

Bandra mornings: Nimrat Kaur's glimpses

Actress Nimrat Kaur shares glimpses of her "Bandra mornings" with a series of pictures from her morning walk on Instagram Stories.



@ananyapanday

Ananya Panday's new furry friend: meet Riot!

Ananya Panday introduces her new pet dog, 'Riot', on Instagram, calling him her 'baby jaan'. Fans are charmed by the adorable snapshots of the playful pup.



OTT Watch



Travis to direct 'Masters of the Universe' movie

Travis Knight is set to direct the 'Master of the Universe' movie for Amazon MGM Studios and Mattel Films. The live-action adaptation of the iconic series is slated for release on June 5, 2026.



Freedom at midnight: cast revealed

Filmmaker Nikkhil Advani unveils cast for Sony LIV series 'Freedom at Midnight.' Sidhant Gupta, Chirag Vohra, and Rajendra Chawla star as Jawaharlal Nehru, Mahatma Gandhi, and Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel in the political thriller.



Tilda joins 'The Ballad Of A Small Player'

Tilda Swinton joins Colin Farrell in Netflix's 'The Ballad Of A Small Player', directed by Edward Berger, known for "All Quiet On The Western Front". The high-stakes gambler story set in Macau promises an intriguing plot.



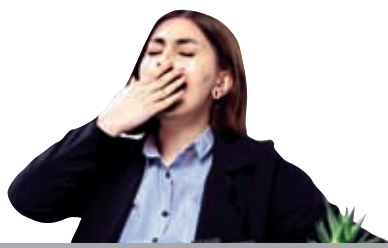
Darren grateful for 'Glee' role

Darren Criss expresses gratitude for playing openly gay character Blaine in "Glee". He sees it as a privilege and had no hesitation despite being straight. Blaine's relationship with Kurt was central to the show.



'Panchayat 3' set for May 2024 release

Prime Video's highly anticipated 'Panchayat 3' is scheduled to premiere in May 2024. The star-studded series includes Jitendra Kumar, Neena Gupta, Raghubir Yadav, Chandan Roy, Sanvikaa, Faisal Malik, and more.



Lifestyle

INTERIORS

Vintage charm: Elevating home decor with sophistication

Timeless elegance elevating the home-décor with vintage arrangements



Elevate your home to new heights of timeless elegance with these captivating vintage arrangements. From gilded frames to crystal chandeliers, every detail whispers tales of opulence and sophistication, creating a sanctuary of enduring grace.



Be true to yourself, work hard and always try to stretch yourself to the highest achievable pinnacle.

Sunita Kohli

aesthetic with sumptuous rugs, each intricate pattern and worn-in texture adding depth and character to your floors. Finally, adorn your surroundings with antique-inspired accessories, from decorative trunks to ornate candleholders, each piece whispering tales of bygone eras and adding a touch of historical sophistication to your home.

With these captivating vintage arrangements, your living space will transcend the ordinary, becoming a sanctuary of refined elegance and enduring grace that will leave guests in awe and make every moment spent within its walls a truly unforgettable experience.

GadgetPick
TRENDING PERSONAL-TECH

Evie Ring

About: The Evie Ring by Movano Health debuts in 2024, prioritizing women's health with menstrual tracking and an elegant design.

Key Features: Track sleep, heart rate, activity, and temperature with the Evie Ring, plus enjoy its rechargeable case and stylish finishes without any subscription fees.



Peloton Bike+

About: Introducing the Peloton Bike+, the deluxe Peloton model. With a larger swiveling touchscreen and powerful built-in speakers, it brings immersive workouts to the next level.

Key Features: Enjoy enhanced visibility with the Peloton Bike+'s larger swiveling touchscreen. Immerse yourself in heart-pumping action with integrated, high-powered speakers.



Ember Mug

About: Meet the Ember Mug, a tech-savvy solution for enjoying larger drinks with comfort and precision temperature control.

Key Features: The Ember Mug offers ample space for beverages and features a handle for added comfort. Keep your drinks at the perfect temperature for longer with this tech-savvy mug.



Meta Quest 3

About: Dive into the immersive world of AR exploration with the Meta Quest 3—an affordable alternative to Apple's Vision Pro, perfect for tech enthusiasts.

Key Features: The Meta Quest 3 offers a budget-friendly option for AR exploration, delivering a high-quality experience comparable to higher-priced models.



WithingsBeam0

About: Discover the WithingsBeam0, a revolutionary multiscope for at-home health monitoring, pending FDA clearance.

Key Features: Equipped with ECG, oximeter, stethoscope, and thermometer sensors, it streamlines heart and lung checkups, enhancing telehealth visits.



Lockly Visage

About: Introducing Lockly Visage—a game-changer in smart locks, offering facial recognition for key-free entry.

Key Features: Enjoy hands-free unlocking with integrated high-resolution cameras, while still having options for iPhone, Apple Watch, or digital keypad access.



Energy-boosting snacks to beat the afternoon

Don't succumb to the mid-afternoon slump! Combat fatigue with these 5 snacks: protein-rich sprouts, stable-blood-sugar boiled eggs, fruit with soaked nuts for a quick boost, filling boiled chanaachaat, and hydrating sattu coconut water mixer. Nutritionist Batra advises avoiding sugary snacks and excessive caffeine. Prioritize sleep, hydration, and exercise for sustained energy levels. Say goodbye to sluggish afternoons and hello to renewed vitality!



TRAVEL

The forest club resort, your Maldives-inspired escape in Karjat



Why travel far when The Forest Club Resort in Karjat awaits just a short drive from Mumbai and Pune? Discover tranquility amidst lush landscapes and India's largest meandering pool, evoking the allure of tropical paradise. Perched atop a verdant hill, the resort offers panoramic views rivaling exotic destinations. It's more than just a resort; it's a sanctuary where luxury and nature converge, conveniently close to home.

| LIFESTYLE |

Navigating Shift Shock: Thriving in Your New Job

Central Chronicle News

Navigating shift shock—thriving in your new job challenges and strategies.

shock is a reality for many new hires.

This unsettling feeling isn't exclusive to you; in fact, it's more common than you might think. According to a survey by The Muse, over 70 percent of employees have encountered shift shock at some point in their careers. With nearly a third of employees experiencing it in the realm of job and company culture, it's clear that shift shock is more than just a passing trend, it's a pervasive challenge in today's dynamic work landscape.

However, all hope is not lost. There are proactive steps you can take



Conquer shift shock with resilience and adaptability. Embrace change, seek support, and prioritize self-care as you navigate through the challenges of your new job. Thrive amidst uncertainty and emerge stronger than ever.

to navigate through the storm and emerge stronger on the other side. Embrace change as an opportunity for growth, seek support from colleagues and supervisors, and maintain open communication channels. Remember, you have the resilience and adaptability to weather any storm. So, prioritize self-care, and trust in your ability to thrive amidst the shifting tides of your new job.



Sports



Hardik Pandya's batting, especially when chasing, alongside Virat Kohli, creates a great combination.
Sreesanth
Former Cricketer

Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

PREMIER LEAGUE

Tottenham's Champions League hopes hit further by loss at Chelsea

LONDON: Tottenham's hopes of qualifying for the Champions League are getting thinner by the day. By falling 2-0 at Chelsea on Thursday, Tottenham slumped to a second loss to a London rival in the space of four days in the Premier League – after a 3-2 home defeat to Arsenal in the north London derby on Sunday.

In between those losses came confirmation that England will have just four places in next season's expanded Champions League, and not five. That's another blow to Spurs, who are fifth and stayed seven points behind fourth-place Aston Villa with one game in hand. They still have to play Liverpool and Manchester City in their remaining four games so it is looking increasingly unlikely they will close the gap to Villa. "We lacked belief and conviction in our game," Tottenham manager Ange Postecoglou said.

IPL CRICKET

I wasn't thinking much, was just focussed on the process: Bhuvneshwar

HYDERABAD: Experienced seamer Bhuvneshwar Kumar said he wasn't thinking much and just focussed on bowling two good deliveries after scripting Sunrisers Hyderabad's sensational one-run win with a last-ball wicket in an IPL thriller here on Thursday. Defending 12 in the final over, Bhuvneshwar trapped Rovman Powell in front of the wicket in the last ball to stop Rajasthan Royal's run chase at 200 for 7 and pull off a heist in the end.

Sunrisers had scored 201 for 3 in their 20 overs, riding on fifties from Travis Head and Nitish Reddy.

"I wasn't thinking much about the result in the last over. There was no discussion in the last over, was just focussed on the process. Was thinking just about bowling two good balls, anything could have happened," Bhuvneshwar, who was adjudged the Player of the Match for his 3 for 41, said at the post-match presentation.

MATCH FIXING

West Indies cricketer Devon Thomas banned for 5 years for match fixing



DUBAI: West Indies batter Devon Thomas was banned for five years by the International Cricket Council on Thursday for match fixing. The Dubai-based ICC said 34-year-old Thomas admitted to "breaching seven counts of the anti-corruption codes of Sri Lanka Cricket, the Emirates Cricket Board, and the Caribbean Premier League."

The breaches relate to attempting to fix the outcome of games and obstructing investigations by conceal-

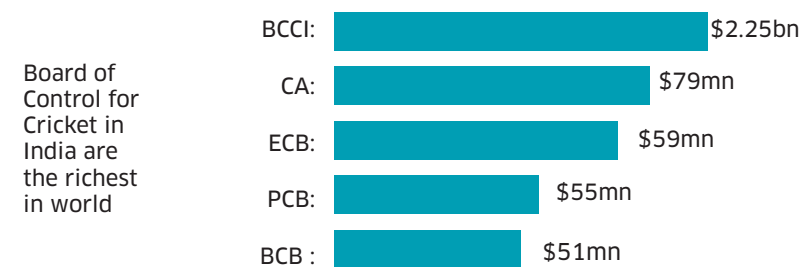
ing, tampering with or destroying evidence. Thomas' ban was backdated to May 23 last year, the date when he was provisionally suspended. The final 18 months of the ban are suspended.

"This ban is apt and should send a strong message to players and corrupters that attempts to corrupt our sport will be dealt with firmly," ICC general manager Alex Marshall said.

Four of the breaches relate to matches in the Lanka Premier League in Sri Lanka in 2021.

The Day's NUMBERS

TOP 05 RICHEST CRICKET BOARDS



CRICKET

Iyer one of the strongest mentally, will overcome disappointments: Nayar

MUMBAI: Kolkata Knight Riders' assistant coach Abhishek Nayar said on Thursday that Shreyas Iyer had taken some major disappointments, including an injury setbacks ahead of a crucial international season, in a "positive way" and will return to the grind of playing domestic cricket to come back stronger.

Iyer was grappling with a back problem ahead of IPL 2024 and there were reports he could even miss a few games for KKR in IPL 2024. But the skipper has come back strongly, scoring more than 250 runs, including a half century. The BCCI also dropped Iyer from the annual central contract list. "Mentally, to have a mindset like that after being rejected or not getting his due, he has taken it very positively. Even when he talks about it, he is not negative, he understands he needs to go back and do well," Nayar told the media during KKR's training session.

IPL T20

Virat Kohli should open; Rohit should bat at three: Ajay Jadeja



NEW DELHI: Former all-rounder Ajay Jadeja believes that India skipper Rohit Sharma should push himself to the number three spot and promote Virat Kohli to the opening position during next month's T20 World Cup in the Americas. India announced their 15 for the marquee tournament earlier this week and will open their campaign against Ireland on June 5. "For me, Virat Kohli opens. Who goes back? Rohit Sharma bats at three. He gets a little cushion and gets to understand the game, he has so much going on, in his mind as a captain," Jadeja told Jio Cinema.



Royal Challengers Bengaluru's teammates in a huddle. Photo PTI.

RCB, GT eye mandatory win to keep playoff hopes

Press Trust Of India

BENGALURU: From a maths perspective, Royal Challengers Bengaluru and Gujarat Titans can still reach the IPL playoffs, but they need to ward off inner gremlins on Saturday to notch a mandatory win to keep that dream flickering. The Royal Challengers are the bottom-dwellers with six points from 10 matches, while the Titans are placed eighth with eight points from 10 matches.

RCB, anchored at the

bottom with six points from 10 matches, and GT, positioned eighth with eight points from 10 matches, are clinging to hopes fueled by the faltering performances of higher-ranked teams like Chennai Super Kings and Delhi Capitals. However, the path to the playoffs for both squads is laden with challenges, and securing a win against each other becomes imperative.

The recent form of RCB, led by Faf du Plessis,

HIGHLIGHT

- RCB, anchored at the bottom with six points from 10 matches, and GT, positioned eighth with eight points from 10 matches.

- Path to the playoffs for both squads is laden with challenges.

offers a glimmer of hope. With victories in their last two outings and stand-out performances from

players like Will Jacks and Cameron Green, RCB seeks to harness this momentum. Virat Kohli's consistent batting adds to their strength, but the team acknowledges the need for greater bowling consistency.

On the flip side, GT's campaign has been marred by inconsistency and underperformance. Despite notable contributions from Shubman Gill and Bhardwaj Sai Sudharsan with the bat, their middle and lower order

appear fragile. Moreover, the bowling unit, spearheaded by Rashid Khan, has failed to live up to expectations. With key bowlers like Mohammed Shami absent due to injury, the burden falls heavily on the shoulders of Umesh Yadav and Mohit Sharma, who have struggled to contain runs.

As both teams brace themselves for a make-or-break encounter at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium, they understand the gravity of the situation.

MADRID OPEN

Swiatek returns to Madrid Open final by beating Keys

Press Trust of India

MADRID: Iga Swiatek cruised to a straight-sets semifinal win over Madison Keys to reach the Madrid Open final and a rematch against No. 2 Aryna Sabalenka. Top-ranked Swiatek beat No. 20 Keys 6-1, 6-3 and will next face the defending champion Sabalenka, who rallied to overcome No. 4-ranked Elena Rybakina 1-6, 7-5, 7-6 (5).

The Madrid Open is the only high-profile European clay-court title that Swiatek is yet to win. "It was a pretty clean performance and really solid game from myself," she said. "I'm happy with everything."



Poland's Iga Swiatek returns the ball to US' Madison Keys. Photo. PTI

FACTFILE

- The Madrid Open is the only high-profile European clay-court title that Swiatek is yet to win.

- I'm happy that we can play a final against the top players.

It will be the third final of the year for Swiatek after titles in Indian Wells and Doha. "I'm happy that we can play a final against the top players," Swiatek said.

"It shows consistency. For sure it's going to be a challenge, whoever it's

going to be, and a tough match. I will be ready. I will focus on myself." Sabalenka, who needed three sets to defeat Swiatek in the Madrid final last year, is into her third Madrid final after ending Rybakina's 16-match clay-court winning streak.

IPL CAPTAINCY DEBATE

Not everything goes your way: Rohit on IPL captaincy

Press Trust of India

MUMBAI: "Not everything goes your way," acknowledged Rohit Sharma on Thursday as he reflected on a whirlwind last few months during which he lost his IPL captaincy to Hardik Pandya before finding him as his deputy for next month's T20 World Cup. One of

India's most admired cricketers, Rohit's removal as captain of Mumbai Indians surprised many in the fraternity and was a bitter pill to swallow for his legion of fans, many of whom also booed Hardik while he led the team out in the first few matches this IPL season. "See, it is part of life.



Not everything will go your way. It has been a great experience," the Indian skipper said dur-

ing a media interaction where he was asked about his experience of playing under Pandya in

the ongoing Indian Premier League. There has been a lot of conjecture about Rohit's relationship with Pandya and how Mumbai Indians as a franchise handled the leadership issue, which many believe wasn't done in the best way, especially when it involved someone who has led the franchise to five IPL title triumphs.

ing a media interaction where he was asked about his experience of playing under Pandya in

Sec, it is part of life. Not everything will go your way. It has been a great experience
Rohit Sharma
India Captain

Sports News

Indonesian team triumphs over Thailand in women's singles quarter-final match.



Members of the Indonesian team celebrate after winning against Thailand in their women's singles quarter-final match. 2. Indonesia's Gregoria Mariska Tunjung hits a return to Thailand's Ratchanok Intanon. Photo. PTI

India retain top spot in white-ball formats

Press Trust of India

In the latest ICC annual ranking update, India maintains top positions in ODIs and T20is, while slipping to second in Test rankings.

DUBAI: India have retained their top position in ODIs and T20is but slipped to the second position in the men's Test Team Rankings in the latest ICC annual ranking update issued on Friday.

India conceded the top spot in the five-day format to Australia, the



Indian cricket team captain Rohit Sharma during a training session. Photo. PTI

reigning World Test champion, following the annual update that drops results from the 2020-21 season and reflects all

HIGHLIGHT

● India maintains lead in ODI and T20I rankings, slips to second in Tests; Australia tops Test rankings; South Africa climbs.

placed England. South Africa are the fourth team above the 100-point mark with 103 points.

India slipped mainly because their 2-1 series win in Australia in 2020-21 has dropped from the rankings.

The order of teams ranked from third to ninth remains the same.

Only nine teams are now ranked as Afghanistan and Ireland have yet to play sufficient Tests, while Zimbabwe too are out as they have played only three Tests over the past three years.

Teams need to play a minimum of eight Tests over a three-year period to get on the rankings table.

India, however, remain atop the ODI and T20I rankings after the annual updates, that weight matches completed prior to May 2023 at 50 per cent and subsequent matches at 100 per cent.

Australia in second place in T20I rankings, SA in 3rd

DUBAI: India may have lost the ODI World Cup final to Australia but have increased their lead over them from three to six points, leading the table with 122 points. There are no changes in the top 10 but Ireland have overtaken Zimbabwe to 11th position.

Third-placed South Africa have closed the gap with Australia from eight to four points, while Sri Lanka are just two points behind fifth-

HIGHLIGHT

● The T20I rankings see Australia move ahead of England to second place but they are seven points adrift of India, who lead with 264 rating points.

placed England.

The T20I rankings see Australia move ahead of England to second place but they are seven points adrift of India, who lead with 264 rating points.

South Africa are just two points behind England after leapfrogging two places from the sixth position that they had before the update. New Zealand also have 250 points like South Africa but behind on fractions, while the West Indies are at 249 points, which means that just three points separate third-placed England from sixth placed West Indies.

[BADMINTON]

Now I know what to focus on in training: Prannoy

Press Trust of India

Indian shuttler HS Prannoy overcomes health challenges, gains valuable insights at Thomas Cup badminton tournament in Chengdu.

CHENGDU: Happy to be able to compete at the highest level after struggling with health issues for the last four months, Indian shuttler HS Prannoy on Thursday said the Thomas Cup campaign gave him an idea on the areas he needs to work on ahead of the upcoming events.

The 31-year-old from Kerala, who will be representing India at the Paris Olympics, has been suffering from a stomach issue, which was similar to acid reflux that he suffered in 2018-2019. It caused nausea and vomiting and also caused him to lose four kilograms in



HIGHLIGHT

● At the Thomas Cup, Prannoy defeated Indonesia's Anthony Ginting and also registered a win against England's Harry Huang

the last couple of months.

At the Thomas Cup, Prannoy defeated Indonesia's Anthony Ginting and also registered a win against England's Harry Huang earlier in the tournament. He played a close match against world no. 2 Shi Yu Qi of China on Thursday.

"I fought hard and I think that's what matters and for me, that's what mattered straight from the first day.

"The idea was to not let go of things easily and to fight until the last point," Prannoy said after losing 21-15 11-21 14-21 to Shi Yu Qi as India went down 1-3 to China to end their campaign at the quarterfinal stage.

"Probably I did that but I would say a lot of learning from this match as well to know where the top players are playing and what are the areas they're good at.

Pakistan to play Tests against England, Bangladesh

LAHORE: Pakistan will be playing a total of seven Tests against England, Bangladesh and South Africa between August 2024 and January 2025 as part of the ICC World Test Championship's (WTC) third cycle, which concludes next year.

Pakistan will host England and Bangladesh at home for two and three Tests respectively before heading to South Africa for three T20is, three ODIs and two Tests in the latter half of this year.

Pakistan is yet to win a Test series in South Africa and Australia.

On Friday, the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) announced that Durban, Centurion and Johannesburg will host the T20is from December 10-14, while the ODIs will be played from December 17-22 in Paarl, Cape Town and Johannesburg.

Hardik and Virat will make for great combination when chasing: Sreesanth

Press Trust of India

HIGHLIGHT

● The out-of-form Pandya's inclusion in the 15-member India squad raised eyebrows but the selectors went by his past record and his ability to quickly change the complexion of a game

NEW DELHI: Former India pacer S Sreesanth on Friday backed Hardik Pandya's selection in the T20 World Cup squad, saying the all-rounder's presence alongside Virat Kohli will make for a "great combination" when chasing tricky totals.

"We have seen what he can do on the field minus this year's IPL. The way

he's been batting and the way he's been bowling, for the country, he even led the country in one series and we won,"



Sreesanth remarked during a discussion on Star Sports. "It was asked to Rohit about that and he said sometimes I'm the

captain and sometimes I'm not. But that doesn't change the team's aura and atmosphere.

"So, it's one good thing that Hardik Pandya comes in and bats, especially when he's chasing and Virat is on the other side, I think the combination they create is great."

Pandya's last appearance for India came during the ODI World Cup match against Bangladesh in October 2023.

Sumit draws strength from past struggles

Press Trust of India

BENGALURU: Sumit already has Olympic and Asian Games hockey medals in his cabinet, but more torrid memories are fuelling his dreams of adding another piece of metal into his glittering collection.

The 27-year-old is hoping to be a part of India's Paris Olympics-bound squad, but he is unfazed by the intense competition for a spot in the final 16.



"There were bigger struggles in my life. As someone who went through tougher challenges in life, I keep remembering myself about my past.

"I have kept those memories with me and I get strong vibes from my tough past to move forward. It gives me an energy to strive for bigger achievements," Sumit told PTI on the sidelines of the Indian team's preparatory camp at the SAI centre here.

The Haryana player termed him getting dropped by then coach Graham Reid in 2021 as the biggest challenge he faced on the field.

After the Asian Champions Trophy that year, Sumit fell out of favour and was not picked for the subsequent Commonwealth Games and the World Cup at home.

The nearly two-year omission was tough for him, but Sumit said he never let the hope fade.

"I don't often allow disappointments to creep into my mind. But it's very tough for a player to get dropped from the team.

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World



A fractured democracy can have destructive effects on the economy

Janet Yellen
US Treasury Secretary

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18 लाख पीएम आवास का सपना साकार

भारतीय जनता पार्टी, छत्तीसगढ़



China launched a lunar probe to land on the far side of the moon | Photo: PTI

Lunar probe mission to collect samples from far side of moon

Chang'e-6 mission is tasked with collecting and then returning samples from moon's far side

Press Trust Of India
BEIJING: China on Friday launched a 53-day-long lunar probe mission to collect samples for the first time from the far side of the moon and bring them for scientific studies. The Chang'e-6 mission is tasked with collecting and then returning samples from the moon's far side to Earth -- the first endeavour of its kind in the history of human lunar exploration, China

National Space Administration (CNSA) said. The entire mission would last for 53 days. The far side of the moon is not visible from Earth. An hour after the launch, an official announced that Chang'e-6's launch was "a complete success". The lunar probe was carried by a Long March-5 Y8 rocket blasted off smoothly from the Wenchang Space Launch Site on the coast of China's southern island

HIGHLIGHT
● The entire mission would last for 53 days. An hour after the launch, an official announced that Chang'e-6's launch was "a complete success".
● Chang'e 6 consists of four components: an orbiter, a lander, an ascender and a re-entry module, according to CNSA

province of Hainan. The launch was telecast live by state-run television. Chang'e 6 consists of four components: an orbiter, a lander, an ascender and a re-entry module, according to CNSA. After collecting dust and rocks on the moon, the ascender will transport the samples to the lunar orbiter for transfer to the re-entry module, which will carry them back to Earth. The CNSA said earlier that the mission is poised to make

breakthroughs in key technologies, such as automatic sample collection, take-off and ascent from the far side of the moon. Meanwhile, the probe will carry out scientific exploration of the landing zone. The CNSA has announced that scientific instruments from France, Italy and the European Space Agency/Sweden will be on board the lander of the Chang'e-6 mission and a Pakistani payload on the orbiter.

Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

CINEMA
Pike joined the cast for 3rd instalment in "Now You See Me" franchise



LOS ANGELES: Hollywood star Rosamund Pike has joined the cast for the third instalment in the "Now You See Me" franchise. According to entertainment website Variety, the "Saltburn" star is among a number of newcomers to the series, following Justice Smith, Dominic Sessa and Ariana Greenblatt. Jesse Eisenberg, Woody Harrelson, Isla Fisher, Dave Franco, and Morgan Freeman are all returning for the threequel, which will be directed by Ruben Fleischer of "Venom" fame. **PTI**

LANKA-RUPEE
Sri Lanka rupee makes gains over major currencies: minister



COLOMBO: Sri Lanka's rupee, which suffered severe depreciation because of the island nation's unprecedented economic crisis since 2022, has started to make gains in comparison to other currencies, State Minister for Finance Ranjith Siyambalapatiya said on Friday. He said during the first four months of the year, the Sri Lankan rupee had appreciated by 9.1 per cent against the US dollar, 12.7 per cent against the Euro, 10.8 per cent against the UK pound, 11.4 per cent against the Chinese Yuan. **PTI**

From around the world

Steve Martin on filming 'Only Murders in the Building 4': It could be one of our best seasons



LOS ANGELES: Actor-comedian Steve Martin, who is currently filming for the fourth season of much anticipated series "Only Murders in the Building", says it is "star-studded" and could possibly be "the best season". Talking to entertainment news outlet PEOPLE, the actor said, "It's star-studded. And I'm going to say we're about halfway through, and we are really enjoying this season. We think it could be one of our best seasons. Although they're all flawless." The comedy-mystery series revolves

around three residents of a building in New York who share a penchant for a true crime podcast. They join hands to investigate a mysterious murder in their building every season. Martin, Steve Short and Selena Gomez star in top roles. The upcoming season will also have new additions to the cast including Molly Shannon, Zach Galifianakis, Eva Longoria and Eugene Levy. The details of the plot are kept under wraps. The first season of "Only Murders in the Building" released in 2021.

CINEMA
Paul Rudd, Nick Jonas to lead musical comedy 'Power Ballad'



LOS ANGELES: Hollywood actors Paul Rudd and Nick Jonas are set to appear in musical comedy "Power Ballad", which is currently filming in Dublin, Ireland. According to entertainment news outlet Deadline, the project is helmed by director John Carney, who is known for films like "Sing Street", "Begin Again" and "Once". The film is written by Carney and Peter McDonald and will follow the story of "a wedding singer (Rudd), a rock star (Jonas) and the song that comes between them", reads the official log line. "I'm delighted to be working with so many great people. I've been working on this script with my buddy Peter for years, and now Paul Rudd and Nick Jonas are in my kitchen," Carney said. Rudd, 55, recently appeared in musical fantasy "Ghostbusters: Frozen Empire" where he starred alongside McKenna Grace, Emily Alan Lind and Finn Wolfhard. **PTI**

ABORTION LAW
Denmark to liberalise abortion law

COPENHAGEN: Denmark's govt said Friday it is relaxing its restrictions on abortion for the first time in 50 yrs to make it legal for women to terminate pregnancies up to the 18th week. The law will also be changed to allow girls between 15 and 17 yrs to have an abortion without parental consent.

| US-CAMPUS-PROTESTS |

Steps to prevent pro-Palestinian protest

Press Trust Of India
Intro-With student protests over Israel-Hamas war disrupting campuses nationwide, several major universities are intent on ensuring that commencement ceremonies go off without a hitch this weekend.



Protesters chant outside of a pro-Palestinian encampment set up on the University of Toronto campus in Toronto | Photo: PTI

It won't be easy. Colleges are hiring extra security, screening attendees at venues and emphasising that significant disruptions by pro-Palestinian protesters won't be tolerated. At the same time, they're pledg-

ing to honour free-speech rights by designating protest zones. "Milestone is a perfect word," said Ken Burdick of Tampa, Florida, describing his daughter's graduation Saturday at the University of Michigan.

He hopes the big day goes untarnished. "People can exercise their First Amendment rights without disrupting or creating fear," Burdick said of protesters. More than 8,000 graduates -- and 63,000 spectators --

FASTFACTS
● Colleges are hiring extra security, screening attendees at venues and emphasising that significant disruptions by pro-Palestinian protesters won't be tolerated.

are expected for Saturday's festivities inside Michigan Stadium, known as The Big House. There will be security screening, and disruptive protesters could be subject to removal. Public safety officers and staff who commonly monitor major events, such as fall football games, will be present.

| SHARE MARKET |

Asian shares advance ahead of US jobs report

Press Trust Of India
TOKYO: Business Writer Asian shares were mostly higher Friday ahead of a report on the US jobs market, while several major markets including Tokyo and Shanghai were closed for holidays. Oil prices and US futures were higher. The Japanese yen strengthened slightly against the US dollar

amid signs of heavy central bank intervention to tamp down the dollar's advance. The financial newspaper Nihon Keizai Shimbun reported that estimates showed the government spending an estimated 8 trillion yen (about \$50 billion) this week in trying to keep the yen from slipping further against the dollar. The weaker yen has helped



boost prices for imported goods, a factor behind the Bank of Japan's recent decision to give up its negative interest rate policy and raise its benchmark rate to zero to 0.1% from a longstanding level of minus 0.1%. It might raise rates further, Marcel Thieliand of Capital Economics said in a commentary, even if its target of 2% isn't met.

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