

WEEKEND

Central Chronicle



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The stadiums built back in
the day are not relevant in the
modern day. Page 15



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Katrina Kaif's linguistic feat:
Deepfake controversy and the
authenticity of talent. Page 12

Narayana Health | MMI

Trusted Neighbourhood Orthopedic & Spine Care Center

Google Rating: 4.5 ★★★★★

Joint Replacement | Sport Injury | Pediatric Ortho | Spine Surgery | Arthritis

Take Care | MMI Narayana Hospital, Lalpur, Raipur | 1800 309 0309

Woman tied and thrashed

Press Trust of India

HAVERI: A 50-year-old woman was allegedly tied to an electric pole and thrashed by a group of women in Aremallapur village in this district after her son eloped with a girl, police said on Saturday.

Following the incident which happened on

April 30 in Ranebennur Rural Police station limits -- six people, including three women have been arrested, they said.

A video of the alleged incident also went viral on social media platforms. Police said Hanumavva Medleri's son Manjunath, who belongs to the Kuruba community was in love

with a girl from Maratha community of the same village since the last two years. But after the girl's family found out about their relationship, it led to a quarrel between the families following which the victim's son left the village. For about over a year, Manjunath was staying with his sister at her place.

Helping the Poor

THIS IS MODI'S GUARANTEE

- Guarantee of **Free Ration** for next 5 years
- Guarantee of delivering **Clean Drinking Water** at every household
- Guarantee of reducing **Electricity Bill to zero** through PM Surya Ghar Yojana
- Guarantee of **Ensuring Food** for the poor
- Guarantee of ensuring a **Secure Roof** over every poor person's head

Priyanka, Modi trade barbs over Rahul

Priyanka Gandhi said that the BJP wants to change the Constitution

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Saturday called Prime Minister Narendra Modi a 'shahanshaah' (king of king) who lives in a palace but is cut off from the public, responding to the PM's 'shehzada' jibe for her brother Rahul Gandhi. The Congress general secretary was addressing a public rally at Lakhani in Gujarat's Banaskantha Lok Sabha constituency to canvass for her party candidate Geniben Thakor.

"He calls my brother 'shehzada'. I would like to tell him that this shehzada walked for 4,000 kilometres from Kanyakumari to Kashmir to listen to your (people's) problems, met my brothers and sisters, farmers and labourers and asked how we can resolve their problems," she said.



PM Narendra Modi during a roadshow for Lok Sabha elections, at Chakeri in Kanpur, Saturday. | Photo: PTI

HIGHLIGHT

- PM targeted Rahul Gandhi, saying Pak was eager to make him India's next PM.

Addressing a rally in Gujarat on Thursday,



BJP wants to weaken the rights given to the people

Priyanka Gandhi
Congress leader

PM Modi had targeted Congress MP Rahul Gandhi, saying Pakistan was eager to make the 'shehzada' of the grand old party India's next PM as the country's enemies want a weak government at the helm.

"On the other hand is your 'shahanshaah', Narendra Modiji. He lives in a palace. Have you ever seen him on TV? Clean clothes with not a single speck of dust, not a single stray hair strand. How will he ever understand your hard work, your farming? How will he understand your problems, that you are overburdened with inflation?" she said.

The Congress leader also said that the BJP wants to change the Constitution, and reduce and weaken the rights given to the people through the statute book.

Terrorist attack: 5 soldiers injured

Press Trust of India

This is the first major attack on the armed forces this year in the region.

JAMMU: Five soldiers of the Indian Airforce were injured when two vehicles in their convoy came under heavy terrorist fire in the Surankote area of



Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district, sources said. Of the five injured, one airman is reportedly critical. They have all been shifted to a hospital for treatment. Reinforcement was rushed to the area and

FACTFILE

- Vehicles are secured inside the air base in the general area near Shahsitar.

counter-terror operations are underway.

This is the first major attack on the armed forces this year in the region which witnessed a series of terror attacks on the army

last year. Visuals from after the attack showed at least a dozen bullet holes on the windscreen of the vehicle that came under fire.

"An Indian Air Force vehicles' convoy was attacked by terrorists in the Poonch district of J&K. The local Rashtriya Rifles unit has started cordon and search operations in the area," sources in the security forces said.

MLA Revanna in SIT custody

BENGALURU: Karnataka JD(S) MLA H D Revanna was taken into custody on Saturday by sleuths of the Special Investigation Team, minutes after a court here rejected his anticipatory bail plea in a kidnapping case, officials said. The case was registered against Revanna, a former minister and son of former PM H D Deve Gowda.

Nithari Killings: Apex Court to hear plea against Koli's acquittal

Press Trust of India

Senior advocate Geeta Luthra and advocates Rupesh Kumar Sinha and Sataroop Das, appearing for Lal, submitted that the high court erred in its finding.



HIGHLIGHT

- Surendra Koli was acquitted in the 2006 Nithari serial killings case.
- Victim's father Lal challenged the HC's Oct16 order.

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court has agreed to hear a plea challenging Allahabad High Court's order acquitting Surendra Koli in the 2006 Nithari serial killings case.

A bench of Justice BR Gavai, Justice Satish Chandra Sharma and Justice Sandeep Mehta issued a notice on an appeal filed by one Pappu Lal, the father of one of the victims. Senior advocate Geeta Luthra and advocates Rupesh Kumar Sinha and Sataroop Das, appearing for Lal, submitted that the high court erred in its finding. The bench issued the notice and sought the response of Koli on Lal's plea and directed the registry to call for records from the trial court and the high court.

Pandher. In the case of Lal, Pandher was acquitted by the sessions court while Koli was awarded the death penalty on September 28, 2010. The case was investigated by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). On October 16, the high court pronounced verdicts on several appeals filed by Koli and Pandher, who were awarded the death penalty by the trial court. It acquitted the pair while holding that the prosecution failed to prove the guilt "beyond reasonable doubt" and that the investigation was "botched up".

The verdict brought back memories of the chilling crime targeting children that came to light after skeletal remains were found behind a bungalow in Noida.

NEWSLINE

CHHATTISGARH

Young man robbed near civil hospital

The police have arrested the accused who stopped a young man who was going for medical treatment from Khairagarh Government Hospital at 1 o'clock in the night.

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SPORT

It's just the beginning for Rinku Ganguly

Rinku Singh shouldn't be disheartened by his exclusion from India's World T20 squad as it was pure tactical decision by team management to ask for an extra spinner taking pitches in the Caribbean into account, former India skipper Sourav Ganguly said on Friday.

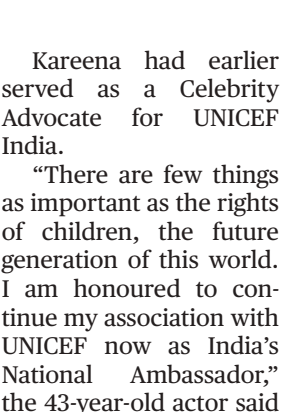
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Kareena appointed UNICEF India Ambassador

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: UNICEF India on Saturday announced Bollywood star Kareena Kapoor Khan as its new National Ambassador.

The "Crew" star, who has been associated with UNICEF India since 2014, will support the not-for-profit organisation in furthering every child's right to early childhood development, health, education and gender equality, a press release said.



Kareena had earlier served as a Celebrity Advocate for UNICEF India.

"There are few things as important as the rights of children, the future generation of this world. I am honoured to continue my association with UNICEF now as India's National Ambassador," the 43-year-old actor said in a statement.

"I will strive to use my voice and influence for



vulnerable children and their rights, especially around early childhood,

NUMBER

43

- 43-year-old actor felt honoured to continue her association

education and gender equality. For every child deserves a childhood, a fair chance, a future," she added.

Besides Kareena, UNICEF India has also

appointed its first-ever Youth Advocates, who are peer leaders and champions on issues like climate action, mental health, innovations and girls in STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics).

The advocates are Gauranshi Sharma from MP on right to play and disability inclusion; Kartik Verma from UP on climate action and child rights advocacy.

NATION

TMC's Kunal Ghosh meets Derek in signs of rapprochement

TMC leader Kunal Ghosh, who was removed as the party's state general secretary, met Rajya Sabha MP Derek O'Brien on Saturday, in signs of rapprochement.

Page 10

Raipur



Under Modi's rule the rich getting more richer and common man became more poorer.

Deepak Baij,
PCC Chief



AICC Spokesperson Alok Sharma addressing the scribes here on Saturday.

'Development, trust, and security failed under BJP rule'

Sharma began by accusing the BJP of accepting defeat by cancelling the tickets of seven out of nine MPs in the state, alleging their lack of representation and efficacy in Parliament.

Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: Amidst the fervor of the ongoing Lok Sabha elections in Chhattisgarh, Alok Sharma, the spokesperson of the All India Congress Committee (AICC), launched a scathing critique of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government's track record in the state. Addressing a press conference at the state Congress headquarters in Raipur, Sharma highlighted issues of development, trust, and security that he claims have deteriorated under BJP rule. Sharma began by accusing the BJP of accepting defeat

by cancelling the tickets of seven out of nine MPs in the state, alleging their lack of representation and efficacy in Parliament. He asserted that the BJP's promises, including the assurance of providing Minimum Support Price (MSP) of Rs. 3100, remained unfulfilled, leading to disillusionment among the electorate.

Furthermore, Sharma lambasted the BJP for purportedly fostering an environment of insecurity and escalating crime rates, particularly citing the resurgence of Naxalism in various districts. He accused the BJP government of

HIGHLIGHT

● **BJP's promises, including the assurance of providing Minimum Support Price (MSP) of Rs. 3100, remained unfulfilled**

● **Farmers have been disproportionately impacted by the central government's policies.**

being "remote-controlled" and failing to address the growing security concerns adequately. The spokesperson also criticized the BJP's economic policies, claiming that they have

adversely affected farmers, with the imposition of GST on agricultural equipment exacerbating financial burdens. He pointed out that Chhattisgarh's farmers, the backbone of the state's economy, have been disproportionately impacted by the central government's policies. Sharma highlighted the alleged lack of representation and advocacy by BJP MPs from Chhattisgarh in addressing public grievances and advocating for the state's interests in the Lok Sabha. He accused the BJP of prioritizing political expediency over genuine governance,

citing the cancellation of MP tickets to evade anti-incumbency sentiments. In his closing remarks, Sharma accused the BJP of propagating falsehoods and failing to deliver on its electoral promises, contrasting this with what he described as the successful implementation of welfare schemes during the Congress government's tenure.

He criticized the Election Commission for purportedly neglecting complaints against BJP leaders and expressed concerns about the integrity of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) under BJP rule.

FOREIGN DIPLOMATS VISIT

International Diplomats visit CG to observe election process

Principals empowered to mitigate post-exam stress students

RAIPUR: In a proactive measure to address post-exam stress among students following the announcement of 10th and 12th board exam results, principals of government high and higher secondary schools in Mahasamund district have initiated classes aimed at alleviating stress and preventing untoward incidents. Under the collaborative efforts of the Education and Health Departments, a workshop was conducted at Navkiran Academy, focusing on equipping principals with strategies to identify and assist students dealing with stress. Attended by principals from 186 schools, along with representatives from district education offices and resource centers, the workshop was held under the National Mental Health Programme.

The seven-member delegation hailing from Nepal, Bangladesh, Mauritius, and Russia expressed gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

RAIPUR: In a bid to gain insights into India's vibrant democracy, a delegation of foreign diplomats has descended upon Chhattisgarh, keenly observing the ongoing election process. Led by Chief Minister Vishnudeo Sai, the visitors were warmly welcomed at the CM House, where discussions on the nuances of the electoral system ensued.



International Diplomats meets Chief Minister Vishnudeo Sai on Saturday.

FACTFILE

● **Diplomats were enthralled by Chhattisgarh's rich tapestry of art, culture, and cuisine.**

The seven-member delegation hailing from Nepal, Bangladesh, Mauritius, and Russia

expressed gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for extending invitations to witness India's electoral spectacle firsthand.

They lauded the opportunity to witness the electioneering efforts of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), led by Prime Minister Modi himself.

During their stay,

the diplomats were enthralled by Chhattisgarh's rich tapestry of art, culture, and cuisine. Chief Minister Sai took the initiative to acquaint his guests with the natural wonders of Bastar, Surguja, and Jashpur, alongside detailing the strides made in public welfare initiatives during his three-month tenure.

CAMPUS SELECTION

Four students from ME branch secure placements

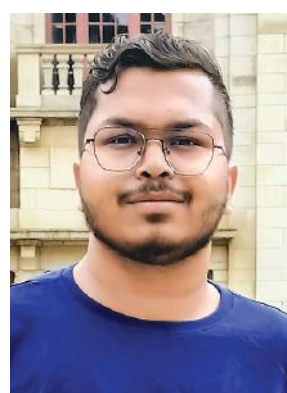
Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: National Institute of Technology, Raipur's final year students Ketak Sahu, Mechanical Engineering, Sourabh Pratap Singh, Mechanical Engineering, have received Pre-Placement Offers (PPOs) as Design Engineers from the esteemed Indian multinational motorcycle manufacturer,

TVS Motors Company Ltd. Mayank Kumar Sahu, Electrical Engineering, and Ranveer Diptesh Atul, Mechanical Engineering, have received pre-placement offers as Graduate Trainees at Reliance Industries Ltd., an Indian multinational company that provides its services in the fields of energy, petrochemicals, retail, and natural gas as well as

I dedicated 12 hours to interview preparation, emphasized the interview's focus on fundamental knowledge.

Ketak Sahu
NIT student



digital services.

Ketak Sahu, delving into his preparation journey, attributed his success to a robust foundation in Machine Design, where he delved into the intricacies of stress-strain curves and failure theories.

Notably, his participation in the Formula Bharat project, specifically in the suspension division, proved pivotal.

Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

DISRESPECTING WOMEN

Ajay Chandrakar criticizes Congress's handling of Radhika Kheda Case

RAIPUR: BJP MLA Ajay Chandrakar has launched a scathing attack on the Congress party's investigation into the Radhika Kheda case, dismissing it as mere formality. Chandrakar accused Congress of disrespecting women and emphasized the need for swift action in the matter. Addressing the media, Chandrakar highlighted the alleged lack of decorum within Congress ranks, citing the case of Radhika Kheda, who reportedly felt compelled to bring her mother along while meeting the PCC Chief due to insecurity. He criticized PCC Chief Deepak Baij, labeling him as a scripted leader who echoes the words of others without original thought. In response to Charandas Mahant's recent statement questioning what Modi-Shah could teach after completing only 10th grade, Chandrakar expressed surprise, attributing it to a lapse in judgment.

TABLE TENNIS

Inter Institutional TT League for Professionals from May 8

RAIPUR: Rajdhani Table Tennis Association (RTTA) is organising an Inter Institutional Doubles League Table Tennis tournament from May 8 to 12 at Sapre School Table Tennis Hall here.

Providing the above information in a statement issued here, the RTTA Secretary Vinay Baiswade said that employees including retired employees from government, non-government, public sector undertakings and private offices can participate in the above tournament.

He further added that the Professionals including Chartered Accountants, Doctors, Lawyers, Journalist as well as Trainers can also participate in the above tournament.



Awareness rally

ABVP organizes Run for Democracy to create Voter Awareness



RAIPUR: Akhil Bharatiya Vidyaratni Parishad (ABVP) Raipur Mahanagar on Saturday organised a Voter Awareness rally titled Run For Democracy on behalf of Khelo Bharat here.

More than 600 students participated in the above Run which covered a distance of 5 Kms.

Ashutosh Sinha won the Run and was given a by-cycle on winning the race whereas second and third place winners were given track suit. Run started from Pt Ravishanker Shukla University gate and returned back from Anupam Garden. RSS Central Region head Dr Purnendru Saxena

was chief guest of the concluding ceremony whereas ABVP Secretary Yagyadutt Verma was the main speaker of the event. Top 10 performers given presented memento at the concluding ceremony.

Speaking on the occasion, the Guests highlighted the importance of voting for a strong democracy and added that voting would help create atmosphere to make India a global power.

ABVP Joint Secretary Sujal Gupta, Anivat Dixit, Ashim Sinha, Tarun Sahu, Chitragupt Anant and other office-bearers were present on the occasion.

The Day's NUMBERS

AVAILABILITY OF NUMBER OF SEATS IN POLYTECHNIC COLLEGES IN THE STATE

Year	Seats available for admissions in Polytechnic Colleges
2019-20	10,564
2020-21	9069
2021-22	8296
2022-23	8664
2023-24	7615

Source: Agencies

BIKE RALLY

40 km Bike Rally organised to promote voter awareness

RAIPUR: In a bid to promote voter awareness and encourage 100% voting participation, ACC Cement and Ambuja Cement jointly organized a 40 km bike rally in Raipur. The rally commenced at Magneto Mall Raipur and culminated at ACC Cement Jamul, Bhilai, garnering enthusiastic participation from bikers and onlookers alike. The event was inaugurated by the ACC and Ambuja team, who flagged off the rally amidst cheers and applause. Led by Vinod Gopal, State Head of ACC Cement and Ambuja Cement, and spearheaded by Vishal Dutt Shukla, Area Sales Manager of ACC, alongside Sonendra Awadiya and Tanmay Panda, Marketing and Branding Heads of Ambuja, the rally aimed to spread awareness about the importance of voting in the democratic process. Participants rode through the streets of Raipur, displaying banners and placards advocating for voter engagement and civic responsibility.

CHALLENGERS TROPHY

CSCS to organize Women's one day Challengers Trophy from May 8

RAIPUR: Chhattisgarh State Cricket Sangh (CSCS) is organizing Women's Senior Under 23 One Day Challengers Trophy tournament from May 8. A press release issued here informed that five teams from Chhattisgarh would be participating in the above tournament to be held at Naya Raipur-based Veer Narayan Singh International Cricket Stadium and at Sector 1 Ground Bhilai. Training camp and practice matches would be held from May 4 to 7. East Zone, West, South, Central and North Zone teams would be participating in the above tournament which would conclude on May 14.



IPL betting racket: CG cops arrest 26 persons from Pune

34 bookies apprehended in connection with a case registered under Gambling Act.

Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: The Chhattisgarh police have arrested 26 people from Maharashtra in connection with a racket involved in betting on IPL matches through online applications, including the Mahadev app, a senior police official said on Saturday.

A team from the anti-crime and cyber unit (ACCU) arrested the accused from two apartments in Pune, Raipur senior superintendent of police Santosh Singh said. With this, the ACCU has apprehended 34 bookies in connection with a case registered under the Gambling Act and the Chhattisgarh Gambling (Prohibition) Act, 2022 at Ganj police station here, he said.

A joint team of the ACCU and Ganj police had recently raided a flat in Goa, arrested eight people involved in online betting on IPL matches and seized four laptops, a camera, a calculator, 27 mobile phones and other items, he said. During interrogation, the accused revealed that their associates were involved in betting through the Mahadev app panel in Pune, Singh said.



Raipur senior superintendent of police Santosh Singh briefing media over arrest of bookies.

A team of the ACCU Raipur, which was already in Maharashtra as a part of a probe in another case, conducted a recce of the two apartments in the Bharti Vidyapeeth area of Pune, posing as a vegetable vendor, milk and paper delivery boys for seven days before conducting the raid, he said.

"Twenty-six people indulging in online betting using laptops and mobile phones were arrested from the two flats," he said.

Each ID panel was purchased for Rs 35 lakh to Rs 50 lakh

The police have recovered 11 laptops, 98 mobile phones, a calculator and other items worth Rs 25 lakh from the accused, he said. "The accused have revealed that they were operating through 67 ID panels/branches of the Reddy app, 149 panels of the Mahadev app and 10 panels of laser book. They had purchased each ID panel for Rs 35 lakh

HIGHLIGHT

• The accused have revealed that they were operating through 67 ID panels/branches of the Reddy app, 149 panels of the Mahadev app and 10 panels of laser book.

to Rs 50 lakh," the official said. The seized lap-

tops and mobile phones revealed transactions worth Rs 30 crore, while information about 1,000 players involved in betting was also obtained from mobile phones and bank accounts, he said. The accused informed that they were associated with Pappu Jethwani, a history-sheeter from the Purani Basti area of Raipur, who is absconding.

ITC worth Rs 71.38 cr recovered from 13 fake firms

Central Chronicle News

A special campaign is being run by Central GST against those availing benefit of Input Tax Credit by setting up fake firms. During investigation GST officials have busted the network of 13 fake firms.

RAIPUR: The CGST Raipur recently busted a racket of 13 fake firms which were created only for the purpose of making fake invoices and passing Input Tax Credit (ITC). The action has been taken on the basis of special intelligence, data analysis and extensive surveillance. With this another accused associated with this network has been arrested. Racket mastermind Hemant Kaseria was arrested a month ago.

It was found in the investigation of CGST Raipur, that a large amount of such fake ITC was given by the firms run by Hemant Kaseria to M/s Triveni Metallic Industries Pvt. Ltd. and M/s Triveni Enterprises based in Raipur. In investigation, it was found that not only 2 firms but other 4 firms are controlled and managed by Sarvesh Kumar Pandey. After thorough scrutiny of documents, accounts and returns, it was found that Sarvesh had purchased fake bills not only

from Hemant Kaseria but also from many other fake firms. In the investigation so far, fake ITC worth Rs 71.38 crore has been detected, the benefit of which was taken by Pandey with the intention of avoiding GST.

The Central GST team arrested Sarvesh Kumar Pandey, the accused in this case, under Section 69 (1) of the CGST Act, 2017 and presented him in the court. After hearing the arguments of both the parties

FASTFACTS

• The action has been taken on the basis of special intelligence, data analysis and extensive surveillance.

• CGST Raipur is taking strict enforcement action against tax evaders and especially against the taxpayers involved in the business of fake billing.

in the hearing, the court has approved the judicial custody of the accused. CGST Raipur is taking strict enforcement action against tax evaders and especially against the taxpayers involved in the business of fake billing. Number of persons arrested by CGST Raipur Commissionerate in connection with fake billing since the implementation of GST law has increased to 17.

NEWSLINE

AWARD

Jyoti Prabhat awarded Ph.D by GGV Bilaspur



RAIPUR: Jyoti Prabhat was awarded Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D) by Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya (GGV) Bilaspur in Political Science. He did his Ph.D under the supervision of Dr Santwana Pandey from Political Science Department of School of Studies in Social Science, GGV Bilaspur. The topic of the thesis was "Role of Political Parties in Social Inclusion : Special Reference to Janta Dal United ". In this regard, Examination Controller of the GGV has issued a notification.

EXAMS

CG Vyapam adjusts Exam dates due to Lok Sabha elections

RAIPUR: In light of Lok Sabha elections Chhattisgarh Vyapam, has announced revised dates for its entrance and eligibility examinations. The changes aim to accommodate electoral process and minimize any disruptions for students. Revised schedule spans from June 9 to July 14, extending beyond initially planned end date of July 7. Alteration has been made to align with central-level exam's and ensure a smooth conduct of assessments. New exam dates as per new schedule is June 9: Examinations for PAT, PVPT, B.Sc. Agri, B.Sc. Horticulture, Diploma in Animal Husbandry, and Diploma in Fisheries Science will be conducted in the morning shift.

IVF CENTER

Tragedy strikes: Woman dies at Raipur IVF Center

RAIPUR: A heartbreaking incident has emerged from Pandri Raipur, where a woman who had arrived at an IVF center in hopes of conceiving a child tragically passed away under suspicious circumstances. Incident has sparked outrage among relatives who allege medical negligence on the part of the center's doctors. Neelam Sahu, wife of Manoj Sahu from Lakholi, Rajnandgaon, had been seeking assistance at IVF center due to her inability to conceive naturally. Neelam was consulting with doctors for several days, with plans for an IVF procedure scheduled for Friday.

Initiative to provide drinking water to passengers

Central Chronicle News

Social organizations being encouraged to open free kiosks in stations of Raipur Railway Division.

RAIPUR: Keeping in mind the greater need of water during summer, Raipur Division Railway Administration has provided clean and safe drinking water to passengers at railway stations through water coolers and water taps. Social organizations are also being encouraged to open free kiosks.

There is more need of drinking water for the passengers while traveling during summer days, hence proper arrangements for clean drinking water have been made in all the major stations of the division. At Raipur and Bhatapara stations of Raipur Railway Division, social organizations are working to provide free cold water to the passengers through water kiosks. People are getting drinking water from the taps installed in the water booths and water coolers located at various stations. A free RO water booth has also been installed on plat-



form number 01 at Raipur Railway Station of Raipur Railway Division.

About 953 taps at 283 water booths and about 307 taps at 104 water coolers for cold water have been made available for the provision of drinking water to the passengers on the platforms of all the stations of Raipur Railway Division.

Divisional Railway Administration is requesting religious and social service organizations/institutions to ensure their participation in this sacred work in the interest of passengers. Institutions/individuals desirous of opening water fountains to provide clean and cold water to the passengers at various stations of the division can contact the Commercial Inspector/Station Manager of the concerned station and the Commercial Department of the division.

Dy CM Sao hits back at Kharge's statement

RAIPUR: Deputy Chief Minister Arun Sao has hit back at the statement of Congress National President Mallikarjun Kharge. Talking to the reporters at his Raipur residence, he said that Kharge's statement showed his frustration. Sao said that those who said don't be afraid, got scared of the people of Amethi.

Rahul Gandhi is continuously running. First he ran away from Amethi to Wayanad and now fearing his defeat in Wayanad, he has come to Rae Bareilly, Sao said. Sao said that Rahul Gandhi is doing the work of scaring and running away.

PM Modi is continuously fighting from Banaras and his attachment to Baba Kashinath is well known, said Sao. Rahul Gandhi ran away to Wayanad after he lost Amethi seat to Smriti Irani, Sao said, adding that Rahul has understood that the people of Wayanad are also going to reject him this time.

Now the public in Rae Bareilly is ready to send Rahul Gandhi back. Deputy CM Sao said that the Gandhi family neglected the people of Rae Bareilly.

Fire safety week launched for passengers' safe travel

| AWARENESS CAMPAIGN |

Central Chronicle News

The Fire Safety Awareness Week aims to highlight the importance of fire safety during train travel and reduce the risk of fire incidents.

RAIPUR: As per the directives issued by the Railway Board, a Fire Safety Week is being observed in all trains passing through the Raipur Division from May 1 to May 7, 2024. The Fire Safety Awareness Week aims to highlight the importance of fire safety during train travel and reduce the risk of fire incidents through awareness campaigns.

In this regard, awareness campaigns for fire prevention are being conducted at divisional level in major railway stations and on all trains passing through the division. Fire safety checks are being conducted in pantries and coaches. Passengers are being informed about the importance of fire safety during train travel and



The railway employees learning about using firefighting equipments.

FASTFACTS

• Firefighting equipment is being made available in stations and coaches for emergency situations.

are being advised not to travel with inflammable items. Prohibited items are also being highlighted through announcement systems. Firefighting equipment is being made available in stations and coaches for emergency situations. Training campaigns are being conducted for railway staff to efficiently use

firefighting equipment in offices and trains, ensuring effective prevention of fire accidents.

Special training sessions on fire safety are being conducted by the Civil Safety Inspector of the Divisional Safety Department. During the training, information is provided on safety standards, and the use of firefighting equipment is demonstrated. Extensive precautions to prevent accidents caused by fire are also being explained in detail.

The railway administration is confident that this campaign will contribute to creating a safer

environment for passengers and facilitate better travel experiences.

The railway administration is confident that this campaign will help create a conducive environment for better passenger safety during travel. The passengers on trains are being informed about the importance of fire safety awareness and frontline staff are being trained to operate firefighting equipment. Awareness about fire safety is being provided to ticket checking staff and parcel booking staff of the commercial department at Raipur Railway Station.

युवाओं को मिला न्याय

CG PSC घोषाले की शुरु हुई सीबीआई जांच

भारतीय जनता पार्टी, छत्तीसगढ़



Ensure all the necessary facilities in all the polling stations for voters

Richa Prakash Choudhary
Collector, Durg

Police conducts flag march to ensure peaceful voting

Police are also cracking down on habitual criminals and hooligans to avoid unpleasant situations in the Lok Sabha elections

Central Chronicle News

BHILAI: Polling for the Lok Sabha election in Durg Constituency is scheduled to be held on May 07. With the aim of conducting peaceful voting in the district and making the people aware to vote without any fear, the security personnel conducted flag marches at important places in the district. The Police are also cracking down on habitual criminals and hooligans to avoid unpleasant situations in the elections. Under the leadership of District Collector Richa Prakash Choudhary and Superintendent of Police Jitendra Shukla, the police officers, administrative officers and paramilitary forces marched across important places of Durg, Mohan Nagar, Supela, Vaishali Nagar, Chhawani, Khursipar, Railway Station Power House, etc. Flag march was carried out with hundreds of officers and jawans of District Police Force and Paramilitary Force. The flag march commenced from Police Line Durg and concluded at Police Lines. Another flag march was taken out from Police Con-



Collector addressing the AROs and SOs during review meeting.

trol Room in Bhilai to Lal Maidan Chhawani.

During the flag march, the general public was made aware to vote without any fear.

The officials sought information about the habitual miscreants and hooligans of the area. Railway stations and bus stands were carefully checked and suspicious people were interrogated. Hotel and lodge operators were instructed to immediately inform the concerned police station about the stay of suspicious persons.

Forces encouraged to discharge duty with promptness and alertness

Before the flag march, District Election Officer (Durg) Richa Prakash Choudhary and Superintendent of Police (Durg) Jitendra Shukla briefed the forces and encouraged them to conduct fair, constructive and peaceful voting and discharge their responsibilities with promptness and alertness. Sukhnandan Rathore (Additional Superinten-

HIGHLIGHT

• Flag march carried out with hundreds of officers and jawans of District Police Force and Paramilitary Force

• Railway stations and bus stands were carefully checked, suspicious people were interrogated

dent of Police, City) briefed the District Police Force and Paramilitary Force in Bhilai and gave necessary instructions. Abhishek Jha, ASP, City; Chirag Jain, City SP, Durg; Akshay Pramod Savadra (trainee IPS); Arvind Ekka, Addl District Magistrate, Durg; Satish Thakur, DSP, Traffic; Chandra Prakash Tiwari, SHOs of all police stations were present.

Principals discuss ways to overcome exam result stress

Central Chronicle News

High expectations and worry can trigger stress among the students. Some simple techniques can help in stress management.

BHILAI: Education Department hosted a discussion on stress management arising out of examination results for all the school principals at Khalsa Public School. In his opening remarks, District Education Officer (Durg) Arvind Mishra said that the principals should hold discussion with the parents so that the children do not take untoward steps after the declaration of board exam results. He spoke about the continuous counselling of the children during the academic session. He asked the principals to give the students some tips to gradually manage their stress over time by focusing on other projects and areas, eating healthy and exercising regularly. He emphasised on encouraging children to accept the results.

Delivering the keynote address, Dr Seema Jain (Pediatrician) discussed the symptoms of stress in children and ways to overcome it. Dr Jain spoke about providing support

to children when needed. Sujo Samuel (Counsellor, DPS Risali) gave ten tips for children to stay stress free from exam results. He emphasized on ice breaker activity to create a comfortable environment with children.

SDM Mukesh Raote gave the example of Dr APJ Abdul Kalam. He expressed the need for various activities to challenge

FASTFACTS

• Regular counselling can help students overcome stress

• Diverting focus, healthy diet and exercise are also helpful

fixed beliefs and adopt a more sensitive perspective on success and failure. District Mission Coordinator Surendra Pandey said that school and examinations can often cause stress but we can manage it in a smooth and effective manner. He said that various techniques and tips were discussed in the workshop which can help in reducing exam stress. APC Vivek Sharma said that result stress occurs when we are worried about our exam or project or we are in a state of stress, lack of sleep and anxiety.

ARREST

Man arrested for attempting to kill father-in-law



BHILAI: Police arrested a man who fired a shot from a pistol on his father-in-law with the intention of murder. The incident had occurred near Lakshmi Market in Supela on April 25. Police recovered 01 pistol, 03 live cartridges and 01 empty shell from the accused. ASP Sukhnandan Rathore informed that the victim Omprakash was admitted to Sparsh Hospital, Supela with a bullet wound on face. Police recorded his statement in the hospital. He informed that his son-in-law Chandrabhushan Singh is a habitual drinker and abuses his wife every day. Omprakash's daughter had come to his maternal house and the accused Chandrabhushan Singh and his friend Roshan Nishad had come to pick her up.

POLICE ACTION

Habitual offender nabbed for assaulting girl with sharp weapon

BHILAI: Police arrested a habitual offender on charges of trespassing into a house and assaulting a girl with a sharp weapon. ASP Sukhnandan Rathore informed that the accused Amit Josh is a notorious goon of Bhilai Nagar police station, against whom a total of 49 cases like murder, attempt to murder, robbery, kidnapping and assault are registered in Bhilai Nagar police station and other police stations of the district. On April 30, the accused trespassed into the residence of Garima Sahu (27) daughter of Nandlal Sahu, a resident of near Surya Mall, Junwani. The girl was alone at home when the accused forcefully entered her house and abused her. He threatened the girl with a sharp weapon. Police lodged a case under Section 452, 294, 506, 323 of IPC and section 25, 27 of Arms Act. The accused Amit Josh has been arrested and produced before the court.

OBITUARY

Saurabh Dhurandhar

BHILAI: Katulbod resident Saurabh Dhurandhar left for heavenly abode at the age of 48 years on Friday. He breathed last at Pune after suffering cardiac arrest. Funeral procession was taken out from his residence situated at Street 03, Katulbod, Durg and last rites of the mortal remains were performed at Ramnagar Muktidham. He is survived by mother - Lakshmi Dhurandhar; wife Seema Dhurandhar and children - Devesh and Shriya. He was the brother of Shubha Banchhor (GM, Mktg & BP, BSP) and brother-in-law of Narendra Kumar Banchhor (SEFI Chairman & GM-MARS).

HYU organising Ch'garh poetry, story writing competition

Central Chronicle News

Acharya Narendra Dev Verma Shodhpeeth of the University is organising this all India level competition to promote Chhattisgarhi language.

BHILAI: Hemchand Yadav University, Durg is organising an All India level painting competition based on various tourist places of the state, Chhattisgarhi poetry, and Chhattisgarhi short story writing competition. This competition is being organised by the Acharya Narendra Dev Verma Shodhpeeth established in the university. Any citizen of India above 18 years of age from any school, college, or university can participate in it and there is no upper age limit. The competition is being organized with the aim of giving reverence and promoting Chhattisgarhi language.

There are 5 cash prizes each in all three categories- Chhattisgarhi poem, Chhattisgarhi story writing and painting competition, adding to a total of 15 prizes. The participants will have to send the original self-composed composition/painting typed on the computer to the university email by June 10, 2024. The size of the self-made painting should be (3x2) feet.

It will be mandatory to submit both hard and soft copies of the painting in room number 05 in the university by June 10. It will also be mandatory for all the participants to submit a certificate of originality.

Handwritten entries will not be accepted. Chhattisgarhi story and poem typed on computer should be submitted in Krutidev font size 16. Original Chhattisgarhi poem should have minimum 04 and maximum 06 verses.

Goon with sharp weapon arrested

BHILAI: Police arrested a notorious goon under Section 25, 27 of Arms Act. The accused was threatening common people with a sharp weapon in Bhilai Nagar. A sharp knife was recovered from the possession of the Sagar Bagh alias Dagi. The accused Sagar Bagh is listed goon of Bhilai Nagar Police Station area, against whom 12 crimes of murder, attempt to murder and assault are registered in Bhilai Nagar Police Station. ASP Sukhnandan Rathore informed that the accused Sagar Bagh was threatening people with a knife at Bhatapara, Ruabandha. A team of Bhilai Nagar Police Station reached the spot and nabbed the accused. ASP Rathore said that police are taking strict action against the goons and habitual offenders to maintain peace, law and order during the elections.

Three day Capacity Building Prog culminates

| NEW METHODS OF TEACHING |

Central Chronicle News

Workshop aimed at building the capacity of teachers on quality education, classroom management and to update them with the new methods of teaching.

BHILAI: The three day workshop on Capacity Building Programme was conducted at DAV HUDCO for the teachers of Senior Secondary classes and Mother Teachers in Economics subject and EEDP respectively. Around 50 teachers from different DAV schools participated in the workshop. The workshop aimed at building the capacity of teachers on quality education, classroom management and to update them with the new methods of teaching. A special session on Indian Economic Develop-



Guests at the Capacity Building Programme organised

FASTFACTS

• Around 50 teachers from different DAV schools participated in the workshop

• EEDP enlightened the teachers to conduct assessments and activities through play way methods

ment was taken by Dr JP Goel (Ret Associate Professor & Head of Department of Economics, Hindu Post Graduate College, Sonapat, Haryana, Author of Truefriend Publications and Goyal Brothers Prakashan).

The workshop designed for Economics teachers aimed at enabling the teachers to take a review of New Educational Policy.

They also got acquainted with experiential learning and research and analysis methods which can be implemented in the classroom teaching to get the maximum learning outcomes.

On the other hand the workshop on EEDP enlightened the teachers to conduct assessments and activities through play way methods.

QUIZ COMPETITION |

BSP bags 1st position in 'Saksham' & 'Samarth' SAIL level MBQ

Central Chronicle News

BHILAI: The team from SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant comprising of Umesh Malayath, AGM (OP-II) and Nivesh Vijayan, Mgr (Pers-IR & CLC) bagged the 1st position in the Grand Finale of 'Saksham' & 'Samarth' SAIL level Management and Business Quiz (MBQ), which was held at Burnpur Club, Burnpur, on May 03, 2024. BP Singh, Director I/c

(SAIL-IISCO & DSP) was the Chief Guest at the Prize Distribution Ceremony of the 'Saksham' & 'Samarth' Quiz Competition.

It is noteworthy that the same team from SAIL-BSP were also the defending champions of the 'Saksham' & 'Samarth' Quiz Competition, and retained their trophy. The team from SAIL-Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP) was the 1st Runners up,



The winners with trophy of SAIL level Management & Business Quiz (MBQ)

while the team from SAIL-Bokaro Steel Plant (BSL) bagged 2nd

Runners up position in the SAIL-level 'Saksham' & 'Samarth' Quiz

Competition. Chief Guest BP Singh, Director I/c (SAIL-IISCO

"These events are helpful in enriching their knowledge and awareness related to the Business arena"

BP Singh,
Director I/c (SAIL-IISCO & DSP)

& DSP) stated that these events are helpful in enriching their knowledge and awareness related to the Business arena.

The 'Saksham' Quiz for Executives was conducted by Ajay Poonia, External Quiz master, while Quizmasters Ashish Agrawal, AGM (T&D) and Vikas Piprani, AGM (SP-III) from SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant conducted the 'Samarth' Quiz for Non-Executives.

Battle'24



Modi trying to create fear psychosis among Hindus to remain in power.

Farooq Abdullah
NC president

Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

LOK SABHA POLLS

Cong Puri LS candidate Sucharita Mohanty returns ticket

BHUBANESWAR: Congress candidate for the Puri Lok Sabha constituency Sucharita Mohanty has declined to contest the elections and returned the party ticket alleging lack of funding from the party. Mohanty, daughter of former Congress MP Brajamohan Mohanty in a mail to AICC general secretary (organization) K C Venugopal on Friday claimed that her campaign in the Puri Lok Sabha constituency has been hit hard because the party has denied funding. She alleged that AICC Odisha in-charge Ajoy Kumar "categorically" asked her to fight from her own resources. "I was a salaried professional journalist who entered electoral politics 10 years ago. I have given all I have into my campaign in Puri. I tried a public donation drive to support my campaign for progressive politics without much success so far.

ELECTION RALLY

Adityanath attacks Cong manifesto, rakes up 'jizya', cow slaughter



BHOPAL: Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Saturday said the Congress manifesto talked of 'jizya' (tax imposed on non-Muslims in medieval India) and promotion of cow slaughter and likened it to the "cruel rule of Mughal emperor Aurangzeb". He also accused the Congress of wanting to snatch the quota benefits of SC, STs and Other Backward Classes to please "its vote bank".

Congmen slammed the opposition alliance

Former Delhi Cong leaders, including Arvinder Singh Lovely, join BJP

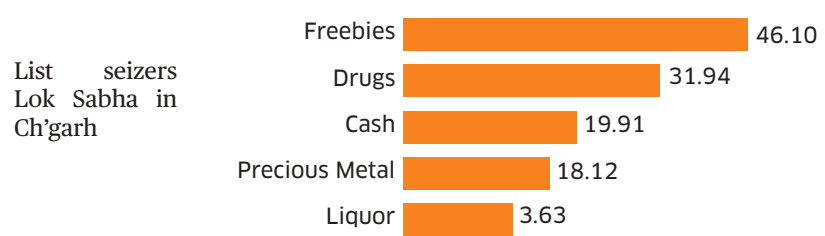


NEW DELHI: Former Delhi Congress president Arvinder Singh Lovely joined the BJP on Saturday along with a few other leaders, including former city government minister Raj Kumar Chauhan and former MLAs Neeraj Basoya and Naseeb Singh. All the former Congress leaders slammed the opposition party's alliance with the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) in Delhi for the Lok Sabha polls as they joined the BJP in the presence of Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri and party general secretary Vinod Tawde.

Modi, for giving him and his colleagues the opportunity to join the party when they felt lost. He asserted that Modi is set to retain power with a big majority in the ongoing Lok Sabha polls. Lovely had recently quit as the Delhi Congress president protesting the party's alliance with the AAP. It is believed that he and some other leaders were also upset with their party's choice of candidates, including Kanhaiya Kumar and Udit Raj, in the national capital for the elections. This will be the second innings of Lovely in the BJP after he left it to rejoin the Congress in 2018 following a brief stay in the saffron party.

The Day's NUMBERS

MCC SEIZURE REPORT IN CHHATTISGARH LOK SABHA POLLS IN VALUE (CR)



POLL CAMPAIGN

Studying extradition issue, problems of constituency: Nikam

MUMBAI: Lawyer Ujjwal Nikam, who has been fielded by the BJP from the Mumbai North Central Lok Sabha seat, on Saturday said the process to extradite accused persons to the country was a long and expensive one and emphasised the need to overcome the problem. Talking to PTI on the sidelines of his campaign, Nikam also said the foray into politics was the second innings of his life and dubbed it a move from the court of law to that of the people. "Extradition is a long and expensive process. Foreign courts decide on basis of their law on extradition after assessing and evaluating our evidence. There is need to overcome this. I am studying the issue and will speak more on it," he said. Hailing Narendra Modi, the lawyer-turned-politician said the prime minister had increased India's stature in the world and that he had plans to roll out several welfare schemes apart from massive betterment in infrastructure.

MANIFESTO

Tharoor slams BJP on inheritance tax issue, says it's facing defeat



NEW DELHI: Senior Congress leader Shashi Tharoor has slammed the BJP for raising the inheritance tax issue, saying the Congress manifesto committee had not even discussed it but the ruling party is flailing about for any weapon they can use as defeat is staring them in the face. Tharoor, who was a member of the committee that drafted the Congress manifesto for the Lok Sabha polls, said that after a Congress prime minister abolished the inheritance tax in 1985, the only party that has even floated the idea of considering such a cess is the BJP.



Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra addresses Nyay Sankalp Sabha for the Lok Sabha elections.

PM Modi a 'shahanshaah', cut off from public: Priyanka responds

Addressing a public rally to canvass for her party candidate Geniben Thakor, she also accused Modi of using the people of Gujarat for power and then forgetting them.

Press Trust Of India

LAKHANI (GUJ): Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Saturday called Prime Minister Narendra Modi a 'shahanshaah' (king of king) who lives in a palace but is cut off from the public, responding to the PM's 'shehzada' jibe for her brother Rahul Gandhi.

"He calls my brother 'shehzada'. I would like to tell him that this shehzada walked for 4,000 kilometres from Kanyakumari to Kashmir to listen to your (people's) problems, met my brothers and sisters, farmers and labourers and asked how we can resolve their

problems," she said.

Addressing a rally in Gujarat on Thursday, PM Modi had targeted Congress MP Rahul Gandhi, saying Pakistan was eager to make the 'shehzada' of the grand old party India's next PM as the country's enemies want a weak government at the helm.

"On the other hand is your 'shahanshaah', Narendra Modiji. He lives in a palace. Have you ever seen him on TV? Clean clothes with not a single speck of dust, not a single stray hair strand. How will he ever understand your hard work, your farming? How will he understand your

HIGHLIGHT

● PM Modi had targeted Congress MP Rahul Gandhi, saying Pakistan was eager to make the 'shehzada' of the grand old party India's next PM as the country's enemies want a weak government at the helm.

● Modi was contesting from Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh and not Gujarat because he is cut off from the people of Gujarat.

problems, that you are overburdened with inflation?" she said.

She said several BJP leaders have said on record that their government will change the Constitution if it returns to power.

"When they say they want to change the Constitution, it means they want to reduce and weaken all the rights given to you in the Constitution. If you understand politics today, the biggest thing that Modi has done in the last 10 years is to weaken the rights of the public," she said.

Gandhi also questioned Modi's decision to not contest the Lok Sabha elections from Gujarat. This is because he used the people of the

state and forgot them, she claimed.

"Modi is surrounded by power and no longer recognises you. Why is he not contesting elections from here if he is not cut off from the people of Gujarat," she asked.

She said Modi was contesting from Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh and not Gujarat because he is cut off from the people of Gujarat.

"He used you, earned power, name and respect with your support and went on to become the prime minister only to forget you and cut himself off from you," she said.

| YSRCP SUPREMO SPEAKS |

'TDP chief Naidu playing dirty politics over Land Titling Act'

Press Trust Of India

YSRCP government is carrying out another survey to properly perch boundary stones and update records with proper sub-divisions.

AMARAVATI (AP): YSRCP supremo and Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy on Saturday alleged the opposition TDP leader N Chandrababu Naidu was playing 'dirty politics' over the Land Titling Act.

Reddy was speaking at a public meeting at Hindupur in Sri Satyasai district as part of his election campaign tour across the state. "They are selling fake propaganda in the election campaign and



YSR Congress Party chief YS Jagan Mohan Reddy releases the party manifesto.

FACTFILE

● We give lands to the poor, not grab from them

● Govt will 'guarantee' that there would be no disputes on the surveyed lands.

sending IVRS calls to people saying that 'Jagan will grab all your lands.' We give lands to the poor, not grab from them," he added. He said the TDP leader had no idea about the Act, which 'will provide full rights to farmers on the land,' calling it a major reform for saving

people from running from pillar to post to procure their assets' details.

Noting that the last land survey was done a century ago in the southern state, the CM said the YSRCP government is carrying out another survey to properly perch boundary stones and update records with proper sub-divisions. Backed by the new survey, Reddy said the government will 'guarantee' that there would be no disputes on the surveyed lands.

Further, he noted that 6,000 revenue villages out of 17,000 have been surveyed so far, promising to complete the remainder too, and added that every farmer should have a proper record for his land.

| AKHILESH SPEAKS |

BJP set to be wiped out in third phase of polling

Press Trust Of India

BUDAUN (UP): Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav on Saturday claimed the BJP is set to be wiped out in the third phase of polling in Uttar Pradesh scheduled for May 7 because of its "fake talks and false promises to all sections of society."

"In the third phase of elections on May 7, the

public will throw BJP seven miles away. This phase is going to wipe them out. In the first two phases, the people have overturned the BJP and in the third, the people are going to wipe out these people," The SP chief said in a public meeting in the Nadha town in Budaun Lok Sabha constituency. "They will be wiped

In the third phase of elections on May 7, the public will throw BJP seven miles away.

Akhilesh Yadav
Samajwadi Party president



out because they have not left any section with which they have not indulged in fake talks.

If we take the last ten years into account, all their talks and promises have turned out to be false," Yadav said. The result is that even after hard work, our farmers are not happy, the people of the villages are not happy, he alleged.

Every sector officer should discharge their responsibilities with caution and seriousness.

VK Langeh
Collector-Korba



Chhattisgarh



Women will be seen playing a key role, in conducting the voting in 249 polling centres of Korba LS and other 30 Sangwari centres.

Glimpses of women empowerment in 279 booths

Collector and District Election Officer Ajit Vasant said women polling teams are playing a very pivotal role in many booths of the region.

Central Chronicle News

KORBA: The upcoming Lok Sabha Elections 2024, will see participation of women in heaps and counts in the region, as in approximately 249 polling centres of Korba Assembly under Korba Lok Sabha and other 30 Sangwari centres of the district, women will be seen playing a key role, in conducting the voting.

Voting in Korba is to be held on May 7 from 7 am to 6 pm and the preparation is almost in the final stage under the direction of Collector and District Election Officer Ajit Vasant and women polling teams are playing a very pivotal

role in many booths of the region.

As per data, there will be approximately 1150 women employees in 249 booths of Korba Assembly, along with this, the responsibility of 69 micro observers, many sector officers and security has also been handed over to women. 10 Sangwari polling centres each have also been made in the other three assemblies of the district, in which a total of 180 women are on duty in these Sangwari polling stations too.

Here it takes a record that till date only male employees and officers have been conducting the voting in the district, at

HIGHLIGHT

● There will be approximately 1150 women employees in 249 booths of Korba Assembly

● In ten Sangwari polling centres 180 women are on duty, each have also been made in the other three assemblies

some places women have been put on duty earlier also, but this is the first time that from the presiding officer to the polling officer, at all the booths of an assembly seat, women are in charge. Municipal Corporation Commis-

sioner Pratishtha Mamgai IAS, Seema Patre, who had held the responsibility as Deputy District Election Officer in the last assembly election 2023, Additional SP Neha Verma, Social Welfare Officer Siniwali Goyal, Horticulture Officer Abha Pathak and women from various other genres like business woman Nidhi Shende, Engineer Yamini Dewangan, Seema Sahu, Julie Tirkey, Shikha Thakur are continuously serving in the election work.

Whereas in the Lok Sabha elections, presiding officer Neetu Tiwari, voting party officer Pushpa Rathore and master trainer Mrs. Jyoti Sharma and other women voting

parties say that participation in the elections is a matter of pride.

Here it also needs to be mentioned that there are a total of eight lakh 15 thousand 292 women voters under Korba Lok Sabha, and four lakh 70 thousand 793 women voters in Korba district and the maximum number of women voters is one lakh 30 thousand 816 in Korba Assembly. As such in this massive festival of democracy, the male officers and employees are fulfilling big responsibilities and this is for the first time that in Korba LS, entire important responsibility of polling will be looked after by women.

Bastar wins first prize in Plastic Recycling Conf Asia 2024

JAGDALPUR: District Panchayat Bastar has won the first prize in the Local Body Champion category in the Plastic Recycling Conference Asia 2024. Collector Bastar Vijay Dayaram is behind this important achievement. Along with continuous guidance, meaningful efforts and leadership have an important contribution. Rural and Urban Landscape Free of Dry and Plastic Waste project is being implemented with better strategy in Bastar district by District Administration Bastar and HDFC Bank, Center for Environment Education and Shrishti Waste Management Services, under which material recovery in Babu Semra Jagdalpur. Facility (MRF) has been constructed.

Central Chronicle News

On becoming LS MP he will further propel the proper development of Raipur Lok Sabha constituency.

SIMGA: Campaigning in support of BJP Lok Sabha candidate Brijmohan Agrawal is underway in the region with many regional leaders extensively campaigning, in order to ensure his victory with a huge majority.

Former Dhamtari MLA Ranjana Sahu, farmer leader Anil Pandey along with fellow workers visited villages like Damakheda, Sanjari, Navagaon, Limtara, Kar-



Many regional leaders extensively campaigned in favour of BJP LS candidate Brijmohan Agrawal.

FACTFILE

● Brijmohan Agrawal is an easy-going personality and is the hallmark of work efficiency

hul, Chakravai etc. and campaigned widely.

Ranjana Sahu in her address at various places said that the working system of Brijmohan Agrawal, who has an easy-going personality and is the hallmark of

work efficiency, after becoming MP, will further propel the proper development of Raipur Lok Sabha constituency, and if he gets the blessings of all, he will also work as a minister in the Centre.

FARMERS WOES |

Farmers irked for not getting reasonable price

Central Chronicle News

RAJIM: The farming community of the region have expressed their discontent over not getting reasonable support price of summer paddy harvest. The harvest of summer Rabi crop paddy is going on at a fast pace in the region, and the farmers are directly bringing them to the (mandi) mar-

ket for sale.

Approximately more than 30 thousand acres of agricultural land in Rajim area, is reaped with paddy. The farmers have alleged that they are not getting fair price and traders are giving lower prices by citing moisture in paddy. The farmers told that traders are buying at the price of Rs 1804 to Rs 2060 per quin-

Due to the scorching heat, the bidding for paddy is being started at 9.30 in the morning.

RR Dhruv
Mandi Secretary



tal, whereas the support price of thin paddy is Rs 2203 and that of thick paddy is Rs 2103.

Market employee Pawan Patel told that 3600 quintals of paddy have come for sale, however, three thousand to four thousand quintals of paddy is coming daily, even though it is the initial phase of paddy harvesting.

Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

MEETING

Sector officers have an important role in the Elections: Collector

KORBA: Regarding the Lok Sabha Elections 2024, Collector and District Election Officer Vinay Kumar Langeh held a meeting of all the sector officers in which he took information about the arrangements in the polling stations and informed the concerned officers about the shortcomings of the polling stations well in advance. In the meeting, Collector Mr. Langeh said that sector officers have an important role in election work, hence everyone should discharge their responsibilities with caution and seriousness. The Collector said that on May 7, the voting time is from 7 am to 6 pm; hence all the Sector Officers will start the actual voting by conducting mock polls in the polling centres of their respective areas at the scheduled time on the polling day and ensure error-free, fair voting without any dispute.

INSPECTION

District Panchayat CEO visits Gram Panchayats



KHAIRAGARH: District Panchayat Rajnandgaon Chief Executive Officer Suruchi Singh here visited Gram Panchayat Samundpani, Gerukhdan, Golardih area under District Panchayat Chhuikhadan. Here she conducted door-to-door inspection of the ongoing development works under various schemes and also discussed with the beneficiaries about their condition. Singh also discussed various action plans in detail with the officials and gave necessary guidelines.

Incident has hurt religious sentiments

Muslim community condemns Dutkaiya village incident

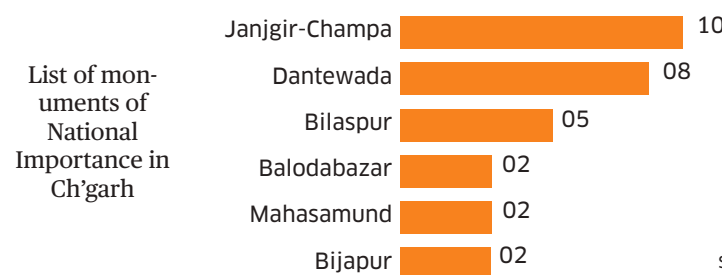


RAJIM: A joint meeting of Muslim Samaj and Ittehad Committee was held in Navapara under the chairmanship of Altamash Siddiqui in which it was said that some mischievous elements have hurt religious sentiments by doing objectionable acts in the Shiva temple of village Dutkaiya near Rajim. The committee in its statement issued said that the culprits should be arrested as soon as possible, irrespective of any religion; a person who hurts the religious beliefs of people of any religion is like an animal. The entire Muslim society strongly condemns such a person and such actions, the statement read. Ittehad Committee and Navapara-Rajim Muslim Samaj Pres-

ident Altamash Siddiqui, Rajim Muslim Samaj President Shabbir Warsi, Gariaband Muslim Samaj President Abdul Qayyum and community heads of many villages like Chhura, Fingeshwar, Pond, Devbhog, Mainpur, Abhanpur, Pacheda were present in the meeting. The meeting condemned the Dutkaiya incident and it was unanimously decided that the Muslims living in the entire Dutkaiya village are separated from the society by the Gariaband District Muslim Society and Ittehad Committee and if any person or family of the Muslim community has a hand in the issue, then Ittehad Committee will take action against him also against the Muslim community.

The Day's NUMBERS

WHAT ARE NUMBER OF NATIONAL MONUMENTS IN CHHATTISGARH?



Source: ASI

POLLING TEAM

Polling personnel will go out of Korba district to conduct voting

KORBA: Under the Lok Sabha Elections 2024, the duty of officers and employees from Korba district has been deployed as a polling team in Gaurela-Pendra (Marwahi Assembly) area. Arrangements have been made for a vehicle to take the officers and employees of the said polling party to Gaurela-Pendra.

SDM Korba Shrikant Verma told that for the officers and employees of development block Korba, for the employees of Kartala area, Swami Atmanand English Higher Secondary School Kartala Sports Ground, Government Higher Secondary School Rampur Sports Ground and Primary School Barpali Sports Ground, bus will leave from in front of the ground. For the officers and employees of Podi-U-pora and Katghora areas, the bus will leave from Tehsil Office Katghora and for the employees of Pali area; the bus will leave from Government Higher Secondary School, Pali.

GOODWILL MATCH

SVEEP goodwill match played between district admn and press club



KORBA: Under the guidance of Collector and District Election Officer Ajit Vasant, voter awareness programs are being continuously organized in the district to motivate voters for 100 percent voting in the Lok Sabha elections 2024. In this series, a SVEEP cricket goodwill match was organized between the district administration and the press club at Priyadarshini Indira Stadium. District Administration Team Captain CEO District Panchayat Sambit Mishra, Press Club team emerged victorious. After the end of the match, the captain of the winning team press club and the captain of the runner-up team were honoured by the collector with trophies.



QUOTE FROM THE QUOTABLE

Tolerance is the homage which the finite mind pays to the inexhaustibility of the infinite.

[Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan.]

OUR VIEW |

UN clash: India-Pak relations demand diplomatic maturity

The clash between India and Pakistan at the UN General Assembly underscores the ongoing tension between the two nations. Accusations of targeted killings and cross-border infiltration have once again taken center stage, highlighting the need for diplomatic resolution. Pakistan's allegations of Indian involvement in targeted killings, coupled with references to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's rhetoric, demonstrate a deep-rooted mistrust between the neighboring countries. Conversely, India's insistence on diplomacy and respect emphasizes the importance of adhering to international norms and fostering peaceful coexistence. At the heart of this issue lies the question of mutual respect and understanding. Both nations must recognize that terrorism and hostility only serve to exacerbate tensions and undermine the values of peace and harmony. It is imperative for member states to actively collaborate in promoting a culture of peace and cooperation, transcending political differences for the greater good. The rhetoric exchanged at the UN serves as a reminder of the delicate nature of India-Pakistan relations. Instead of resorting to inflammatory language and accusations, both sides should prioritize constructive dialogue and conflict resolution mechanisms. Only through genuine efforts towards reconciliation can the longstanding animosity between India and Pakistan be addressed. The international community also bears a responsibility in facilitating dialogue and fostering an environment conducive to peace. By encouraging diplomatic engagement and de-escalation, global leaders can help mitigate the risk of further escalation and promote stability in the region. In the face of complex geopolitical challenges, India and Pakistan must demonstrate diplomatic maturity and restraint. Both nations share a common interest in regional stability and economic development, and it is incumbent upon their leaders to pursue avenues for cooperation rather than confrontation. Only through mutual respect and dialogue can India and Pakistan pave the way for a peaceful and prosperous future.

GUEST VIEW |

Urgent measures needed against deepfake threat

Deepfake technology poses a grave danger to democracy, evidenced by recent incidents involving prominent Indian figures like Amit Shah and Amitabh Bachan. Utilizing AI and machine learning, deepfakes convincingly replicate reality, making it increasingly difficult to discern real from fabricated content. The proliferation of such technology threatens the integrity of information, particularly during sensitive times like elections. Despite the lack of specific legislation addressing deepfakes in India, the government must take swift and decisive action. This includes implementing strict laws, establishing specialized law enforcement units,



Yash Pal Ralhan

and investing in advanced detection technologies. Additionally, public awareness campaigns are essential to help individuals identify and report instances of deepfake manipulation. The potential consequences of unchecked deepfake usage are severe, ranging from spreading misinformation to inciting social discord. Collaborative efforts between the government, tech industry, and public are imperative to combat this growing threat and safeguard democratic principles.

Comment

UGC's scholarly advancement: Ph.D. reforms and opportunities

Attention, seekers of knowledge, heed the authoritative directives unveiled by the University Grants Commission, heralding a new era of academic empowerment and opportunity. Prepare to embark on a journey sculpted by precision and merit, as the avenues to pursue a Ph.D. degree expand and the standards of research ascend to new heights. The University Grants Commission (UGC) has recently enacted two pivotal measures aimed at fortifying the landscape of academic research within India. These directives, crafted with foresight and rigor, are poised to yield far-reaching benefits for the scholarly community.

Firstly, the UGC has decreed a paradigm shift in the evaluation of Ph.D. candidates, wherein admission will now be contingent upon their performance in the National Eligibility Test (NET). This strategic move seeks to elevate the caliber of research by aligning the selection process with a standardized metric of excellence. Secondly, the

Commission has opened a direct pathway to Ph.D. candidacy for graduates holding four-year degrees. By circumventing the prerequisite of postgraduate studies, these individuals are afforded a streamlined route to pursue advanced research, thus catalyzing intellectual growth and innovation. India's stature as a global research hub is underscored by staggering statistics, with a 54 percent surge in research activity recorded between 2017 and 2022. Furthermore, the QS World University Subject Rankings bear testament to the nation's scholarly prowess, with approximately 15 percent of research papers attaining publication in prestigious journals. The domain of engineering and technology emerges as a crucible of innovation, accounting for a notable 19 percent of collaborative research endeavors between India and other nations. This collaborative spirit not only fosters academic synergy but also enhances the international standing of Indian univer-



Rajender Kumar Sharma

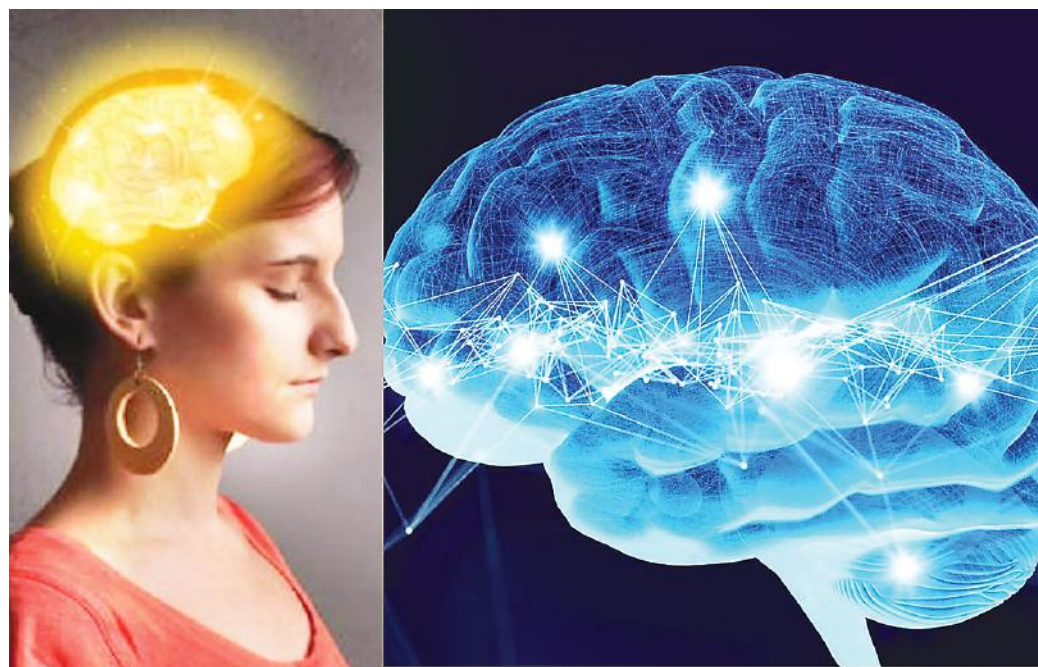
Sr. Columnist, Dehradun, Uttarakhand.

sities. The UGC's endorsement of the NET score as a benchmark for Ph.D. admission heralds a new era of transparency and efficiency in academia. This standardized criterion not only simplifies the application process but also extends eligibility for coveted positions such as Junior Research Fellowships and Assistant Professorships. While the UGC's directives bear the imprimatur of authority, they also afford universities a degree of autonomy in implementation. Institutions may choose to adopt the NET score as a criterion for admission, thereby ensuring a merit-based selection process. Alternatively, universities may opt to retain their existing entrance examinations, thereby preserving their unique academic identity. Graduates holding four-year degrees stand to benefit significantly from the UGC's mandate, which grants them direct access to the NET examination and, subsequently, Ph.D. candidacy. This pragmatic approach eliminates unnecessary academic detours, allowing aspiring

scholars to focus their energies on rigorous research endeavors. Institutions adhering to a grading system are instructed to establish a minimum threshold of 75 percent for NET eligibility, thereby upholding academic rigor while accommodating diverse cohorts of students. This criterion ensures that candidates possess the requisite acumen to thrive in the rigorous academic environment of doctoral studies. The UGC's directives promise to infuse the academic landscape with a renewed sense of dynamism and inclusivity. By synchronizing admission procedures with standardized metrics of excellence, the Commission endeavors to foster a culture of academic integrity and meritocracy. In conclusion, the UGC's directives represent a clarion call to action for the academic community at large. As scholars and administrators, it is incumbent upon us to embrace these transformative measures and harness their potential to propel Indian academia to unprecedented heights of excellence.

Sleep's Role: Brain connections and reset

Exploring sleep's depths: Unveiling the brain's journey of synaptic remodeling and renewal, shedding light on the mysteries of rest. *by Press Trust of India*



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

Recent research delving into the intricacies of sleep, using zebrafish as a model organism, offers profound insights into the relationship between sleep and brain function. This study, published in the esteemed journal 'Nature', provides compelling evidence regarding the dynamic nature of neural connectivity during periods of sleep and wakefulness.

Lead author Jason Rihel, affiliated with University College London, elucidates the findings of this groundbreaking study. During periods of wakefulness, the brain actively forms new connections between neurons, a process known as synaptic potentiation. This phenomenon contributes to the strengthening of neural circuits and is essential for learning and memory consolidation.

However, the study reveals a fascinating aspect of sleep physiology—during the initial phases of sleep, particularly the first half of the night, the brain undergoes a process of synaptic pruning. Contrary to the intuitive assumption that sleep is a period of neural quiescence, this research suggests that sleep plays an active role in shaping neural connectivity.

Excessive neuronal activity during wakefulness can lead to the formation of an overwhelming number of connections between neurons. While this may seem advantageous for learning and information processing, it poses a significant challenge to the brain's energy resources. Continuous synaptic potentiation without periodic downscaling would be energetically unsustainable and could impede the brain's ability to adapt to new information.

To address this challenge,

the brain engages in synaptic remodeling during sleep. This process involves the selective weakening and elimination of redundant synaptic connections, thereby optimizing neural circuitry for efficient information processing. Jason Rihel aptly describes sleep as an "off-line" period, during which the brain prunes unnecessary connections in preparation for new learning experiences the following day.

The study employed zebrafish as a model organism due to their optical transparency,

which facilitates the visualization of neuronal connections in live animals. By monitoring the activity of these genetically modified zebrafish across multiple sleep-wake cycles, researchers were able to observe the dynamic changes in synaptic connectivity associated with sleep.

Key findings from the study include the observation that synaptic gain occurs during wakefulness, followed by synaptic loss during sleep. Furthermore, the extent of synaptic remodeling during sleep

is influenced by sleep pressure—the accumulated need for sleep experienced by the organism.

In instances where sleep deprivation was induced, zebrafish exhibited continued synaptic growth until allowed to rest. This underscores the critical role of sleep in regulating synaptic plasticity and maintaining neural homeostasis.

Moreover, the observed pattern of synaptic rearrangement during the first half of the night corresponds with the characteristic slow-wave activity observed in the brain during this period. Slow-wave activity, characterized by synchronized neural oscillations, is believed to facilitate the off-line processing of information and memory consolidation during sleep.

While the study offers valuable insights into the role of sleep in synaptic maintenance, questions remain regarding sleep's function during the latter half of the night. Future research endeavors will seek to unravel the mechanisms underlying sleep's effects on neural connectivity and explore potential therapeutic interventions for optimizing sleep and promoting brain health.

YOUR LETTERS

Molestation Allegation

A Raj Bhavan employee accused West Bengal Governor C V Ananda Bose of molestation, sparking a political clash. While the incident's details remain unclear, suspicions arise regarding political motivations to divert attention from scandals. Historical cases of misconduct by officials underscore the need for impartial investigation. The governor's denial and the victim's claims warrant thorough examination by a central agency, ensuring justice and preserving dignity for all involved.

Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee

Ban Covishield worldwide

Following AstraZeneca's acknowledgment of Covishield's association with thrombosis with thrombocytopenia syndrome (TTS), a global ban on the vaccine is imperative. The WHO previously flagged TTS as a risk linked to the jab. Given the potential life-threatening nature of TTS and the need for further research into other adverse events and long-term side effects, medical experts must prioritize public awareness and safety. Implementing a ban on Covishield is critical to safeguarding lives and ensuring responsible vaccine distribution.

MK Nair, 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



We are emphasising our commitment to the rising need for premium, safe, and reliable vehicles throughout India.

Ashish Gupta,

Volkswagen Passenger Cars India,
Brand Director

Bombay Times Fashion Week



Actors Shriya Saran and Mrunal Thakur walk the ramp with designer Anu Pellakuru during the 'Bombay Times Fashion Week', in Mumbai.

BizBriefs

BEST OF THE REST

Q4 RESULTS

Nuvoco Vistas PAT at Rs. 147 crore; achieving highest-ever profitability

MUMBAI: Nuvoco Vistas Corp. Ltd., a leading building materials Company in India, announced its audited financial results for the year ended March 31, 2024. With 25MMTPA of combined installed capacity, Nuvoco Vistas Corp. Ltd. is the fifth largest cement group in India and amongst the leading cement players in East India. The Company's consolidated cement sales volume stood at 18.8 MMT in FY24. Consolidated revenue from operations stood at Rs. 10,733 crores, during the same period. Consolidated EBITDA improved by 35% YoY to Rs. 1,657 crores. Commenting on the performance of the Company, Mr. Jayakumar Krishnaswamy, Managing Director, Nuvoco Vistas Corp. Ltd., stated, "The Company enhanced its operational efficiencies and delivered strong growth in EBITDA and PAT despite a volatile demand environment during FY24.

NEW LAUNCH

Realme introduces C65 5G, the fastest entry-level 5G smartphone

MUMBAI: Realme, the most reliable Smartphone service provider, announced the launch of realme C65 5G, the newest addition to its Champion Series - realme C Series. This new smartphone is a combination of innovative features and design, & offers a comprehensive and superior smartphone experience to the users. The realme C Series has set benchmarks in the industry with its advanced fast charging, camera technology, and design aesthetics. Each new generation of the C Series smartphones distinguishes itself by leading the segment with remarkable. Commenting on the launch, a realme spokesperson said, "At realme, we believe in empowering every individual with the power of technology and today marks a defining moment in our journey of innovation as we proudly unveil the realme C65 5G, a groundbreaking addition to our popular realme C Series.

RBI's tighter project finance rules to govern lending

The central bank's draft rules include a classification of the projects as per their phase and higher provisioning of up to 5 per cent during the construction phase.

Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI: The Reserve Bank on Friday proposed tighter rules to govern lending to projects under implementation. The central bank's draft rules include a classification of the projects as per their phase and higher provisioning of up to 5 per cent during the construction phase, even if the asset is standard. It can be noted that in the last credit

cycle, project loans were seen to have led to a build-up of stress on bank books. The standard asset provisioning otherwise stands at 0.40 per cent. Under the proposed norms, first announced in September 2023 and the details revealed on Friday, a bank has to set aside 5 per cent of the exposure during the construction phase, which goes down as the project becomes operational. Once the

NUMBER

5%

Once the project reaches the 'Operational phase', the provisions can be reduced to 2.5 per cent.

The proposed guidelines also spell out details on stress resolution.

project reaches the 'Operational phase', the provisions can be reduced to 2.5 per cent of the funded outstanding and then further down to 1 per cent if certain conditions are met. These include the project having a positive net operating cash flow that is sufficient to cover current repayment obligation to all lenders, and the total long-term debt of the project with the lenders has declined by

at least 20 per cent from the outstanding at the time of achieving Date of Commencement of Commercial Operations, it said.

The proposed guidelines also spell out details on stress resolution, specify the criteria for upgrading accounts, and invoke recognition. It expects lenders to maintain project-specific data in an electronic and easily accessible format.

Paper ind urges govt to allot degraded land

NEW DELHI: New Delhi, May 05: The Indian paper industry has urged the government to provide degraded land on a long-term lease to paper mills for pulpwood plantation to address raw material shortage and boost rural employment. The industry has highlighted that a large chunk of degraded land is available in the country, and even if a small fraction of that is allotted on lease to paper mills for pulpwood plantation, it can be a game changer for industry growth and greening of India. The paper industry has faced shortage of wood, the key raw material, and it is the biggest concern for mills in India, the Indian Paper Manufacturers Association (IPMA) said in a statement on Saturday. While the paper industry is continuing with agro forestry efforts, pulpwood plantations need to be enhanced rapidly.

'Over regulation has led to hike in two-wheeler prices'

Press Trust Of India

The two-wheeler industry has been seeking a cut in GST on two-wheelers from 28 per cent to 18 per cent.

NEW DELHI: Bajaj Auto Managing Director Rajiv Bajaj on Friday asserted that "over regulation" in the two-wheeler segment has led to increase in the prices of vehicles which are mainly used by the masses. While acknowledging the benefits of the latest emission norms for the society, he noted that the government should consider reducing GST rates on two-wheelers from the current rate of 28 per cent. "This kind of dramatic change in price owes itself to many things, but most of all to what I have openly called as over regulation of the market," he said, while



Rajiv Bajaj, MD - Bajaj Auto was speaking to the media at the launch of new Pulsar NS400Z.

FACTFILE

Segment, being essential for millions, should not be categorised as a luxury item.

Govt should consider reducing GST rates on two-wheelers from the current rate of 28 per cent.

speaking at a product launch event. The two-wheeler industry has been seeking a cut in GST on two-wheelers from 28 per cent to 18 per cent, saying the segment, being essential for millions, should not be categorised as a luxury item.

"Why is it that in India, vehicles like this, have to pay a GST of 28 per cent? You look at all the ASEAN

countries, you talk to our friends who have come from Latam, look at Brazil, typical equivalent to GST is between 8 and 14 per cent," Bajaj stated. He further said: "So, on one hand we want regulations at the highest level, in terms of say emission, which is fine as a manufacturer, as a person in society, as a father, I am very happy for clean air."

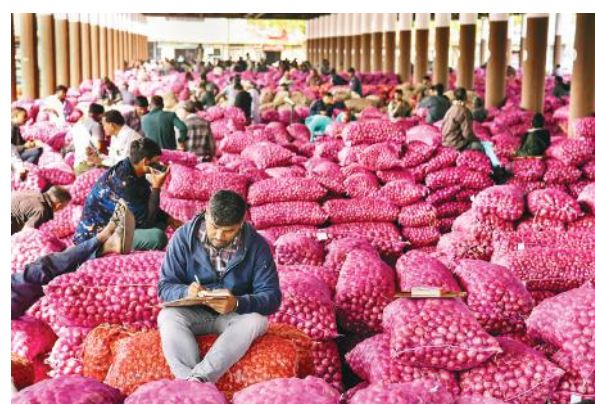
EXPORT BAN |

Govt lifts onion export ban; imposes MEP of \$ 550/tonne

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The government on Saturday lifted the ban on onion exports but imposed a minimum export price (MEP) of USD 550 per tonne, amid ongoing Lok Sabha elections in the country. Last night, the government imposed a 40 per cent duty on export of onions. In August last year, India had imposed

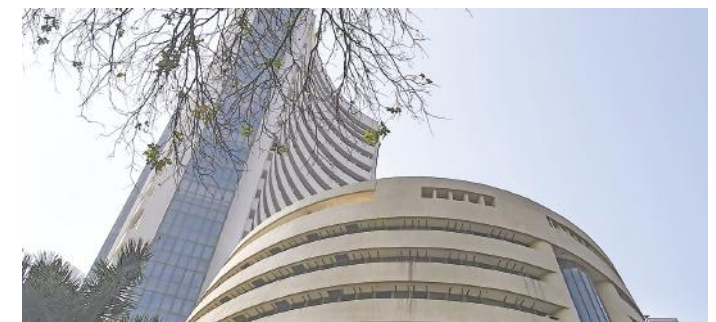
a 40 per cent export duty on onions up to December 31, 2023. "The export policy of onions is amended from prohibited to free subject to MEP of USD 550 per metric ton with immediate effect and until further orders," the directorate general of foreign trade (DGFT) said in a notification. On December 8, 2023, the government banned export of onions



from March 31 this year. In March, the export prohibition was extended till further orders. In March, the Union Agriculture Ministry released the data for onion production. As per the data, onion production in 2023-24 (First Advance Estimates) is expected to be around 254.73 lakh tonnes compared to around 302.08 lakh tonnes last year.

Markets Crash

Investors' wealth erodes by Rs 2.25 lakh crore as Sensex, Nifty crashes



NEW DELHI: Investors' wealth eroded by Rs 2.25 lakh crore on Friday, the day when the BSE Sensex tanked 733 points, amid profit-taking and worries over premium valuations of local stocks. The 30-share BSE benchmark 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 market capitalisation of BSE-listed companies eroded by Rs 2,25,543.41 crore to Rs 4,06,24,224.49 crore (USD 4.89 trillion).

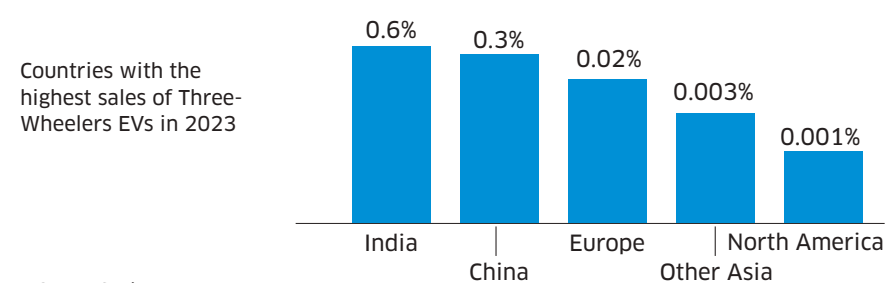
"Markets failed to capitalise on the

firm start despite upbeat US and European cues and crashed on the back of broad-based selling, as investors worried over premium valuations of local stocks offloaded their holdings. Weakness in banking, telecom, oil & gas and realty stocks led the slump, even as Dow Futures indicated an upbeat start.

"As valuation discomfort rises, investors are becoming choosy and taking select bets. Uncertainty over interest rate, gloomy geopolitical scenario and FII fund outflows have prompted investors to book profits at regular intervals," said Prashanth Tapse,

The Day's NUMBERS

BIGGEST MARKETS FOR ELECTRIC THREE-WHEELERS



BAGGAGE ALLOWANCE

Air India reduces cabin baggage allowance to 15 kg for lowest fare

NEW DELHI: Loss-making Air India has reduced the free cabin baggage allowance to 15 kilogram from 20 kilogram for the lowest economy fare segment on domestic flights. The changes have been made in the menu-based pricing model fare families that were introduced by the Tata Group-owned Air India last August, with the airline saying that a one-size-fits-all approach is no longer ideal. There are three fare families -- Comfort, Comfort Plus and Flex -- that offer different levels of benefits and fare restrictions at various price points, an airline spokesperson said on Saturday. With effect from May 2, the free cabin baggage allowance for the 'Comfort' and 'Comfort Plus' categories has been reduced to 15 kg from 20 kg and 25 kg, respectively. Prior to the introduction of the fare families concept, passengers on Air India's domestic flights were allowed to carry 25 kilograms of cabin baggage free of any additional charge. **PTI**

FOREX RESERVES

Forex reserves drop USD 2.41 bn to USD 637.92 bn in third consecutive week

MUMBAI: India's forex reserves dropped USD 2.412 billion to USD 637.922 billion as on April 26, in the third consecutive weekly decline in the reserves, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said on Friday. In the previous reporting week, the overall reserves had declined USD 2.28 billion to USD 640.33 billion. For the week ended April 5, the reserves had hit an all-time high of USD 648.562 billion following multiple weeks of increases. The earlier high of USD 642.453 billion achieved in September 2021 got surpassed in March this year. **PTI**





Cong candidate's exit from race surprising
Sumitra Mahajan
Ex-Lok Sabha Speaker

Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

MONEY LAUNDERING
ED arrests man, seizes Bitcoins worth Rs 130 cr on United State's request

NEW DELHI: The Enforcement Directorate on Saturday said it has seized cryptocurrency worth more than Rs 130 crore and arrested a Uttarakhand-based man as part of a drugs trafficking-linked money laundering probe initiated on the request of US authorities. Parvinder Singh was taken into custody on April 27 from Haldwani in the state's Nainital district following a search of his premises. In a statement, the central probe agency said that the accused agreed to "surrender" the proceeds earned through the sale of illegal drugs through the dark web. Most of the sales were made in European countries, it added. Investigation was initiated on the basis of a mutual legal assistance request received from US authorities invoking the "unique" section 2(ra) of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, it said. **PTI**

HONOUR
SECRWWO honour railway employees to observe Labour Day



BILASPUR: On May 3, 2024, at 3:30 PM, in the New Rail Club, under the chairmanship of Mrs. Anjula Sahu, on the occasion of Labor Day, 20 railway employees with 20 or more years of service, and 06 railway employees and 39 contract cleaning staff who will retire from various departments between 2024 and 2025, were honored with mementos by Mrs. Anjula Sahu. **PTI**

Orphanage by Kuki-Metei couple creates miracles

The couple, who have been running the orphanage since 2015, fosters 17 children, including Meitis, Kukis, Nagas and even Nepalis.

Kangpokpi: Donjalal Haokip and Rebati Devi, a Meitei-Kuki couple is running an orphanage.

Gurjan Sharma

KEITHELMABI: A year after ethnic clashes polarised the state and its people, a Kuki-Meitei couple running an orphanage fostering children from both communities are testimony to the harmony that once was and hope that it will be so again one day soon.

Donjalal Haokip and Rebati Devi, who have no biological children of their own, operate the The Ema Foundation home in Keithelmanbi, the sensitive zone between the Imphal Valley and Kangpokpi, the former dominated by Meiteis and the latter by Kukis. Is it an easy task

considering the tense situation in the state?

"No. But love is the only counter for violence and the way to peace," 52-year-old Haokip told PTI from the home located in the foothills of West Imphal and Kangpokpi. The couple, who have been running the orphanage since 2015, fosters 17 children, including Meitis, Kukis, Nagas and even Nepalis.

They remember vividly the events of May 3, 2023 when ethnic clashes broke out over a 'Tribal Solidarity March' organised in the hill districts to protest against the Meitei community's demand for Scheduled Tribe (ST) status.

HIGHLIGHT

● Couple got married in 2012 and children at the home call them "mummy" and "papa".

● Couple hope better sense will prevail and people will look for peace.

"When the violence began on May 3 last year, we thought by the grace of god the situation will be ok by morning. But another day passed and each passing moment felt like a nightmare. I sent an SOS to Assam Rifles. They assured us support and made some deployment

outside the orphanage," Haokip, a Kuki, said

The months that followed were tough and the couple was constantly fearful of what lay next for the children and them. "The first threat was that we are a Meitei-Kuki couple and then we had children from the communities...our family feared that we will be a very easy target. But we decided to stay put and despite difficulties we have managed to survive," he said. The couple got married in 2012 and children at the home call them "mummy" and "papa". The kids attend a nearby school run by the Assam Rifles. The eldest

among them studies in Class 10 while the youngest is four years old.

"When my mother passed away in 2008, my wife and I were planning to erect a memorial stone...but we thought again that instead of spending money on a stone erection we can start this and hence named it Ema, which means 'mother' in Manipuri. I sold some family land, we used some savings and then constructed this space.

"Later, officials from Assam Rifles approached us to offer free education to the children and they started going to their school," Haokip added.

Mumbai to witness high sea waves till Sunday

MUMBAI: The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) on Saturday issued an advisory cautioning people against entering the Arabian Sea amid warnings about high tide till Sunday night. According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD) and Indian National Centre for Ocean Information (INCOIS), the sea will witness a "swell of surge waves" from 11.30 am on Saturday to 11.30 pm on Sunday, the civic body said. During this time, the height of the waves will rise by 0.5 to 1.5 metres, it said. The BMC has also asked fishermen to exercise caution.

IGNTU hosts North East Spring Festival 2024

VC emphasized the importance of such initiatives in fostering harmony and understanding among different communities.

AMARKANTAK: The North East Forum of Indira Gandhi National Tribal University (IGNTU) Amarkantak organized the North East Spring Festival 2024 on the university premises, a vibrant showcase of culture, togetherness, and celebration. The event, witnessed the convergence of esteemed dignitaries, faculty members, and



The students performing at North East Spring Festival 2024.

enthusiastic students, all coming together to celebrate the rich tapestry of North Eastern heritage. The program was graced by the Vice Chancellor of the University and Prof. Prakash Mani Tripathi whose presence added

immense significance to the festivities.

The inauguration ceremony was marked by congratulatory remarks from the Director Academics & Research and Prof. Alok Shrotriya commending the

FACTFILE

● North East Spring Festival 2024 reinforces IGNTU's status as a beacon of inclusivity and unity.

North East Forum for their exemplary efforts in organizing such a remarkable program.

Faculty members hailing from the North East, including Prof. Hanjabam Shukhdeba Sharma, Dr. Shivaji Choudhury, and others formed the backbone of the organizing committee, showcasing the spirit of unity and collaboration.

Classifieds

आवश्यकता है किराये पर चाहिए

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

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SELF CONTROL

Kerala Govt saved 200 MW power

Press Trust Of India

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: In the wake of the Kerala government coming out with certain proposals to control power consumption during peak hours, the southern state saved around 200 megawatts of electricity on May 3.

The achievement was highlighted by state Electricity Minister K Krishnankutty who on Saturday said the power saving was thanks to the cooperation of the consumers, especially the big industries, in Kerala.



"It is a big change. It happened thanks to the cooperation of the consumers," he

said. The minister also said that the government was trying to ensure that restrictions proposed by the Kerala State Electricity Board (KSEB) do not affect the domestic power consumers.

"Everyone has to cooperate and self-impose restrictions on their consumption. You (media) too should take it up as a campaign (to urge people to reduce power consumption). Otherwise, all of us will have to suffer," he told reporters. At the same time, he said there was no load shedding or power cuts.

From around the web on India Platter full of laughter garnished with cooking mishaps for viewers to come soon



MUMBAI: A platter full of laughter garnished with cooking mishaps will be served to the audience, leaving them craving for more! COLORS announces its latest show, 'Laughter Chefs Unlimited Entertainment'. Guaranteeing full-on entertainment, this new show reunites your favourite TV actors, who will spill the beans about their lives, serving their hilarious chemistry, antics, and quirks to viewers at dinner time. More than just a culinary journey of recipes, the offering is an entertainment feast for the family, where 13 popular stars will cook up the best stories, even if they may not be the best chefs. From kitchen newbies to cook-

ing enthusiasts, these celebrities will lay out the unique flavours, stirring up the laughter. Leading the charge as the host is none other than the queen of comedy herself, Bharti Singh. With her sharp wit and sense of humour, she'll ensure that the laughter never simmers, keeping the audience in stitches from start to finish. Joining the star-studded ensemble is Celebrity Chef Coach - Harpal Singh Sokhi, who will lend his expertise through the kitchen chaos. This eccentric kitchen will be graced by fan-favourite celebrities such as Krushna Abhishek - Kashmera Shah, Vicky Jain - Ankita Lokhande and Rahul Vaidya - Aly Goni. **PTI**

The Day's NUMBERS

Italy stands as top importer from India

COFFEE EXPORTS FROM INDIA (JAN-MAY 2024) (QUANTITY IN TONNES)

ITALY	38178
GERMANY	16932
UAE	9011
RUSSIA	7817
BELGIUM	6602
TURKEY	5595

Source: Coffee Board

TRUCE TMC's Kunal Ghosh meets Derek in signs of rapprochement

KOLKATA: TMC leader Kunal Ghosh, who was removed as the party's state general secretary, met Rajya Sabha MP Derek O'Brien on Saturday, in signs of rapprochement. Ghosh, accompanied by state Education Minister Bratya Basu, went to O'Brien's office in Ballygunge in the afternoon. The meeting lasted for around one and a half hours. The TMC had on Wednesday removed him as the state general secretary and star campaigner after he shared the stage with BJP's Kolkata Uttar candidate Tapas Ray. The statement announcing the party's action was issued by O'Brien, the TMC's leader in Rajya Sabha. Following the meeting, Basu said, "Discussions were held to strengthen the organisation and fight the BJP unitedly. There is no bad blood." "The wound has been healed," he added. While Ghosh stayed silent when Basu was speaking to reporters, O'Brien could not be reached for comment. **PTI**

AWARENESS Yoga camp for trainees at the Electric Loco Training Center, Usalapur



BILASPUR: For the technical development of locomotive pilots, assistant locomotive pilots, refresher courses, promotional and special programs, and the initiation of basic training programs for apprentice trainees, Yoga training is being provided along with protection and technical training at the Electric Loco Training Center, Usalapur. Given that the working style of locomotive pilots and assistant locomotive pilots differs from that of other employees, it is essential for them to remain stress-free and physically and mentally strong. **PTI**

Rohith Vemula's mother meets T'gana Chief Minister

CM assured that a fair and transparent investigation would be conducted.

Press Trust Of India

HYDERABAD: Rohith Vemula's mother Radhika Vemula met Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy here on Saturday and urged him to see that "justice" is done to the family. Reddy assured her that an investigation would be conducted again into the University of Hyderabad student's suicide in 2016 and that justice would be done, an official release said.

The chief minister assured that a fair and transparent investigation would be conducted further, Rohith Vemula's brother Raja Vemula told PTI Videos.

He expressed confidence that justice would be done to them under the present Congress government.

"We have opposed the closure report submitted by the police. We also raised concerns regarding the issues they have mentioned in the report," he said, adding that the competent authority to clarify on the caste status is the district Collector of Guntur in neighbouring Andhra Pradesh and not the police," he said.

Raja Vemula also said they sought cases filed against some other students to be cancelled.



Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy with University of Hyderabad student Rohith Vemula's mother Radhika Vemula.

Police have filed a closure report before a local court in its probe into the death of Rohith Vemula, a student of the University of Hyderabad, claiming he was not a Dalit and died by suicide in 2016 as he feared that his "real caste" would be discovered. Telangana DGP Ravi Gupta has already announced to conduct further investigation into the case in view of the doubts expressed by Rohith Vemula's mother and others on the closure report.

Three held for stalking, harassing woman in Nagpur; three arrested

NAGPUR: Three persons from Amravati were arrested in Nagpur for allegedly stalking and harassing a woman, a police official said on Saturday. On April 22, they had followed the woman from a hotel to her home in a sports utility vehicle without a registration number, the Sadar police station official said.

"Once the woman

HIGHLIGHT

● Police nabbed accused thru CCTV footage.

● Accused are all from Amravati.

reached home, these men alighted from the SUV and followed her up to her residential complex's

lobby. After going through footage of 400 CCTV cameras, we managed to trace the route of the SUV and zeroed in on the accused," he said. Rajesh Kumar Talreja (43), Manoj Kumar Chhabra (53) and Suraj Kurhadkar (25), all from Amravati, were arrested on Friday. "Talreja works in the construction department and has migrated from Pakistan," he said.

Women and children of Badnapur village go on daily water hunt

Press Trust Of India

Tucked away in the interiors of Badnapur tehsil, Tapovan village, located near the Jalna-Bhorkardan road, does not have natural water sources and is dependent on water tankers every day.

SAMBHAJINAGAR: Women and children of a village in Jalna district in the drought-prone Marathwada region of Maharashtra spend most of their days scouring nearby areas for drinking water. Tucked away in the interiors of Badnapur tehsil, Tapovan village, located near the Jalna-Bhorkardan road, does not have natural water sources and is dependent on water tankers every day. According to villagers, the groundwater sources in the village have dried up in the last three months, forcing the women and children to walk at least 2 to 4 km looking for drinking water in the nearby areas and making several trips in the blistering heat daily.

Various parts of the district are facing an acute water shortage due to inadequate rainfall in the last monsoon season.

Talking to PTI, one of the villagers, Amrapali Borde, said a tanker supplies water for domestic

use every day, but it has a yellowish tint and can't be used for drinking and cooking.

"The tanker empties water in the artificial tank in the village. We have to carry water back to our homes. But this water is not consumable. We fetch potable water from water sources located in fields in other villages," Borde said.

Often, owners of wells don't allow them to draw water, she said.

FASTFACTS

● Groundwater sources have dried up in the last three months

● There is no major water source in the periphery of the village

Nearby villages of Tapovan Tanda, Tupewadi and Banegaon are also dependent on water tankers. As of April 30, 282 villages and 68 hamlets in Jalna depended on 419 tankers. Chayabai Borde, another resident of Tapovan, said, "We walk around 2 km one way in search of drinking water. Sometimes, we make two to three trips as per requirement." And now, as schools are closed for the summer holidays, children are helping women in their water hunt, she said.

NEWSLINE

NEW DELHI

Senior-most Afghan diplomat in India resigns



Zakia Wardak, the senior-most Afghan diplomat in India, has resigned from her position after reports emerged that she was caught at Mumbai airport last month for allegedly trying to smuggle 25 kg of gold worth Rs 18.6 crore from Dubai. Wardak had taken charge as the acting ambassador of Afghanistan to New Delhi since late last year after working as the Afghan Consul General in Mumbai for over two years.

In a statement posted on 'X', the Afghan diplomat said she decided to resign in view of numerous personal attacks on her that severely impacted her ability to effectively operate.

MALAPPURAM

CBI arrests four Kerala policemen

The CBI on Saturday arrested four civil police officers accused of torturing to death a man arrested for alleged possession of synthetic drugs in August last year near Tanur here, police sources said. The four CPOs, who were under suspension following the custodial death, were arrested by the CBI from their respective residences, the sources said. On August 1, police had arrested five youngsters, allegedly based on a tip-off, on suspicion of possessing synthetic drugs. A case was registered against them under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act at the Tanur police station.

Tamil YouTuber Shankar arrested

COIMBATORE: Tamil YouTuber 'Savukku' Shankar was arrested by the Coimbatore police allegedly for making defamatory remarks against women police officials, police here said on Saturday.

A team from the Coimbatore City Cybercrime wing arrested Shankar from Theni early today morning and brought him to the city, police said. Enroute, the police vehicle in which Shankar was being brought met with an accident near Dharapuram in Tiruppur district when a car collided head-on with the police van, they added.

Besides Shankar, two police constables suffered minor injuries in the accident and they were treated as outpatients at the Dharapuram Government Hospital, police said. "Savukku Shankar has been arrested today for offences committed," Coimbatore City Police said in a post on X.

Cong gnawing at itself like a 'termite': Jyotiraditya

Manish Shrivastava

The scion of the erstwhile royal family of Gwalior severed his 18-year-long ties with the Congress in 2020 and joined the BJP.

GUNA: The Congress is heading towards its end and is like a "termite" gnawing at itself, Union minister and BJP Guna Lok Sabha seat candidate Jyotiraditya Scindia has said. The Congress has become ideologically bankrupt and nobody wants to stay with it. While the party has not fielded candidates on many seats, some of its nominees have withdrawn from the poll race, Scindia told PTI in an interview. The scion of the erstwhile royal family of Gwalior severed his 18-year-long



BJP candidate Jyotiraditya Scindia with party leader Uma Bharti during a rally, in Shivpuri district.

ties with the Congress in 2020 and joined the BJP.

In a coordinated rebellion, Scindia quit along with 22 Congress MLAs loyal to him, leading to the collapse of the then 15-month-old Kamal Nath-led Madhya Pradesh government and the BJP's return to power in the state. Hitting out at the Congress over its allegation that the BJP will change the Constitution

if it returns to power, Scindia said the party that imposed Emergency in the country is now giving lessons on the Constitution. "The Congress has become bankrupt in terms of ideology, human resources... Nobody wants to stay with the Congress and

there is no honour and respect for anyone in the party," Scindia said.

Army to highlight role of veterans in nation's progress

Press Trust Of India

The event promises to provide a comprehensive understanding of how veterans can serve as an engine of growth for the nation.

NEW DELHI: The Indian Army will host a summit next week with an aim to highlight the capabilities, potential and skills of military veterans as a driving force in the nation's progress, officials said on Saturday. The summit, which is being organised by the Army Welfare Placement

Organisation (AWPO), will be held on May 8.

The event promises to provide a comprehensive understanding of how veterans can serve as an engine of growth for the nation, a senior official said. It will highlight the capabilities, potential and skills of military veterans as a driving force in the nation's progress. With the participation of corporate leaders, military veterans, leading industry figures and veteran entrepreneurs, the summit aims to bridge gaps in training, orientation and preparation, paving the way for veterans.

SOUTH EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY
TENDER NOTICE FOR POSTPONED & RESCHEDULED
 No. S/Sales/AP/R-Div/Postponed/24-25
 Date: 03.05.2024
 The e-auction program to be held in Raipur Division on 07.05.2024 has been postponed and rescheduled to 10.05.2024 due to Lok Sabha election-2024.
 AMM-I, For PCMM
 CPR/10/48 S.E.C. Railway, Bilaspur,
 South East Central Railway @seccrail

बैंक ऑफ बड़ोदा Regional Office, First Floor, Zonal Market, Sector -10, Bhilai (C.G.) - 490006
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E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF PROPERTIES "APPENDIX- IV-A [See proviso to Rule 6(2) & 8(6)]"
 E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable/ movable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 6(2) & 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.
 Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable/movable property mortgaged / charged to the Secured Creditor, possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of Bank of Baroda, Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is" & "Whatever there is" for recovery of below mentioned account(s). The details of Borrower(s) / Mortgagor(s) / Guarantor(s) / Secured Asset(s)/Dues/Reserve Price/e-Auction date & Time, EMD and Bid Amount are mentioned below:

Sr. No.	Name & Address of Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)/ Mortgagor(s)	Short description of the movable / immovable property with known encumbrances, if any	Total Dues	(i) Reserve Price (ii) EMD and (iii) Bid Increase Amount.	Status of Possession (Constructive/ Physical)
01	M/s. NARMADA ENTERPRISES Partners : 1) Mr. Kulvir Singh Dhiman (Borrower), 2) Mr. Shrinivasa Acharya (Borrower), Business Add:- Khasra No. - 7A/5, First Floor, Ekta Tower, Dakshin Gangotri, Near Printer Clinic Supela Bhilai (C.G.) Pin - 491441 Mr. Kulvir Singh Dhiman S/o Mr. Sardar Bikram Singh (Partner), Residence Address: A75 Street No.27, Smriti Nagar Bhilai Tah. - Bhilai, Dist. - Durg, Pin - 491001 Mr. Shrinivasa Acharya S/o Mr. P. B. R. Acharya (Partner), Residence Address : MIG 744, Padmanabhpur Durg, Pin-491001, Mr. Prakash Rao S/o Shri A.V Rao (Guarantor), Residence Address: MIG 761, MP Housing Board, Padmanabhpur, Durg Pin-491001	All that part & parcel of the property consisting of Residential Lease Hold Property / House vide no. MIG 761 admeasuring area - 197.49 Sq. Mt. at padmanabhpur (Chhattisgarh Griha Nirman Mandal) Tah. & District- Durg C.G. in the name of Shri Prakash Rao S/o Shri A.V. Rao (Guarantor): Bounded: North- Road South- MIG 766 East- MIG 762 West- MIG 760	Rs. 1,61,31,256.77 + interest + other charges	Rs. 62,59,680.00 Rs. 6,25,968.00 Rs. 10,000.00	Physical Possession

Date & Time of E-Auction 21.05.2024, 2.00 P.M. to 6.00 P.M. & Property Inspection Date & Time 16.05.2024, 11.00 AM to 02.00 PM
 For detailed terms and conditions of sale, please refer to the link provided in https://www.bankofbaroda.in/e-auction.htm and https://bapi.in. Also, prospective bidders may contact the authorized officer on Mob. No. 7723024982.
 Date: 05.05.2024, Place: Bhilai (C.G.)
 Authorised Officer, Bank of Baroda

MODERN COMPETITION

Bangle industry needs revival

Press Trust Of India

FIROZABAD: Their livelihoods now as fragile as the glass bangles they make, lakhs of people in Uttar Pradesh's famed 'city of glass' are hoping this election will bring in change and their industry will get a much-needed revival.

The once ubiquitous vendors selling bangles on carts have slowly faded away over the years and today you can

see but a few, a visible sign of a once vibrant industry in decline. It has long been a symbol of local craft but now battles modern challenges, say artisans, factory owners and shopkeepers. The immense competition from plastic and metal bangles has eaten into their market share, resulting in a noticeable decline in sales of the traditional glass variety.

"The demand for our handmade glass

bangles is diminishing. The younger generation is not interested in learning our traditional art, and cheap plastic bangles are flooding the market. Also, not many women wear glass bangles now," said Ram Lal, an artisan at Natraj Lakshmi Bangles. "Additionally, the industry is grappling with the encroachment of mechanisation, with machines replacing artisans," he said.

NOTICE

CG POWER AND INDUSTRIAL SOLUTIONS LIMITED 6TH FLOOR, CG HOUSE, DR. ANNIE BESANT ROAD, MUMBAI - 400 030 (MAHARASHTRA)
 Notice is hereby given that the Share Certificate No.000905033 for 525 equity shares having the Distinctive Nos. 369408171 to 369408695 under Folio No. 0028704, Share Certificate No.000879031 for 500 equity shares having the Distinctive Nos. 5065906 to 5066405 under Folio No. 0028704 and Share Certificate No.000899577 for 200 equity shares having the Distinctive Nos. 366488376 to 366488575 under Folio No. 0028704 of M/s. CG Power and Industrial Solutions Limited (Company) standing in my name i.e. SARBRAJ DULAI have been lost or mislaid and the undersigned has applied to the Company to issue duplicate share certificates in lieu of the said shares. A Police complaint/report in this connection has also been lodged with the Police Station, DURG.
 Any person who has any claim in respect of the said shares should write to our Registrar M/s. Datamatics Business Solutions Ltd., Plot No. B-5, Part B, Cross Lane, MIDC Andheri (E), Mumbai 400 093 within one month from this date else the Company will proceed to issue duplicate share certificates.
SARBRAJ DULAI
 ADDRESS: 5, MOHAN NAGAR, FIRST FLOOR, WARD NO.13, DURG-CHATTISHGARH-491001

I'm not here to explain why because its honestly nobody's business !!! But, I couldn't take the pain anymore honestly.

Britney Spears
Hollywood Actress



Weekend

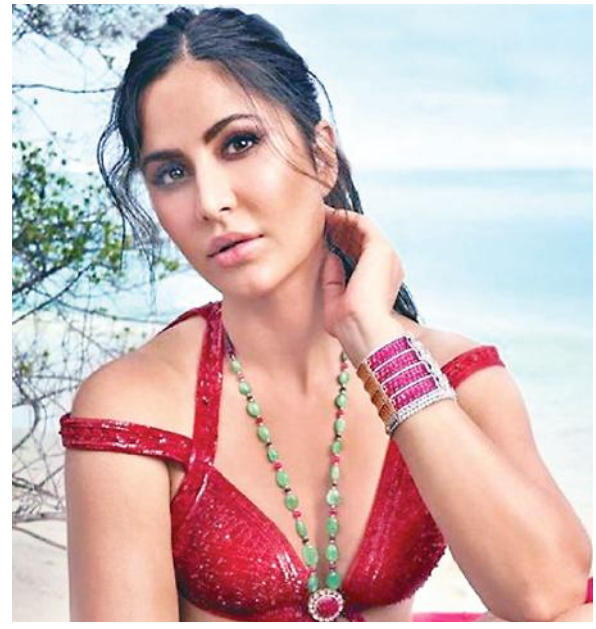


SUNDAY
Raipur, May 05, 2024

CELEB TALK

Katrina Kaif's linguistic feat: Deepfake controversy and the authenticity of talent

Katrina Kaif is the latest victim of deepfake technology. An old video of hers has been circulating on the internet, showing her speaking fluent French.



Katrina Kaif's fans react to AI-generated video of her speaking French.

Katrina Kaif, the epitome of Bollywood stardom, continues to dazzle audiences with her performances, notably in SriramRaghavan's acclaimed Merry Christmas. However, a recent deepfake video of her speaking fluent French has ignited a debate on the internet regarding the capabilities of artificial intelligence. The video, allegedly from 2019, showcases Kaif effortlessly conversing in French, discussing Bina's 'incredible book'. The precision of the AI manipulation has astounded netizens, raising questions about the authenticity of digital content and the potential for misinformation. Social media platforms were abuzz with reactions, ranging from amazement

at AI's advancement to concerns about its potential misuse and the blurred

As an actor in the digital age, I'm both fascinated and wary of the advancements in technology.

Katrina Kaif
Actress

lines between reality and manipulation. Despite disclaimers accompanying the video, skepticism persists among users, who marvel at Kaif's linguistic prowess while simultaneously grappling with the implications of deepfake technology.

Amidst this technological debate, Katrina Kaif continues to shine on the professional front. Her latest film, Merry Christmas, co-starring Vijay Sethupathi, received critical acclaim for its adaptation of Frédéric Dard's novel. Released in January 2024, the film further cements Kaif's position as one of Bollywood's most versatile and talented actors, adept in captivating audiences both on screen and off. As the world navigates the complexities of digital manipulation, Kaif's enduring talent serves as a beacon of authenticity in an increasingly virtual landscape, inspiring trust and admiration among her fans worldwide for her remarkable achievements.

| HOLLYWOOD |

Anna Sawai's missed Hollywood break: From Shogun to suicide squad audition regret

Central Chronicle News

Anna Sawai, acclaimed for her role as Lady Mariko in Shogun, reveals that starring in Suicide Squad could have been her big break in Hollywood.

Anna Sawai, renowned for her portrayal of Lady Mariko in Shogun, recently revealed a missed opportunity that could have been her big break in Hollywood. During a podcast interview, Sawai shared her disappointment at being advised against auditioning for Suicide Squad, where she could have played the role of Katana, eventually portrayed by Karen Fukuhara. Starting her career as a J-pop singer, Sawai joined the girl band FAKY, which hindered her pursuit of acting opportu-



Anna Sawai: Rising star overcoming Hollywood's missed opportunities

Anna Sawai, acclaimed for her role in Shogun, reveals, her role in Suicide Squad could have been big break in Hollywood.



nities. Despite her passion for acting, strict management policies prevented her from exploring roles outside the group. This became evident in 2013 when she missed the chance to audition for Suicide Squad, a potential gateway to Hollywood success. While expressing her admiration for Fukuhara's per-

formance, Sawai's disappointment at missing the opportunity was palpable. Nevertheless, she continued to advance in her acting career. Her roles in the British crime drama Haji and Justin Lin's F9: The Fast Saga showcased her versatility and talent. With her standout performance in Shogun, Sawai has solidified herself as a rising star in the industry. Although she missed out on Suicide Squad, her journey reflects resilience and determination in the face of challenges.

As she continues to pursue her acting dreams, audiences eagerly anticipate her future projects on both the small and big screens. Sawai's experience serves as inspiration for aspiring actors facing similar obstacles, reminding them to persevere in the pursuit of their dreams and remain resilient in the face of setbacks.

PixelView WHAT TO WATCH AT HOME



Challengers
Starring: Zendaya, Mike Faist, Josh O'Connor
Where to watch: Disney+Hotstar

Watch Zendaya alongside Mike Faist and Josh O'Connor in Luca Guadagnino's sizzling tennis drama, now streaming on Disney+Hotstar. Packed with fun, sweat, and allure, it offers an awesome movie experience. Trent Reznor and Atticus Ross contribute a killer score, adding to the excitement. Don't miss out on this captivating journey through the world of competitive tennis, where passion and ambition collide on and off the court.



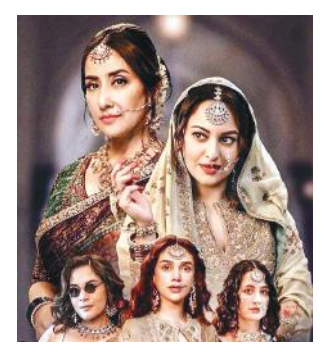
We're Here season 4
Starring: Sasha Velour, Jaida Essence Hall, Priyanka, Latrice Royale
Where to watch: HBO Max
Tune in to HBO Max for "We're Here," a heartwarming blend of "RuPaul's Drag Race" and "Queer Eye," dedicated to empowering rural LGBTQ+ communities.

In its latest season, new hosts Sasha Velour, Jaida Essence Hall, Priyanka, and Latrice Royale embark on a transformative journey through Tennessee and Oklahoma. Through their unique blend of drag performances and personal connections, they bring hope and acceptance to those in need. Don't miss the chance to witness the powerful impact of love, acceptance, and self-expression in the heartland of America.



Knuckles
Starring: Idris Elba, Adam Pally
Where to watch: Paramount+
Now streaming on Paramount+, witness the expansion of the Sonic cinematic universe with a thrilling new TV show. Following the success of the Sonic films, Knuckles, portrayed

by Idris Elba, takes center stage in his own series. Teaming up with Adam Pally's sheriff character, Wade Whipple, Knuckles embarks on daring adventures. Prepare for action-packed episodes as these dynamic characters navigate new challenges and explore the limitless possibilities of the Sonic universe.



Heeramandi
Starring: Manisha Koirala, Sonakshi Sinha, Aditi Rao Hydari, Richa Chadha, Sanjeeda Sheikh, Sharmin Segal
Where to watch: Netflix
Now streaming on Netflix, "Heeramandi" delves into the captivating narrative of Lahore's red-light district during the

British Raj. Starring Manisha Koirala, Sonakshi Sinha, Aditi Rao Hydari, Richa Chadha, Sanjeeda Sheikh, and Sharmin Segal, the series offers a profound exploration of the lives oftawaifs. With its stellar cast and rich storytelling, "Heeramandi" promises to unravel compelling characters and immerse viewers in a world of intrigue, passion, and societal complexities.



Laapataa Ladies
Starring: Charles Rowland and Edwin Paine
Where to watch: Netflix
Available now on Netflix, this delightful comedy intricately weaves together societal norms and female

empowerment. The story revolves around two brides who find themselves separated from their husbands, leading to a journey of self-discovery, relationships, and independence. With its engaging plot and vibrant characters, the series offers a refreshing take on modern relationships while celebrating the strength and resilience of women. Prepare for a heartwarming and humorous exploration of love, friendship, and the pursuit of happiness.

'I was astounded by the state-of-the-art lush green campus and cutting-edge facilities of ITM University had to offer'

- Harish Sahu- Batch- BA-IHTM- Placed at Grand Hyatt, Dubai



Scholar

CAMPUS CALLING

Graduate sustainable employability vital for higher education

Prof. S. K. Singh
Vice-chancellor
Shri Rawatpura Sarkar
University, Raipur (C.G.)

**Campus
Calling**
THE FIRST LECTURE



Outside campus view of Shri Rawatpura Sarkar University, Raipur (C.G.)

Improving the employability and job readiness of graduates is equally important for both the higher education sector and the industry sector and both of them can not shy away from this responsibility. The unprecedented demand of higher and professional education in the country has led to unsystematic growth of this sector without much planning. Majority of the higher education institutions failed to move in tandem with the latest development in basic disciplines, knowledge and technology. Obsolete and outdated curriculum, institutional apathy, resistance to change, ineffective governance and poor

quality assurance, infra-structural constraints may be held responsible for the wide gap between the skills set possessed by the passing out graduates and the skills set required in the real world. This has a serious implication not only for the present but also the future growth of the country because more unemployable educated youth will be more of a liability than the dividend. The current unemployment and unemployment patterns of the passing out graduates in the country support these concerns.

Further, the sectoral shifts towards service industries with new age technologies have created new job pro-



'It is the personal and soft skills that are found to be major areas of concern'

files about which the prospective employees and HEIs are not much aware of. This becomes one of the important

reasons of burgeoning employability skill gap. The employers are reasonably satisfied with the technical know-how of the passing out graduates and the functional skills which are more industry specific can be taken care by industries as a part of their in-house training and capacity building programs. It is the personal and soft skills that are found to be major areas of concern. Thus, the HEIs are expected to focus on imparting these personnel and soft skills by making it an integral part of curriculum. However, this important responsibility cannot be left only to the

HEIs rather all important stakeholders of education-employment ecosystem including government, employers, parents and society at a large must be involved.

The role of a responsive and dynamic higher education sector in harnessing the above cannot be undermined but the issue is rather complex because it involves many factors which are beyond the control of higher education sector or industry sector such as economic growth, job market conditions, societal perceptions etc. Hence, it becomes imperative for all major stakeholders to actively and collaboratively engage with student community.

Two-day' workshop on career guidance held at CGC



A two-day workshop on career guidance, GPAT and Exit Exam preparation and soft skill development was organized by the Department of School of Pharmacy under Chouksey Group of Colleges (CGC). The main speaker of this workshop was Dr. Piyush Jaiswal, Guide and Director, and Richa Pava, GDC Pvt. Ltd. In this workshop, Both gave various guidance to B. Pharmacy and D. Pharmacy students to progress in their career and in the field of Pharmacy. They also informed them about impor-

tant aspects related to GPAT and Exit Exam preparation and soft skill development.

In this workshop, MD of the institution, Dr. Ashish Jaiswal, Principal of School of Pharmacy, Dr. Dheeraj Ahirwar, OSD Sharad Kaushik and Administrative Officer Dr. Nitin Jain were present as special guests. Dr. Dheeraj Ahirwar, Principal of the School of Pharmacy, encouraged the students to assimilate the information given in the workshop in their career and life.

UNIVERSITY GOSSIP: ITMUR: Enabling students through internships

Central Chronicle News

ITMUR provides freedom and possibilities where students can discover their passion and turn it into a remarkable career growth. We believe that practical skills matter more than university degrees, where students do not have to wait till 21 to taste their first work experience. ITMUR gives distinct internship opportunities to learn practical exposure & practice career development strategies that can help students to mold themselves in accordance with the demand of the company.

We believe in the concept that an internship is the best way to find and

pursue things that you are passionate about. We also help students in deciding - Where to Intern if he/she wants to be an entrepreneur.

ITM University supports students in getting best Internship opportunities at PAN India Level. Many of our students are working as interns in Dubai. Our organization has many regular & prominent recruiters which cater custom based internships to students with a maximum stipend of 20k. Internship exposure furnishes students with enough industry knowledge to nourish their confidence in appearing in various personal or virtual interviews with renowned professionals.

| STUDENTS VIEW |

Empowering India's workforce: The crucial role of employability skills

By | Vidushi Malhotra, Student of MATS University, Raipur

Getting a good job and earning a huge income is the dream of every college student in India. However, despite a plethora of jobs in the market, only a few chosen individuals get the job of their dreams. Why this is so? It all comes down to if we are dependable or employable in the marketplace or not.

Additionally, if we do not have the necessary employability skills to get ourselves hired, we may have to settle for something below our skills or something that doesn't interest us at all.



Meanwhile, employers have to sift through thousands of applications in order to ensure a good fit for the role posted on their websites. If the candidate doesn't match their standards, then their resumes see the trash can.

Therefore, getting industry-relevant skills is highly important in

today's scenario be it for whatever job the student is pursuing. Usually, this involves internships, skill development programs, and industry-academia collaborations which are a great incentive for students in India.

Additionally, students must be taught a practical curriculum in colleges that makes them ready to



HIGHLIGHT
Getting a combination of internships, skill development programs, and industry-academia collaborations, students can achieve more in the job market.

face the ever-changing trends in the industry. Nowadays, this step is

very crucial so that every student has a fair chance to get selected for their dream jobs.

But due to a lack of such resources in India, students fall into the employability gap which is quite dangerous to their mental well-being. When they don't get selected, students feel the immense pressure of performing well in the job industry.

Few of those who do get selected in the top companies or jobs of their choice, face the challenges of underpayment, worker cut-offs and other things.

ZeroPeriod

THE WORLD OF SCHOOL EDUCATION

ADMISSION

Extended admission deadline for Swamy Atmanand Schools

RAJIM: The admission in Swamy Atmanand Hindi and English Medium Schools, both online and offline is in progress. As per the time-table by the Directorate of Public Instructions, the admission into Swamy Atmanand Schools could be done till May 5, but in view of the May 7 LS elections, the last admission date has been extended. As per the amended time-table now the applications forms for admission in SAGEMS can be submitted till May 10, both online and offline and it is from May 11-15 that the seats would be allocated through lotter procedure and it is from May 16-20 that the selected candidates had to submit their documents in the concerned school and complete the admission procedure.

RESULT

Results of SSVMHSS students from KG-1 to 11th cent percent

ARANG: The results of the Srujan Sonkar Vidya Mandir Higher Secondary School (SSVMHSS) from KG-1 to Class 11th has been declared. In this after the address, all the top ten students from different classes were presented with citation certificates and those coming first and second were felicitated with medals. Apart from this the students were also presented with certificates and medals for excelling in the annual sports, 'srujan mahotsav', 'Srujan Khel Mahotsav', 'Srujan Vigyan exhibition', highest attendance and others.

Event of the week

Rajkumar College wins All India Under-17 Boys Championship



RAIPUR: Rajkumar College won the All India Under-17 Boys Cricket Championship by beating The Emerald Heights International School, Indore by 10 wickets. IPSC U-17 Cricket was hosted by the Scindia School from 27th April to 2nd May.

In the way to the finals, Rajkumar College remained unbeaten throughout. In the intriguing final match, that was played against Emerald Heights, the players of Rajkumar College under

the captaincy of Mohd. Shahir Qureshi and the vice captain Saksham Rungta proved their prowess by giving a tough competition to them.

Vedansh Khedia was adjudged the Player of the Final and The Best Batsman. The excellent batting by the Captain Mohd. Shahir Qureshi, Saksham Rungta, Vedansh Kedia, Rachit Goenka and Pregu Aryan culminated into a thrilling victory for Rajkumar College, Raipur in the U-17 IPSC Championship.

Shortake: MAIC United programme

Programme on 'I am the Best' held at MAIC for students

RAIPUR: JCI Raipur MAIC United organised training programme on 'I am the Best' at MAIC recently. The Int'l trainer PPP JFR JCI Sen. Rajesh Agrawal was present as the chief trainer. The objective of this training was to develop leadership qualities in every student. Highlighting the need for giving priority to one's happiness, Rajesh Agrawal taught the students on how to achieve success through hard work combined with smart work and with good intentions.



SchoolBuzz

Results of SSMHSS school declared, results cent percent

MUNGELI: The annual exam results of Saraswati Shishu Mandir HS School, Darakapa for 2023-24 were declared here on Thursday. The Principal of the School declared the results and in this Prateek Singh Thakur with 94.66% marks in Class 6th came first; Taresh Sahu with 93.33% came second and Prithviraj Sharma with 91.50% marks came third.



Gopi Dheewar of Class 8th secures top place with 96.33% marks

ARANG: Results of Saraswati Gyandeep Vidyalaya (SGV) have been declared and in this all the students and their parents were present. The results of students from Class 1 to 8th were declared. In the Class 8th, the first place was secured by Gopi Dheewar with 96.33% marks; second by Meenakshi Lodhi with 93.72% marks; third by Jullie Jalkshatri with 91.61% marks.



Toppers of Govt Primary School presented with medals, certificates

DONGARGAON: The annual results of Government Primary School, Pendarvani for 2023-24 were declared on Thursday. In this the students securing top place from Class 1 to 5th were presented medals and by offered sweets, after applying 'tilak' and wished all the best for their future endeavours.



Sports



Size of stadiums we play, is not relevant in modern day cricket

Ashwin
Indian cricketer

Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

SPANISH LEAGUE

Williams brothers star for Athletic Bilbao 2-0 victory over Getafe

MADRID: Brothers Iñaki and Nico Williams combined twice to give Athletic Bilbao a 2-0 victory over Getafe in the Spanish league. Nico got an assist in each half and Iñaki scored twice before the team was reduced to nine men and coach Ernesto Valverde was red-carded, too. Athletic closed the gap to three points behind fourth-placed Atletico Madrid. The top four in La Liga go into the Champions League. Atletico has five games to play, including at Mallorca on Saturday. Athletic has four games remaining. As has happened so often this season, the Williams brothers stood out for the Basque club. With 26 minutes gone, Nico played a short pass to Iñaki and from 20 meters out he curled the ball in. Six minutes into the second period, Nico played a defense-splitting pass to his brother who swept the ball home with aplomb.

IPL CRICKET

Starc says no impact player rule in T20 WC will force captains to think tactically

MUMBAI: Kolkata Knight Riders and Australia pacer Mitchell Starc believes not having Indian Premier League's Impact player rule will force the captains to think more tactically when the T20 World Cup begins in the Americas next month. The impact player rule, which was implemented last year, has witnessed teams batting with more aggression and fearlessness, leading to totals in excess of 200 being scored consistently. The IPL this year has been particularly high-scoring with totals in excess of 250 being notched up at least on three instances. "The impact player rule changes things a fair bit. Everyone gets to bat a lot deeper having a batting and a bowling XI," Starc told the media after KKR defeated Mumbai Indians by 24 runs here on Friday. "I guess there's a lot made of that rule and there's been a lot of high scores, which is the nature of the wickets and the grounds we play on here."

T20 WORD CUP

Powell to lead strong West Indies team, rookie Shamar called in for T20 WC



PORT OF SPAIN: Rajasthan Royals power-hitter Rovman Powell will lead a strong West Indies squad, filled with some of the world's best franchise freelancers, in the upcoming T20 World Cup in the Americas.

One of the prominent names included is rookie pace sensation Shamar Joseph, who is a part of Lucknow Super Giants in this edition of IPL. The team bears a formidable look with some of the biggest power-hitters in world cricket like Nicholas Pooran of Lucknow Super Giants, Andre Russell of Kolkata

Knight Riders, Shimron Hetmyer of Rajasthan Royals apart from skipper Powell himself being part of the 15. Not to forget Romario Shepherd of Mumbai Indians, Sherrane Rutherford (KKR) and Shai Hope (Delhi Capitals), who are also playing their trade in the cash-rich IPL. Pacer Alzarri Joseph, who plays for Royal Challengers Bengaluru, is Powell's deputy while seasoned pros like all-rounders Roston Chase, Jason Holder, batters Johnson Charles, Brandon King have also been inducted.

The Day's NUMBERS

TOP 5 FASTEST 100-METER SPRINT TIMES IN ATHLETICS

5. Justin Gatlin (US):	9.74
4. Asafa Powell (Jamaica):	9.72
Time in Seconds 3. Yohan Blake (Jamaica):	9.69
2. Tyson Gay (US):	9.69
1. Usain Bolt (Jamaica):	9.58

PARIS OLYMPICS

MOC approves Yarraji and Shaili's proposals for foreign competitions

NEW DELHI: Asian Games medallist sprinter Jyothi Yarraji and long jump athlete Shaili Singh's proposals to compete in multiple competitions in their quest for qualifying for the Paris Olympics were cleared by the government on Friday. The Indian track and field athletes have sent in their request for financial assistance towards various competitions across Europe for the coming month, where they will try to either breach the qualification mark or gather crucial ranking points for the Olympics. While Yarraji has proposed to compete in six international events in Europe, Shaili is planning to take part in four events in the month of May and June. "MOC under their Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS) funding will cover their Air Fare, visa cost, accommodation charges, local transport cost, medical insurance, physio charges, massage cost and OPA among other expenditure," the ministry said.

CRICKET

It's just the beginning for Rinku: Ganguly



KOLKATA: Rinku Singh shouldn't be disheartened by his exclusion from India's World T20 squad as it was pure tactical decision by team management to ask for an extra spinner taking pitches in the Caribbean into account, former India skipper Sourav Ganguly said on Friday. Ganguly feels the 26-year-old, who boasts of a 176-plus strike rate in 15 T20Is and plays the role of a finisher for Kolkata Knight Riders in the IPL, may have missed out as India wanted to go with an "extra spinner" keeping in mind the spinning tracks in the West Indies.

CSK aims to reverse fortunes against PBKS

Press Trust Of India

DHARAMSALA: Chennai Super Kings, the defending champions, are eager to overturn their recent setbacks as they prepare to face Punjab Kings once again in the IPL. Following two losses in their last three home games, Chennai finds themselves in a precarious position, currently occupying the fifth spot on the table with 10 points. With only four games remaining to secure their spot in the playoffs, Chennai

hopes for a change in fortune as they head into the match in Dharamsala.

In their previous encounter at Chepauk, Punjab Kings convincingly defeated CSK by seven wickets, denting Chennai's confidence. CSK struggled to accelerate the run rate during the middle overs against the spin duo of Harpreet Brar and Rahul Chahar, resulting in a below-par total of 162-7. Their batting lineup, heavily reliant on Ruturaj Gaikwad and Shivam Dube,

HIGHLIGHT

• The two losses in the last three games at home have put Chennai in a spot.

• The absence of frontline bowlers Matheesha Pathirana and Tushar Deshpande further weakened their attack.

faces pressure when either of them fails to deliver. Veteran Ajinkya Rahane's inconsistency and the

struggles of Ravindra Jadeja and Sameer Rizvi against CSK's woes. Additionally, CSK's bowling department has been plagued by injuries, with key pacers like Deepak Chahar sidelined due to fitness concerns. The absence of frontline bowlers Matheesha Pathirana and Tushar Deshpande further weakened their attack. Despite Richard Gleeson making his IPL debut in the last match, CSK might opt for Mukesh Choudhary

in the upcoming clash. On the contrary, Punjab Kings have experienced a resurgence with consecutive victories, boosting their playoff aspirations. Led by standout performances from Jonny Bairstow, Rilee Rossouw, and others, PBKS have shown glimpses of their potential. However, their bowling unit, comprising Kagiso Rabada, Harshal Patel, Arshdeep Singh, and Sam Curran, needs to maintain consistency for sustained success.

| PARIS OLYMPICS |

Consistency, patience will be key in Paris Olympics: Crasto

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Set to compete at the Paris Games, young shuttler Tanisha Crasto believes she and her women's doubles partner Ashwini Ponnappa have the game to match the world's best but need to work a bit more on consistency and patience to produce results at the Olympics.

The 20-year-old Tanisha and Ashwini, 34, made the cut for the Olympics after finishing 13th at the end of the qualification cycle.

"I feel like one thing we could work on is being more consistent and hav-



India's Tanisha Crasto and Ashwini Ponnappa. Photo PTI.

FACTFILE

• The 20-year-old Tanisha and Ashwini, 34, made the cut for the Olympics after finishing 13th.

• I feel like one thing we could work on is being more consistent.

ing more patience on the court because one thing that is very common in this set of players is that the matches go very long and also they are very consistent with the way they play," Tanisha told PTI.

"If we work on the same aspect, it could help us in tackling these players. I think we are already there at that level and I think we are very much capable of competing and even winning tournaments."

| INDIAN PREMIER LEAGUE |

Queries linger amid Mumbai's struggles: Hardik Pandya

Press Trust of India

MUMBAI: All but out of play-off contention after eighth defeat in 11 games, Mumbai Indians skipper Hardik Pandya seemed as if he was groping in the dark for replies to all the unanswered questions hounding the five-time champions in yet another disastrous IPL season.

Pandya was handed over the captaincy after the franchise removed national captain Rohit Sharma, something that the fans didn't really embrace with the colourful Baroda all-rounder being booed every time he entered the pitch. "There are a lot of questions that will take time to answer. But for now, not much to say. Obvi-



ously, we couldn't form partnerships and kept losing wickets. Bowlers did a fantastic job on this

track," Pandya said after his team failed to score 170, losing to KKR at home for the first time in

12 years. Pandya felt that it was better to bat late evening once dew set in but MI failed to capitalise. "The wicket got better if I'm not wrong. Dew came in the second innings. Will go through the game and see what we can do better," he said. Pandya tried to put up a brave front as he spoke about fighting till the last match.

Obviously, we couldn't form partnerships and kept losing wickets.
Hardik Pandya
MI Captain

Sports News

Team Indonesia celebrates hard-fought victory over South Korea in Uber Cup semifinal match



Indonesia's Ester Nurumi Tri Wardoyo reacts during play against South Korea's Kim Ga Ram. Indonesian team members pose for photos on court after 3-2 win over Team South Korea in the semi-final of the Uber Cup Finals held in Chengdu in southwestern China's Sichuan Province. Photo: PTI

'Stadium size irrelevant in modern cricket'

Press Trust of India

Ashwin's comment have come in the context of unreal totals being put up by teams in this year's IPL.

NEW DELHI: The evolution of batting in modern day is such that incredible power-hitting is slowly rendering the size of cricket stadiums irrelevant, world's premier off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin said on Saturday, fearing that the trend could make the game pretty one-sided.



Indian all-rounder R Ashwin Photo: PTI

have come in the context of unreal totals being put up by teams in this year's IPL.

Ashwin's comment

HIGHLIGHT

● The stadiums built back in the day are not relevant in the modern day. The bats that were used back then were also used for gully cricket.

extra batter in the form of Impact Substitutions.

"The stadiums built back in the day are not relevant in the modern day. The bats that were used back then were also used for gully cricket. With LED boards of the sponsors being used, the boundary has come in by 10 yards," Ashwin,

one of the leading voices in global cricket, said during a promotional event for his IPL team Rajasthan Royals.

Ashwin feels that if the trend continues, the game will become very one sided in coming times.

"It is tilting too far on other side, which will make someone's misery your great time. Batters will need mental boost," the straight-talker said.

However Ashwin also firmly believes that a good bowler will find his footing and stand out among the pack with his innovations.

Boundary banter: Ashwin's wit on bowling dynamics

HIGHLIGHT

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

NEW DELHI: Ashwin is happy that Rajasthan Royals' bowling attack hasn't suffered a lot unlike some of the other teams even though he marvels at the ball striking abilities of the batters over time.

"If you look at the Industrial rate (average runs conceded by teams in IPL), we have gone for less. We defended 180 in Jaipur in one game which was huge," he said

"But you are certainly

For someone with a very sharp sense of humour, Ashwin said a hilarious take on size of boundaries this season.

"The ground in Jaipur, the boundary is huge. When I saw that, Dhruv Jurel said: 'Bhaiyya this is so big' and I told him 'Dhruv, atleast let it be somewhere'. Watching that, I felt at this stage of my career, I would need a bicycle to reach the (Sawai Man Singh) boundary.

INDIAN PREMIER LEAGUE

Tried to surround with good people: Jaiswal

Press Trust of India

I keep a lot of focus on my process and I try my best in the practice sessions and surround myself with right kind of people and keep working hard.



NEW DELHI: Young Indian batter Yashasvi Jaiswal says he focussed on process and surrounded himself with people who gave him the right advice after the first phase of IPL when big knocks weren't coming his way.

There were speculations if the Bhadoli-born Mumbai opener would be able to make it to the T20 World Cup-bound team but in his last three games for Rajasthan Royals, he scored an unbeaten 104, 24 and 67 after totalling only 121 runs in seven games

HIGHLIGHT

● Royals are all but through to the playoffs with 16 points from 10 games and Jaiswal wants his team to maintain the momentum.

at the halfway stage. "I keep a lot of focus on my process and I try my best in the practice sessions and surround myself with right kind of people and keep working hard," Jaiswal said during a promotional event.

Royals are all but through to the play-

offs with 16 points from 10 games and Jaiswal wants his team to maintain the momentum. Asked about Royals' preparation, Jaiswal replied: "It's going great right now, and I hope we can continue with the momentum prepare well and keep focusing on the process for upcoming matches."

One of the biggest benefits of playing IPL, according to Jaiswal is the familiarity with opposition, which helps in doing a proper homework before the T20 World Cup in the Americas.

England women utilize AI for selection

LONDON: England are using Artificial Intelligence (AI) while picking their playing eleven, women's Head coach Jon Lewis has revealed, saying the technology provided crucial feedback as far as match-ups are concerned and also helped them win T20 series against Australia.

Lewis said he got to know about the technology, powered by a London-based company PSI, while he was coaching the UP Warriorz in the inaugural edition of the Women's Premier League (WPL) in India in March 2023. Interestingly, Steve Borthwick, the England Rugby Union coach who also manages rugby league team Wigan Warriors and English Football League One side Wigan Athletic have also used the same system, reported ESPNcricinfo.

The England head coach said the AI system has successful helped them.

Defender Rohit to lead Indian junior men's hockey team for Europe tour

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Defender Rohit has been named captain of the Indian junior men's hockey team, with Shardanand Tiwari as his deputy in a 20-member squad which will tour Europe from May 20-29.

India will play five matches across three nations -- Belgium, Germany and the Netherlands -- during the tour,

HIGHLIGHT

● It will be wonderful to play together against teams from other nations to help us build on our game and get better through this kind of exposure.

as part of Hockey India's initiative to help the team gain exposure and experience.

"We have been training hard at our camp



and have developed an understanding of each other's gameplay," said captain Rohit in a Hockey India release.

"It will be wonder-

ful to play together against teams from other nations to help us build on our game and get better through this kind of exposure." India will play their first match on May 20 against Belgium in Antwerp, before playing the same opponents in Breda, Netherlands on May 22. India will then play the Netherlands' Club team Bredase Hockey Vereniging Push in Breda on May 23.

Dhoni: Father figure in Pathirana's career

Press Trust of India

CHENNAI: Sri Lankan pacer Matheesha Pathirana has termed the legendary Mahendra Singh Dhoni as a father figure in his cricketer career, saying the former Chennai Super Kings skipper's small advises has given him a lot of confidence.



vital cog in CSK's pace attack, including their title success last season. Speaking on the guidance he received from

Dhoni, Pathirana said: "After my father, in my cricket life, mostly he's (MSD) playing my father's role. He always

takes care of me and gives me some advice on what I have to do -- similar to my father's thing when I'm doing in my home. "I think that's enough. He's not telling a lot of things when I'm on the field and off the field. He's just telling me small things, but it makes a lot of difference, and it makes a lot of confidence for me," he said in CSK's 'Lions on close' show on the franchise's YouTube channel.

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World



Won't comment on President Biden's remarks on xenophobia
Farhan Haq
 Dy Spokesperson for UN Secretary-General

Floods in Indonesia



Rescuers carry people affected by a flood in Wajo, South Sulawesi, Indonesia. | Photo: PTI

Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

PAK-POLITICS-IMRAN

Ready to hold talks but not for striking deal, says Imran Khan

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's jailed former prime minister Imran Khan has said that he is ready to hold talks but not to strike a "deal" with anyone who has stolen his party's mandate in the February 8 general election. Talking to journalists at the high-security Adiala jail in Rawalpindi on Friday, the 71-year-old Pakistan Tehreek e Insaaf founder asserted that negotiations were held only with adversaries and therefore the talks should be held with those who were the biggest opponents of PTI at present, apparently a reference to the military establishment, the Dawn newspaper reported on Saturday. **PTI**

UK-KING

King Charles III takes over charity patronages on Coronation anniversary



LONDON: Britain's King Charles has significantly increased his charity patronages by nearly 300 this weekend to mark the first anniversary of his Coronation in May last year, taking over several that Buckingham Palace said were supported by his mother late Queen Elizabeth II. **PTI**

From around the world

British Indian friends join line-up of challenging new real-world UK show



LONDON: Two British Indian female professionals have been unveiled in the final line-up of a challenging new real-world series set to hit UK screens from next week, in which contestants are challenged to double their money within hours in

pursuit of a hefty cash prize. Nutritionist-chef Radhika Howarth and historian-storyteller Seema Anand are among 13 pairs of contestants who will go head-to-head in 'Double the Money' on Channel 4 from Thursday evening. **PTI**

Hamas in Cairo amid progress in cease-fire talks

Pressure has been mounting to reach a deal — Gaza's humanitarian crisis is dramatically escalating

Press Trust Of India

TEL AVIV (ISRAEL): A delegation of the Palestinian militant group Hamas was in Cairo on Saturday as Egyptian state media reported "noticeable progress" in ongoing cease-fire talks with Israel while an Israeli official downplayed the prospects for a truce. Pressure has been mounting to reach a deal — Gaza's humanitarian

crisis is dramatically escalating while Israel insists it will launch an offensive into Rafah, the territory's southernmost city. The stakes are high to find a halt to the nearly seven-months-long war. More than 1 million Palestinians are sheltering in the city of Rafah, along the border with Egypt, many having fled northern Gaza where a top UN official says there is now

HIGHLIGHT

- Chances for a cease-fire deal remain entangled with key question of whether Israel will accept an end to war without reaching its stated goal of destroying Hamas

- Hamas has called for a complete end to the war and withdrawal of all Israeli forces from Gaza

a full-blown famine. Egyptian and American mediators have reported signs of compromise in recent days but chances for a cease-fire deal remain entangled with the key question of whether Israel will accept an end to the war without reaching its stated goal of destroying Hamas. Egyptian state Al-Qahera news said Saturday that a consensus has been reached over

many of the disputed points but did not elaborate. Hamas has called for a complete end to the war and withdrawal of all Israeli forces from Gaza. The war has killed more than 34,000 Palestinians, according to Gaza's local health officials, caused widespread destruction and plunged the territory into an unprecedented humanitarian crisis.

UNGA President invokes Gandhi

UNITED NATIONS: Invoking global peace icon Mahatma Gandhi's message on freedom of the press, UN General Assembly President Dennis Francis called on member states to reaffirm their commitment to protecting journalists and media workers worldwide.

In a post on X on World Press Freedom Day, marked on May 3, Francis said attacks on press freedom undermine democracy. In the face of misinformation, disinformation, and the environmental crisis, society needs the independence, expertise, and integrity of a free media more than ever.

"In the words of Mahatma Gandhi, 'freedom of the press is a precious privilege that no country can forego.' On #WorldPressFreedomDay, let's reaffirm our commitment to protecting journalists and media workers worldwide," he said. In his message, Francis, the President of the UN General Assembly, said press.freedom.

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Yoga officially makes debut in Pakistan

Press Trust Of India

After making global headlines, the ancient Indian physical, mental and spiritual practice of yoga has officially arrived in neighbouring Pakistan.



People perform yoga at a park in Islamabad | Photo: PTI

ISLAMABAD: According to the official Facebook page of the Capital Development Authority (CDA), which is responsible for the upkeep of Islamabad, the Metropolitan Corporation of Islamabad has launched "Free yoga classes in F-9 Park" in the capital. "Many people have already joined in to kick-start their journey towards health and wellness," the CDA said. It also posted pictures of people taking part in the yoga exercises. Recognising its universal appeal, the United Nations

FASTFACTS

- Metropolitan Corporation of Islamabad has launched "Free yoga classes in F-9 Park" in the capital
- Recognising its universal appeal, the United Nations on 11 December 2014 proclaimed 21 June as the International Day of Yoga.

on 11 December 2014 proclaimed 21 June as the

International Day of Yoga. A draft resolution establishing the International Day of Yoga was proposed by India and endorsed by a record 175 member states. Yoga is normally linked with India and there are not many formal institutions in Pakistan to teach yoga. Though privately people like the physical part of yoga exercises. Many residents appreciated the move to organise Yoga classes with several people inquiring about the programme.

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- हर रसोई में गैस सिलेंडर देकर महिलाओं को धुएँ से मुक्ति दिलाई
- शौचालय बनाकर भारत के हर गांव को स्वच्छ बनाया
- नल-जल योजना के माध्यम से हर घर तक शुद्ध पेयजल पहुंचाया
- विदेशों में फंसे भारतीयों की सुरक्षित घर वापसी सुनिश्चित की

भारत की एकता, अखण्डता, संप्रभुता, सामाजिक एवं आर्थिक विकास के लिए भाजपा को वोट दें

भारतीय जनता पार्टी, छत्तीसगढ़

कमल के बटन दबाना है **भाजपा ल जिताना है**