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Comprehensive measures needed to combat tobacco use in India  
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Three killed, thousands affected by floods  
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**& FINALLY**  
Sharvari promises big surprises in upcoming Horror-Comedy Munjya  
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# Central Chronicle

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## Monsoon sets in over Kerala and N-E together

The last time this happened was in 2017 and Cyclone Mora had also formed.

**Press Trust Of India**  
**NEW DELHI:** Spurred by cyclone Remal, the southwest monsoon set in over the Kerala coast and parts of the northeast on Thursday, a day earlier than forecast by the weather office. The last time this happened was in 2017 and there was one factor in common - Cyclone Mora had formed just before the monsoon that year, also over the Bay of Bengal. The India Meteorological Department said on Thursday that the Southwest Monsoon has set in over Kerala and also advanced into most of northeast India, including all of Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh, and most parts of Tripura, Meghalaya and Assam. The monsoon usually arrives in Kerala on June 1 and in the northeast on June 5. The IMD had said on Wednesday that



Tourists at Grove Beach, Kovalam, in Thiruvananthapuram. | Photo: PTI

**HIGHLIGHT**  
● Monsoon set in on May 30, a day earlier than the weather bureau's first forecast. It will reach Mumbai on June 8.



**SW monsoon reached Kerala and covered most parts of the state**  
M Mohapatra  
IMD DG

conditions were rapidly becoming favourable for the onset of the southwest monsoon over Kerala within the next 24 hours. It has set in on May 30, a day earlier than the weather bureau's first forecast.

## Forced eviction: Azam Khan gets 10-year-jail

**Press Trust Of India**  
The punishment was pronounced by the Special MP/MLA Court, which also imposed a fine of Rs 14 lakh on the SP leader.

Ali Contractor entered his house, thrashed him and looted goods from the house. He had also alleged that the duo tried to kill him and demolish his house. Khan is accused of conspiracy in this case. The file of former Circle Officer (CO) Ale Hasan was separated because his proceedings are stayed as per the order of the Allahabad High Court. The special court's verdict was only in the case involving Khan and Ali, who was sentenced to seven years of imprisonment and a fine of Rs 6 lakh was also imposed on him. If Ali fails to pay this fine, he will have to undergo an additional punishment of 18 months of rigorous imprisonment, the court said.

**RAMPUR:** A court here on Thursday sentenced Samajwadi Party leader Mohammad Azam Khan to 10 years of imprisonment in an eight-year-old case of forcibly vacating a house and beating the owner. The punishment was pronounced by the Special MP/MLA Court, which also imposed a fine of Rs 14 lakh on the SP leader. The court had on Wednesday found Khan guilty in the case of forcefully evacuating, looting and demolishing a house in Durgapur. Senior prosecution officer Shiv Prakash Pandey and prosecution officer Rakesh Kumar Morya said the case was registered by plaintiff Abrar in Thana Ganj in which he alleged that on December 6, 2016, Ale Hasan and Barkat

Ali has been sentenced to seven years of imprisonment and a fine of Rs 3 lakh under section 392, six years of imprisonment and Rs 2 lakh fine under section 452, two years of imprisonment and Rs 50,000 fine under section 504 and two years of imprisonment and Rs 50,000 fine under section 506.

**NEWSLINE**  
**CHHATTISGARH**  
**Soaring heat troubles residents, roads deserted**  
Despite soaring temperatures exceeding 45 degrees Celsius, the community in Arang is coming together to combat the extreme heat. With streets deserted and people staying indoors to escape the scorching afternoons, local organizations are stepping up to support residents.  
Page 7



**COMMENT**  
**Eco-friendly foods reduce emissions**  
Switching to more environmentally-friendly food and drink options could significantly cut greenhouse gas emissions from groceries, a new study analyzing the purchases of 7,000 Australian households has found.  
Page 8

| TRAGIC ACCIDENT |

## 21 killed and 47 injured as bus rolled into gorge

**Press Trust Of India**  
The accident took place at the Tungmorh in the Chowki Chora belt of district.



Rescue and relief work underway after a bus fell in a gorge. | Photo: PTI

**JAMMU:** Twenty-one people were killed and 47 injured after a bus carrying pilgrims skidded off the road and rolled down into a gorge in Jammu district on Thursday, officials said. Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor (LG) Manoj Sinha has expressed anguish at the loss of lives in the accident. The accident took place at the Tungmorh in the Chowki Chora belt of the district, the officials said, adding that the bus rolled around 150 feet

**FACTFILE**  
● The bus was carrying devotees from Kurukshetra and was headed towards Shiv Khori. down into the gorge. A police spokesperson said at about 12:35 pm, the bus bearing registration number

UP81CT-4058 fell into the gorge, killing 21 passengers and injuring 47. The bus was carrying devotees from Haryana's Kurukshetra and was headed towards Shiv Khori in the Pouni area of Jammu and Kashmir's Reasi district. It had started its journey from Uttar Pradesh. The bodies have been shifted to the Akhnoor sub-district hospital, the police spokesperson said, adding that of the injured, seven have been admitted in the Akhnoor hospital and 40 in the Government Medical College (GMC) hospital in Jammu. The rescue operation is going on, the official added.

## PM begins 'dhyam' at Vivekananda Memorial

**Press Trust Of India**  
Modi reached the rock memorial by a ferry service and started meditation.



**FASTFACTS**  
● Befor dhyam PM stood on the stairs leading to the mandapam.  
● Clad in a dhoti and a white shawl, Modi prayed at the temple.

stairs leading to the mandapam that offers breathtaking views of the sea that surrounds the memorial from all sides. Ahead of his departure on June 1, Modi is likely to visit the Thiruvalluvar statue, next to the memorial. Both the memorial and 133 ft statue were built on tiny islets, that are separate and mound-like rocky formations in the sea. While outfits including Thanthai Periyar Dravidar Kazhagam staged a black flag demonstration in Madurai opposing Modi, social media platform 'X' also witnessed a flood of #GoBackModi posts, amid political opposition to the broadcast of his meditation in view of the seventh final phase of voting for the Lok Sabha elections on June 1. All arrangements, including heavy security, are in place for Modi's 45-hour stay at the famed memorial named after the revered Hindu saint.

**NATION**  
**Case against builders, others for cheating customers**  
The Nagpur police have registered a case against three persons associated with a real estate company and some staffers of a cooperative bank for allegedly cheating customers of Rs 3.5 crore, officials said on Thursday.  
Page 10



**SPORTS**  
**Praggnanandhaa stuns Carlsen, leads Norway chess**  
Indian Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa crushed world number one Magnus Carlsen for the first time in Classical format to emerge as the sole leader in the Norway chess tournament here.  
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| HIGH-OCTANE CAMPAIGN |

## Campaigning for final phase of Lok Sabha polls ends

**Press Trust Of India**  
**NEW DELHI:** The high-pitched campaigning for the seventh and final phase of Lok Sabha elections in 57 seats in seven states and the Union territory of Chandigarh on June 1 ended Thursday evening.



**NUMBER**  
**57**  
● In final phase 57 seats in 7 states and Union territory of Chandigarh go to polls on June 01.

Polling is scheduled in all 13 seats of Punjab and four of Himachal Pradesh, 13 constituencies in Uttar Pradesh, nine in West Bengal, eight in Bihar, six in Odisha and three seats in Jharkhand besides Chandigarh. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is seeking a third consecutive term from Varanasi. Voting is already over in 486 seats in 28 states and Union territories. The turnout in the first six phases was 66.14 per cent, 66.71, 65.68, 69.16, 62.2 and 63.36 per cent

respectively. Counting of votes will be taken up on June 4. The campaigning saw BJP leaders led by Modi accusing the Congress and the INDIA alliance of being corrupt, anti-Hindu and engaging in loot, appeasement and dynastic politics.

**Narayana MMI Health**  
**निःशुल्क लेजर क्लिनिक**  
पाइपस, किन्दुला, चिम्पार, पायालीरिडल कागुमर के सिन्ट  
डॉ. राजेश कुमार सिन्हा  
कीर्ति कागुमर  
नेचोकासिडल कोर्जर्ड एन्ड सेक्टर कार्डी  
29 मई से 01 जून 2024  
सुबह 10 बजे से दोपहर 3 बजे तक  
Take Care | MVI Narayana Hospital, Lalpur, Raipur  
1800 309 0309

# Raipur



Hike in electricity prices is a blow to the people suffering from inflation.

**Dhananjay Singh Thakur,**  
PCC Spokesperson.

## Shade for the vehicle riders near traffic signal a big relief



Many voluntary organizations have constructed shade atop the signal where the citizens have to halt for few minutes and it is providing big relief to them with rise in mercury daily.

## Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

### ADMISSION

#### Admission process for BASLP course 2024-25 begins in Raipur

**RAIPUR:** The admission process for the Bachelor of Audiology Speech Language Pathology (B.A.S.L.P.) course for the academic year 2024-25 has commenced at Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru Memorial Medical College, Raipur. This program, run under the Department of Nose, Ear, and Throat Diseases (ENT), is now accepting applications. Prospective students are required to download the application form and prospectus from the official B.A.S.L.P. course website, [www.raipurbaslp.org](http://www.raipurbaslp.org). The submission window for applications opened on May 28, 2024, and will close on June 27, 2024. Applicants who miss the initial deadline can still submit their forms until June 29, 2024, by paying a late fee of Rs 100. The merit list of candidates will be published on July 4, 2024, on the aforementioned website.

### E-WAY BILL

#### E-way Bill mandate is Government dictatorship: Umesh Patel

**RAIPUR:** Former minister and MLA Umesh Patel has condemned the recent abolition of the exemption for e-way bills, labeling it as an act of dictatorship by the BJP government. Patel criticized the new circular issued on May 24, which mandates the use of e-way bills, claiming it will reintroduce inspector raj and lead to widespread harassment of traders. Patel argued that the circular explicitly grants authorities the right to check consignments, a task previously conducted at borders. He warned that if inspections extend to consignments within the state, it will lead to the resurgence of inspector raj, resulting in undue harassment for traders.



# Summer camps postponed due to severe heat in state

CM urged residents to be vigilant and take the necessary steps to protect themselves and their families from the heat.

### Central Chronicle News

**RAIPUR:** In response to the severe heatwave affecting the state, the Vishnudeo Sai government has made the significant decision to postpone school summer camps. Chief Minister Vishnu Dev Sai has stressed the importance of taking precautions during this period of extreme heat and hot winds. Chief Minister Sai addressed the public through a video message on his social media handle, expressing his concern about the recent spike in tempera-

tures and the intense hot winds. He urged residents to be vigilant and take the necessary steps to protect themselves and their families from the heat.

"Dear Chhattisgarh residents, there has been a huge increase in temperature in the state over the last few days. Scorching hot winds are blowing. Please take the necessary precautions to protect yourself from the heat and heatwave," said CM Sai. The Chief Minister advised people to stay indoors as much as possible and to ven-

### HIGHLIGHT

● The Chief Minister advised people to stay indoors as much as possible and to venture out only when necessary.

● He recommended covering heads and ears with cloth when outside, drinking plenty of water, and using ORS solutions to prevent dehydration.

ture out only when necessary. He recommended

covering heads and ears with cloth when outside, drinking plenty of water, and using ORS solutions to prevent dehydration from excessive sweating. Additionally, he emphasized the importance of seeking immediate medical attention in the event of heat stroke or any signs of ill health, underscoring that caution is the best safeguard against heat-related issues. This advisory comes alongside warnings from the Meteorological Department, which has predicted that the heatwave will persist for the

next few days. As a preventive measure, the postponement of school summer camps is intended to ensure the safety and well-being of children during this period of extreme weather. Chief Minister Sai's appeal is a crucial reminder for the people of Chhattisgarh to stay alert and proactive in mitigating the adverse effects of the heatwave. His message highlights the need for community-wide vigilance and personal responsibility in protecting against the severe heat.

## TB cases surge in CG: 1,500 new patients

**RAIPUR:** Chhattisgarh's Health Department is grappling with a sharp increase in tuberculosis (TB) cases, reporting 1,520 new patients in just ten days. This alarming trend brings the total number of cases to 14,220 in the first four and a half months of the year. Last year, around 38,000 TB cases were recorded. Additionally, over 532 cases of Multi Drug Resistant (MDR) TB, which has a mortality rate of up to 60%, have been identified. Medical experts link the surge to the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic, suggesting weakened immune systems and disrupted healthcare services as possible causes. TB, caused by the bacteria *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*, spreads easily among individuals with compromised immunity.

**Sharp rise is largely driven by heightened industrial demand influenced by the international market**

**RAIPUR:** The prices of silver have surged significantly in Raipur, with an increase of Rs 4300 in just the past three-four days. This sharp rise is largely driven by heightened industrial demand influenced by the international market.

Currently, silver is edging closer to the Rs 100,000 per kg mark, standing at Rs 96,100 per kg, while gold is priced at Rs 74,700 per ten grams in the Raipur bullion market on Thursday. Bullion experts suggest that the



People shop for gold ornaments at a jewellery showroom in Mumbai.

### FACTFILE

● Currently, silver is, standing at Rs 96,100 per kg, while gold is priced at Rs 74,700 per ten grams.

volatility in the prices of both gold and silver is likely to persist in the coming days. Presently, profit booking is occurring in both precious metals.

Bullion institutions are offering a new range of lightweight jewelry along

with traditional and fashionable collections to attract customers during this period of high prices. Sources within the bullion market indicate that significant price fluctuations are expected following the upcoming election results.

### GOLD MEDAL

## CG wins five gold medals at Muay Thai Ch'ship

### Central Chronicle News

**RAIPUR:** Under the auspices of the UMAI, the National Muay Thai Championship and Pro Fight Night, organized by the All Assam Amateur Muay Thai Association (AAAMTA), concluded at the Lakshmbai National Institute of Physical Education (LNPE) Stadium in Tezpur, Sonapur, Guwa-

hati, Assam on May 30. Late last night on May 29 and on May 30, on the final day of the championship, Chhattisgarh players displayed their prowess. Divya Agrawal of Vivekananda Academy, Raipur, (under 23 years, -45kg) won gold by an outstanding performance in the final, defeating the player from Nagaland. Meanwhile, Toshi Pandey



of the same academy (under 23 years, -67kg) was declared the winner in the final due to the opponent's absence (no contest gold) and won

**Fights are still ongoing, and there is a possibility of more medals for CG athletes**

**Anis Memon**  
Secretary General President,  
Amateur Muay Thai  
Association.

the gold medal. Vani from Delhi Rajhara Martial Arts Club (under 23 years, -57kg) defeated a fighter from Meghalaya in the final and won the gold medal, bringing the total number of gold medals to 5. Yuvaraj Singh (-15 years, +81kg) and Kum Surbhi Yadav (-12 years, -46kg) from Abdul Moim Training Center Jagdalpur (Bastar) won silver.

### PRICE FLUCTUATIONS

## Significant rise in Silver prices, Gold also sees fluctuations

## Overwhelming customer demand Swadeshi Khadi Mahotsav at Raipur, Bhilai extended until June 4



**RAIPUR:** The Swadeshi Khadi Mahotsav, currently held at Chhattisgarh Haat Pandri Bazaar and the Civic Center in Bhilai, has been extended until June 4, 2024, due to overwhelming customer demand. This vibrant event has attracted a huge crowd, showcasing the rich diversity of handicrafts from weavers across India. The exhibition features an impressive array of handloom and handicraft items, including Meerut Khadi kurtas, Lucknow Chikan, Kashmiri sarees, Banarasi sarees, and Hyderabad cotton sarees. Given the scorching summer heat, the organizers have brought in a vast range of cotton

clothes, which have become particularly popular among the city dwellers. The Swadeshi Khadi Mahotsav offers a unique shopping experience, allowing visitors to purchase products from various states under one roof at very affordable prices. The convenience of credit and debit card payments is available at all stalls. Additionally, the exhibition is offering a special discount of 10% on handloom items and up to 20% on handicraft items, making it an attractive shopping destination. Director Anurag Mishra has appealed to the public to visit the exhibition and take advantage of the discounts.

### The Day's NUMBERS

In Chhattisgarh during summer season

### NUMBER OF FOREST FIRE CASES IN LASY 9 YEARS

|      |        |
|------|--------|
| 2023 | 14,556 |
| 2022 | 18,447 |
| 2021 | 22,191 |
| 2020 | 4,713  |
| 2019 | 17,835 |

Source: Agencie

### KEY INITIATIVES

#### Health Department reviews key initiatives in Time Limit Meeting

**RAIPUR:** A crucial meeting was held at Health Bhawan, Nava Raipur to review the ongoing initiatives and time-sensitive cases of the Public Health and Family Welfare, Medical Education, National Health Mission, and Chhattisgarh Medical Corporation. The meeting, chaired by Manoj Pingua, Additional Chief Secretary of the Health Department, followed directives from Health Minister Shyam Bihari Jaiswal to expedite priority cases. Key discussions focused on the progress and implementation of several health schemes, including the Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana and the Janani Suraksha Yojana. Updates were provided on disease screening programs such as Sickle Cell, TB, and Anemia Screening, alongside the National Vaccination Program. Continuous monitoring of the 102, 104, and 108 ambulance services was also emphasized.

### SUPPLEMENTARY EXAM

#### Applications for 10th and 12th supp exams to be filled in June

**RAIPUR:** The Chhattisgarh Board of Secondary Education (CGBSE) has announced that applications for the 10th and 12th supplementary examinations will commence in June. The board is gearing up to conduct these exams within the same month. According to official data, 19,012 students from the 10th grade and 22,232 students from the 12th grade are eligible for the supplementary exams. The eligibility criteria for the supplementary examination include having one or two subjects in which students need to improve their scores. In addition to the supplementary exams, there has been a significant increase in applications for re-evaluation and recalculation of exam results.

# Raipur News

## ED conduct raid against Ramgopal's relative in Kharora

In the liquor, coal and milling scam, many leaders and officials of ex-CM are reportedly involved.

Central Chronicle News

**RAIPUR:** The Enforcement Directorate conducted raid in the house of relative of Ramgopal Agrawal in Kharora, near Raipur here on Thursday. Here around a dozen ED officials reached the house. Sources informed that during term of CM Bhupesh Baghel as CM in State, there are reports of massive irregularities and corruption by Ramgopal Agrawal and when the government agencies came to know, it was brought into open. Since then Ramgopal Agrawal is absconding.

It is notable that in the liquor, coal and milling scam during term of former CM Bhupesh Baghel, many of his close associates and leaders and officials are reportedly involved and at present ED, IT, EoW and ACB are conducting investigations into the same.

Many an IAS officers and those from the state government are under scanner of ED or IT or EoW and are in jail. All these accused have reportedly invested into real-estate through this black-money and in order to avoid direct charges, have purchased the land, costly vehicles and valu-



Four accused in the liquor scam viz. Anwar Dhebar, AP Tripathi and Arvind Singh and Trilok Singh Dhillon were produced in the Court on Thursday.

ables in the name of their close relatives.

Meanwhile in the famous liquor scam in state, on completion of their 14-day remand Anwar Dhebar, AP Tripathi and Arvind Singh and Trilok Singh Dhillon were produced in the Court on Thursday and after hearing all the four accused, they were all sent to 14 day judicial remand. It is notable that ED has held Anwar Dhebar as an accused in the Rs 2000 cr liquor scam.

## Production warrant issued against Bishnoi and Tiwari

In the coal scam in Chhattisgarh, EOW would now take suspended IAS officer Samir Bishnoi and businessman Suryakant Tiwari into arrest and hold inquiry with them. Both the accused were produced in the Special Court in Raipur and where production warrant was issued. Both the accused are in jail for a long time. In this

### HIGHLIGHT

● The suspended IAS Ranu Sahu and former CM Bhupesh Baghel's Dy. Secy. Soumya Chourasia have been taken on EOW remand till June 3 and they are being interrogated.

case, the suspended IAS Ranu Sahu and former

CM Bhupesh Baghel's Dy. Secy. Soumya Chourasia have been taken on EOW remand till June 3 and they are being interrogated. After interrogation ED had nabbed the businessman from Raipur Anwar Dhebar last in May and charged him of being involved in the Rs 2000 cr liquor scam which took place from 2019 to 2022.

## Blast in explosives firm: Company official, others booked

Central Chronicle News

An FIR was lodged in connection with the May 25 blast in an explosives mfg factory in Bemetara district.

**BEMETARA:** An FIR was lodged on Thursday in connection with the May 25 blast in an explosives manufacturing factory in Chhattisgarh's Bemetara district, which killed one person and injured six, a police official said.

The explosion took place in Special Blasts Limited located in Pirda village in the district's Berla development block and the district administration has said eight workers are missing and body parts found in the debris have been sent for DNA tests.

Company official Avdesh Jain and others were booked under Indian Penal Code sections 286 (negligent conduct with respect to explosive substance), 337 (causing hurt by act endangering life or personal safety of others) and 304A (causing death by negligence) as well as Explosives Substances Act for allegedly violating rules and committing negligence in storage of explosive materials, he said. The FIR was registered based on the report of officials

of Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organisation (PESO), Nava Raipur and the investigation carried out in connection with the incident, the police official said.

The Bemetara district administration on Wednesday ordered the shutting of production and "allied activities" in the unit. A magisterial probe headed by Sub-Divisional Magistrate (Berla area), Bemetara district, Pinkey Manhar

### FASTFACTS

● Company official Avdesh Jain and others were booked under IPC 286 and 337 and 304A.

● The FIR was registered based on the report of officials of Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organisation (PESO), Nava Raipur.

is also underway.

The state government has announced financial assistance of Rs 5 lakh to the kin of the deceased and Rs 50,000 each to the injured.

On Wednesday, Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai said the factory management will give financial assistance of Rs 30 lakh each to the kin of the deceased and eight missing workers.

### NEWSLINE

#### NABBED

**Passport officer caught red handed**



**SURGUJA:** Anti Corruption Bureau (ACB) has arrested the junior passport officer posted in the Ambikapur passport office, when he was asking for bribe of Rs 8000 from an applicant. The ACB team. The accused officer is Sankat Mochan Rai had asked the applicant Israr Ansari, resident of Dolangi village in Balrampur district. He informed the ACB officials that the passport officer was delaying his process for more than a month time, by pointing out one mistake after the other. In between the passport officer openly asked for money also to ease the process. Israr then informed the same to the ACB officials who came to help him and on the given day and arrested him red handed and registered a case against him for further investigation.

#### SUCCUMBS

**Traffic constable succumbs to heat in Raipur**

**RAIPUR:** One traffic constable died under suspicious circumstances here today. The constable namely Bhagirathi Kanwar, who was going to attend his duty, succumbed to the pain he suffered. He was posted at Bhanpuri Police Station. Meanwhile, one woman died in Bilaspur. The woman fainted after feeling dizzy in the courtyard of her house located in Ward No. 14 of Sargaon. She was immediately rushed to the hospital, where she did not respond much to the treatment and the doctors pronounced her dead. Meanwhile, the state government has postponed all the summer camps, being held in the schools, in the wake of heat wave conditions prevailing in the entire state.

#### CONGESTION

**e-rickshaw adding to the traffic congestion problem**



**RAIPUR:** As the state capital has been facing the traffic congestion problem, the ever increasing number of e-rickshaw is only adding to the woes. There are around 17000 e rickshaws are registered in the district presently, out of which almost 1200 vehicles are running in the state capital only. The experts say that considering the narrow roads in the old habitats and localities, the streets are not that wide to accommodate more number of vehicles. Hence several thousands of new e-rickshaws are seriously causing concern for the traffic personnel in the city.

## Incidents of sacrifice due to superstition: Dr Dinesh Mishra

Central Chronicle News

Dr Mishra said that it is necessary to develop a scientific perspective among people.

**RAIPUR:** Dr. Dinesh Mishra, the chairman of the Andha Shradha Nirmoolan Samiti, said that recently, a person named Kamlesh Nageshia from Balrampur district sacrificed his 4-year-old child. Just a few days ago, during Navratri, a case of a child named Dhaneshwar from Korea district demanding sacrifice came to light, carried out by his relatives.

Similarly, last week, a person from Sarguja, Shankargarh, killed a baga who was blowing a tree, believing that he was not able to correct it. The incidents of these three murders due to superstition are extremely tragic.

Rural people should not trust superstition and should not take the law into their own hands.

He said that when a person falls into superstition, he becomes mentally unstable and starts to fully trust myths. Misleading news, rumors further confuse him, and he ends up committing crimes.

Dr Mishra said that it is necessary to develop a scientific perspective among people so that they do not trust hearsay, rumors, and misleading news and do not fall into superstition.

Some people also talk about seeing a dream of a favorite deity or deity and asking for sacrifice in their dreams and say that they have sacrificed someone on their orders.

However, people need to think that no one can succeed by taking someone's life, and ultimately, they have to go to jail for committing the crime.

## CJ conducts inspection of pending cases

**RAIPUR:** The Chief Justice of Chhattisgarh High Court Ramesh Sinha conducted surprise inspection of identified works of unwanted pending cases in writ, civil and criminal branch of the High Court through video-conferencing here on Thursday. During this he held talks with the officers and employees of the judicial and registry department and provided necessary guidance. It is notable here that during the ongoing summer holidays in the High Court from May 13 and June 7, the physical verification of the unwanted pending cases were reviewed as per instructions by Chief Justice Ramesh Sinha. This is being done so that the complainant, other party can save themselves from court proceedings and their valuable time. It is notable here that the as per instructions from the Supreme Court, it has been asked to identify unwanted pending cases.

## 'Rally against tobacco on World No Tobacco Day'

AWARENESS ON THIS 'WORLD NO TOBACCO DAY'

Central Chronicle News

To increase awareness on this 'World No Tobacco Day', MMI Narayana Hospital (NHMMI) Lalpur Raipur organized an awareness rally against tobacco.

**RAIPUR:** To increase awareness on this subject, on 31 May 2024, MMI Narayana Hospital (NHMMI) Lalpur Raipur organized an awareness rally against tobacco. The hospital organized an awareness campaign in various parks of Raipur city.

The rally was attended by students from MMI Nursing College and other people present in the park. In the program, Dr. Bharat Bhushan Surgical Oncologist, Dr. Yash Chaddha - Head N Neck Onco Surgeon and nurs-



The rally was attended by students from MMI Nursing College.

### FASTFACTS

● The rally was attended by students from MMI Nursing College and other people present in the park.

ing students informed the general public about the ill effects of tobacco use and appealed to stop its consumption.

Dr. Bharat told that

about 10 percent of the smokers in the world are Indians. India ranks sixth in tobacco export. He told that in our state also tobacco is taken from many mediums and there is a much higher risk of tobacco-related cancer than other cancers. Through this initiative, I want to make Narayana Health Cancer Institute aware of the harm caused by tobacco.

Let us tell you that in

### CAMPUS IMMERSION

## IIM Raipur's EPGP batch 3 kicks off II campus immersion prog

Central Chronicle News

**RAIPUR:** The Executive Post Graduate Program in Management (EPGP) Batch 3 at the Indian Institute of Management Raipur (IIM Raipur) has commenced its second campus immersion program from May 27, 2024. This program marks the beginning of an enriching and transformative experience for the participants. The EPGP Batch 3 comprises a diverse group

of professionals, with 82% male and 18% female participants from various fields including engineering, technology, computer science, IT, commerce, science, arts, and management. The participants bring substantial experience, ranging from 25 months to over 61 months, and represent a wide age range from 25 years to over 45 years. The cohort includes professionals from MNCs, banking and financial institutions, gov-



ernment bodies, self-businesses, and corporate entities, both from India and abroad, including the USA, UAE, UK, Singapore, Kuwait, and Kenya, fostering a global learning envi-

ronment. **Social Entrepreneurship Event:** The immersion program commenced with a seminar on Social Entrepreneurship. The chief guest,

Deepak Soni, IAS, Commissioner of MGNREGA, Department of Panchayati Raj & Registrar, Co-operative Societies, Chhattisgarh, was welcomed by Prof. Diptiman Banerji and the Corporate Outreach Committee. Mr. Soni shared insights on social entrepreneurship initiatives, including the 'vocal for local' movement, and emphasized the importance of generating self-employment opportunities and ener-



**I shared my experiences and insights on various social entrepreneurship initiatives, including the establishment of Bihar.**

Deepak Soni  
Comm MGNREGA

gizing cooperatives. He also discussed the "6Ps of Social Entrepreneurship" and engaged in an interactive session with the participants. During the event, Mr. Soni shared his experiences and insights on various social entrepreneurship initiatives, including the establishment of Bihar, a self-help group promoting the 'vocal for local' movement, and its successful implementation at IIM Raipur.



Durg Municipal Corporation will soon implement online system for taxpayers

Lokesh Chandrakar  
DMC Commissioner

# 'Catch the Rain-2024' campaign launched for people

Awareness campaigns are being organised in rural and urban areas of the district for water conservation and prevention of seasonal diseases.

Central Chronicle News

**BHILAI:** The district administration is making efforts to create awareness among the masses for water conservation and sustainable water management. Awareness programmes are being organised in rural and urban areas of the district under "Catch the Rain - 2024" campaign to optimise the rainwater harvesting.

As per the instructions of Collector Richa Prakash Chaudhary, water conservation awareness programmes are being organized in different places. One such event organised in Gram Panchayat Hasda of Dhamdha Block under 'Catch the Rain' Campaign 2024 on the theme 'Nari Shakti to Jal Shakti'.

The villagers, especially women, pledged to conserve water and recharge the groundwater through rainwater harvesting. They took out a rally to propagate information about water conservation. People were made aware of rainwater harvesting in the Gram Panchayat. They



Awareness event at Gram Panchayat Hasda of Dhamdha Block.

were informed that collecting rainwater is a very effective and traditional technique. They were urged to construct soak pits, small ponds, underground tanks and ponds in the villages. Underground recharge technology is a new method of water storage under which monsoon water is collected by digging a pit. Along with rainwater, unused water also gets collected in the pond. This water is used for the animals of the entire village etc.

## Urban bodies are working for avoiding vector borne diseases

Along with the water conservation, the urban bodies of the district are also working for prevention of vector borne diseases. On Thursday, Bhilai Municipal Corporation organised a seminar on 'Catch the Rain' and 'Fight the Bite' with the objectives of rainwater conservation and eliminating mosquito larvae. Office bearers of various residential colonies

### HIGHLIGHT

• Events being organised at gram panchayat level in rural areas

• Civic bodies work out dual campaign in urban areas

attended the programme. BMC's Building Permission Officer Himanshu Desh-

mukh urged them to conserve rainwater by making soak pits, rain water harvesting, water recharge, and recharging ground water through bore wells. They were informed about soak pits which can increase the water level with little effort. District Malaria Officer Dr Chandrabhan Singh Banjare spoke about the "fight the bite" campaign.

## 13 labourers injured as centring structure collapses

Central Chronicle News

The labourers were working at the construction site of a private golf club.

**BHILAI:** As many as thirteen labourers were injured in a mishap at a construction site at village Chikhli of Jeora Sirsa Chowki limits on Wednesday evening. The centring structure installed for construction of the porch at a Golf Club collapsed when the labourers were working on it. On information, the Emergency Response Teams of Dial 112 reached the spot and the injured were shifted to hospital. Condition of two of the victims is stated to be critical.

According to information, a private golf club is being constructed at village Chikhli. The contractor had installed centring for laying the porch slab at a height of 27 feet

in front of the club building. About eight workers were working on this centring structure while four others were working on the ground. Suddenly, the centring structure collapsed on Wednesday evening.

Police team reached the spot and the labourers were shifted to different hospitals in ERVs. Four labourers were admitted to District Hospital, four at Mahima Hospital and five others were admitted to Sai Hospital. Considering the serious condition, two labourers were referred to BM Shah Hospital.

The injured labourers are Sukhman Das Manikpuri (40) of Mathpara Durg; Mahendra Vaishnav (34) of Dondi Balod; Sukhchain Yadav (42) of Purai; Uday Kumar Temre (20) of Chikhli; Lukesh Kumar Banjare (36) of Balod; Hemlata Chandel (32) of Station Maroda and others.

## 22 cases of Durg listed for Special Lok Adalat

**BHILAI:** A special Lok Adalat at the all India level is scheduled to be organised in the Supreme Court, New Delhi from July 29 to August 03, 2024. The cases pending before the Supreme Court have been identified and efforts are being made to resolve the maximum number of pending cases. District Legal Services Authority (Durg) Secretary Ashish Dahriya informed that they have started working for the special Lok Adalat organized by the Supreme Court. A list of cases related to Chhattisgarh state pending before the Supreme Court have been prepared. A total of 22 cases related to Durg district have been identified and listed for disposal. Pre-sitting for the cases identified for the special Lok Adalat is being organized in the District and Sessions Court Durg. The senior-most judge will try to settle the case by mutual consent between both the parties of the case.

Central Chronicle News

Complete ongoing works soon and remove the debris after road work.

**BHILAI:** On Thursday, Durg municipal commissioner Lokesh Chandrakar inspected ward numbers 11 and 12 under DMC limits. During inspection, he instructed to complete the ongoing works in the city area soon and also asked to remove the debris after the road works. He told the departmental officers to take the pipeline work seriously and complete it at the earliest to solve the water woes in the ward. Thereafter, Commissioner reached Gurudhasidas ward where water supply was found to be almost normal in ward number 44 and all other areas. The

UNINTERRUPTED WATER SUPPLY |

## Comm instructs to inspect wards during water supply



Commissioner on inspection visit.

### EASTFACTS

• Take feedback from citizens daily regarding availability of water

• If necessary, water should be supplied through tankers on a regular basis

Commissioner said that in the areas where water problem is caused due to faulty machines or

technical faults, should be repaired immediately. He checked the water pressure and found it to be okay. He instructed the officers to inspect the wards under their charge at the time of water supply. He said that the city is suffering due to severe heat. Therefore, water supply should not be interrupted anywhere in the Municipal Corporation area. It should

be ensured that every citizen gets drinking water. He also said that a report of leakage pipeline should be prepared and it should be repaired in time. Along with regular drinking water supply, all the pipelines, power pumps and hand pumps in the corporation area should be maintained. If necessary, water should be supplied through tankers on a regular basis.

SPORTS

## Selection trials for Residential Archery Sports Academy Raipur

**BHILAI:** State level selection trials are being organized from June 03 to 04, 2024 at 7 am at the International Hockey Stadium Raipur for renewal and new admission of players in the departmental residential archery sports academy in Raipur. This academy is run by Directorate of Sports and Youth Welfare Chhattisgarh, Raipur with the financial support of NSDC Limited. The selection trials are being organized as per the Sports Academy Operation Rules 2014. Assistant Director Sports and Youth Welfare informed that archery players in the age group of 13 to 17 can participate in the trials. Interested players can contact the office of Sports and Youth Welfare Department Durg located at Ravishankar Stadium till 3 pm on 31st May 2024.

### EASTFACTS

• Collector instructs to make elaborate parking arrangement

• Vending zones to be created for roadside traders

near Sanjay Thakur, Deputy Engineer Karan Yadav, Market Officer Chandan Manhare, Assistant Market Officer Thansingh Yadav and others were present during the inspection.

The Collector said that the city sanitation system should be monitored regularly and strict action should be taken against those who spread garbage outside the shops. She said that vehicle parking is also important for shops. Due to lack of adequate parking, the traffic system becomes chaotic and the traffic pressure increases considerably.

POSTAL BALLOTS

## 927 ETPBS postal ballots received till May 30

**BHILAI:** Under the Electronically Transmitted Postal Ballot System (ETPBS), the service voters deployed in military and central armed services have got the opportunity to cast their votes for Durg Parliamentary Constituency in the Lok Sabha elections 2024. Through the postal ballot, Durg District had received 912 postal ballots till May 29, 2024. According to the information received from the Nodal Officer Postal Ballot Branch, 15 postal ballot papers were received on May 30, 2024. A total of 927 postal ballots have been received so far. They are accepting only the ETPBS sent by the service voters. Postal ballots will be received till 7.59 am on the day of counting i.e. June 04, 2024.

INSPECTION

## Collector conducts inspection of gardens

**BIJAPUR:** Collector Anurag Pandey did a surprise inspection of the government garden nurseries in Baidarguda and Pamlavaya of Bijapur. During this, instructions were given for regular attendance of the employees working in the nurseries, proper cleanliness in the nurseries, auction of junk materials, marking on trees, putting up a board with the name of the trees etc. During the visit, detailed information was taken about the sources of irrigation, plants growing in the nurseries and the work going on in the nurseries. Instructions were given to the Assistant Director of Horticulture Department Ramchandra Rao to prepare a list of those visiting the nurseries and to stop unauthorized entry without permission.

FINANCIAL |

## ICAI organises seminar on 'Code of Ethics - Ethical Standards'

Central Chronicle News

**BHILAI:** ICAI Bhilai Branch organised a one-day seminar on the topic 'Code of Ethics - Ethical Standards' at CA Bhawan Civic Center. The speakers detailed about the efforts made by the Ethical Standard Board for CA members and method of drafting and appeal in income tax. Along with this, the attendees were also informed about the common mistakes made

in financial reporting.

After the lamp lighting ceremony Chairman of ICAI Bhilai Rahul Batra informed the members and students about the program and made them aware of its important facts. CA Anuj Goyal, Chairman of Ethical Standards Board, gave information about the efforts being made by the board for the CA members. He said that this will provide new possibilities for the professional growth of



the members, it is necessary for all the members to adopt it completely. CA Pankaj Shah of Indore, gave detailed information about drafting and appeal in income tax. He told that income tax notice and scrutiny etc have now come under faceless system, meaning now one will have to file online reply to the notice and that too with clarity in points mentioned.

CA Himanshu Agarwal gave information

“Ethical Standards Board works to provide new possibilities for the professional growth of CA members”

CA Anuj Goyal  
Chairman of Ethical Standards Board

# संजीवनी CBCC कैंसर हॉस्पिटल

द्वारा 31 मई विश्व तंबाकू निषेध दिवस के अवसर पर जनहित में जारी

“

## कैंसर के शुरुवाती लक्षण

- मुंह के ना भरने वाले छाले, मसूड़ों से खून आना
- गले, शरीर या स्तन में कोई गांठ
- आवाज में बदलाव, खाना निगलने में कठिनाई
- लंबी खांसी, खांसी में खून, सांस लेने में कठिनाई
- अकारण वजन कम होना, भूख ना लगना
- मल, मूत्र या बच्चेदानी के रास्ते से खून आना

उपरोक्त लक्षण दिखाई देने पर तुरंत कैंसर स्क्रीनिंग टेस्ट करवाएं

”

तंबाकू से नाता तोड़ो,  
स्वस्थ जीवन से  
नाता जोड़ो



**BREAK  
THE HABIT  
TODAY**

### हमारे कैंसर विशेषज्ञ

#### डिपार्टमेंट ऑफ सर्जिकल ऑन्कोलॉजी



**डॉ. यूसुफ मेमन**  
MBBS, MS, FSOG, FIAGES, FNAS  
डायरेक्टर एवं सीनियर कैंसर सर्जन



**डॉ. अर्पण चतुर्वेदी**  
MS, MCh, FIAGES  
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**डॉ. दिवाकर पांडेय**  
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ऑर्थोपेडिक कैंसर सर्जन

#### डिपार्टमेंट ऑफ मेडिकल ऑन्कोलॉजी



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**डॉ. रकेश मिश्रा**  
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मेडिकल ऑन्कोलॉजिस्ट



**डॉ. रमेश कोठारी**  
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**डॉ. सतीश देवांगन**  
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रेडिएशन ऑन्कोलॉजिस्ट

#### डिपार्टमेंट ऑफ न्यूक्लियर मेडिसिन एंड रेडियोलॉजी



**डॉ. सीरीन कृष्णा**  
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कन्सल्टेंट, न्यूक्लियर मेडिसिन



**डॉ. शुभम अग्रवाली**  
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रेडियोलॉजिस्ट

- PET स्कैन, सीटी स्कैन
- SPECT (मज्जा कैल्शियम)
- आल्ट्रासोनोग्राफी
- स्ट्रेस वॉलरिगम, HIDA
- ब्लॉक, रेजल, थायराइड स्कैन
- डिजिटल मैगनेटिक रेजल
- DTPA, DMSA, EC स्कैन

#### पेन, पैलियेटिव एंड सपोर्टिव मेडिसिन



**डॉ. अविनाश मिश्रा**  
MD (Palliative Medicine)  
पेन व पैलियेटिव मेडिसिन विशेषज्ञ



**डॉ. अनुराग शर्मा**  
DPT, MS (CLINICAL REHABILITATION)  
फिजियोथेरेपिस्ट

#### कैंसर के इलाज के लिए संजीवनी कैंसर हॉस्पिटल ही क्यों ?

- 50 डॉक्टर, 20 कैंसर और संबद्ध विशेषज्ञ, एवं 350 स्टाफ की अनुभवी टीम
- मरीजों के सुरक्षित एवं गुणवत्तापूर्ण इलाज के लिए NABH से पूर्ण मान्यता प्राप्त
- NABH, छत्तीसगढ़ शासन, FCI, NMDC, SECL, CSEB, NTPC, Railway, SAIL, BSP, ESIC, BSKY (बीजू स्वास्थ्य कल्याण योजना, ओडिशा), आयुष्मान भारत, खूबचंद बघेल एवं सभी इश्योरेन्स संस्थाओं से मान्यता प्राप्त ।

#### डिपार्टमेंट ऑफ क्रिटिकल केयर एंड एनेस्थीसिया



**डॉ. हितेश मिश्रा**  
MBBS, MD (ANESTHESIA)



**डॉ. यदुव गोयल**  
MBBS, MD (ANESTHESIA) FNB



**डॉ. किशोर मेमन**  
MD (MEDICINE) अतिरिक्त  
एच आर सीनियर फिजिशियन



**डॉ. पूजा मूलचंदानी**  
MBBS, MD (ANESTHESIOLOGY)

#### डिपार्टमेंट ऑफ पैथोलॉजी



**डॉ. पार्वती जोशी**  
MD (Path), PG Chandigarh



**डॉ. आनंद कुमार**  
MD (PATHOLOGY)

'I took stock of the preparations being made for the counting of votes to be held on June 4

VK Langeh  
Collector, Korba



# Chhattisgarh



District Collector rewarded the meritorious students.

## Collector honours SAGES Rajim and its students

The prestigious school of Rajim, Government Ram Bishal Pandey Utkrisht English Medium School was awarded for the best performance.

Central Chronicle News

**RAJIM:** Schools and students who performed excellently in the 10th and 12th board examinations in Gariaband district were awarded by the District Collector Deepak Agarwal in a dignified ceremony.

The prestigious school of Rajim, Government Ram Bishal Pandey Utkrisht English Medium School was awarded for the best performance in the 10th and 12th board examinations in the entire district. It is worth mentioning that Swami Atmanand School Rajim is the only school in the

entire district, which has proved itself to be the best by giving 100% pass result in both class 10th and 12th.

Along with awarding this school for the excellent result, three students of class 10th of this school, Suhani Banjare, Abhijeet Shinde and Jaya Yadav were also awarded for getting the highest marks in the 10th board in the district.

This school, which had an average performance in board exams previously, is now being emerging as the pride of not only Rajim but the entire district since the last two years. The

### HIGHLIGHT

● Swami Atmanand School Rajim is the only school in the entire district, which has proved itself to be the best by giving 100% pass result in both class 10th and 12th.

● Suhani Banjare, Abhijeet Shinde and Jaya Yadav were also awarded for getting the highest marks in the 10th board in the district.

Talented students

Suhani Banjare, Abhijeet Shinde and Jaya Yadav said that their parents have contributed in their excellent marks, but a great credit for this goes to the school's principal and teachers.

The Utkrisht Gariaband Abhiyan running in the district also helped a lot in preparing for the exam.

All the teachers were overwhelmed with emotion on the excellent performance of the school. Class 10th teacher Narayanlal Sahu and class 12th teacher Sakshi Jape along with all the subject teachers gave

credit of this achievement to the efficient guidance, administration, leadership and discipline of Principal Sanjay Ekka.

Utkrisht Gariaband Abhiyan also played an important role in providing excellent results. The teachers said that they would perform even better in the coming year.

Principal Ekka also credited the Utkrisht Gariaband Abhiyan running in the district for this achievement of the school and said that it is the result of the hard work of the teachers of the school and the dedication of the students.

## Officers receive training on sealing VVPAT

**KORBA:** In the Collectorate hall on Wednesday, Master Trainer Dr. M.M. Joshi gave training to the officers and employees engaged in election work on sealing of VVPAT machines and forms after counting. Dr. Joshi instructed to carefully cut the address tags attached to the side of the VVPAT machines. After this, all the slips of VVPAT would be taken out and kept in a black envelope. All the slips of the VVPAT machine of each polling station would be kept in a black envelope and the envelope sealed properly. He informed that the sealing work would be done by two teams, in which one team will seal the VVPAT machines and the forms will be sealed by the other team.

The Collector also gave directions to install CCTV cameras in the counting room.

**KORIYA:** Counting of votes of polling stations of Baikunthpur assembly constituency under Korba parliamentary constituency will be held on June 4 for Lok Sabha elections 2024. In this connection, on Tuesday, Collector and District Election Officer Shri Vinay Kumar Langeh visited the counting center, Adarsh Ramanuj Higher Secondary School, Baikunthpur and inspected the necessary arrangements. Langeh reached the

INSPECTION

## DEO Langeh inspects the control and strong rooms

Central Chronicle News



Collector conducting inspection of Strong Room at the Counting venue.

### FACTFILE

● VK Langeh gave necessary instructions to nodal officers on the spot to follow the prescribed schedule on June 4.

counting center located at the district headquarters and took stock of the preparations being made for the counting of votes to be held on June 04. He discussed one-to-one with the concerned nodal officers regarding the necessary arrangements to be

made for the counting of votes and gave guidelines. To complete the counting process, Langeh obtained information about the complete arrangements at the counting venue, the rooms made for counting votes with EVMs, tabulation etc.

ALTERNATIVE ENERGY

## Solar High-Mast Lights: Boon for remote villages

Sheikh Hasan Khan

**MAINPUR:** Solar high-mast lights have become a boon for the villages in the remote forest areas of the Mainpur development block in Gariaband district. Rural communities in these areas are reaping the benefits of these lights. CREDA has installed solar high-mast lights at 78 loca-

tions in Gariaband district, including several villages in the Mainpur development block such as Gariba, Kuchenga, Gona, Mongradu, Bargaoon, Bhutbeda, Shobha, Kokadi, Gona, Urmal, Matia, Gargaon, Jidar, Khokhma, Mudgelm, Adgadi, Goharapadar, Jhargav, Mainpurkhurd, Garhadih, Dhaurakot, Jhiripani, Kekrajar, and

**Solar high-mast lights are at 78 locations and come with a five-year repair guarantee.**

T.R. Dhruv  
District Officer CREDA



in Devbhog development block at Khoksarra, Ghoghar, Nawaguda, Madagaon, Rohiniguda, Barbaali, Malipara, Jhakharpura, Sinapali, Nishtiguda, and Dahi villages. These lights are beneficial as they provide illumination even during power outages, allowing religious, social, and wedding functions to be easily conducted.

## Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

### CONDOLENCES

#### Sanskriti Group offers condolences to the families of the deceased

**PANDARIYA:** Last Monday, 19 people including 18 women died in a horrific road accident while returning after collecting tendu leaves near village Bahpani. Everyone expressed their condolences towards this tragic incident. Today, the women of Sanskriti Group of the city also reached village Semraha and visited the homes of the families of the deceased in the road accident one by one and expressed their condolences and also provided small support by giving packets of dry ration to each family. The women of the group said that they were extremely pained to know about this incident and their hearts melted after meeting the families of all the deceased and on seeing the innocent children. The villagers who saved their lives by jumping from the moving vehicle informed the women of the group about the incident.

### SUMMER CAMP

#### Children participate enthusiastically in Summer Camp at Aarang



**ARANG:** As per the instructions of Chhattisgarh Government's School & Education Department, summer camps are being organized in various schools of Vikaskhand Arang. In this summer camp, students are learning painting with leaves, mehendi, rangoli, making paper masks, craft work, book reading, clay art, general knowledge, karate, sports and even playing musical instruments like dholak, dhapli etc.

### Theft incident

#### DJA President's car parked inside the house stolen from home



**KHAIKARAGH:** The newly-formed KCG is making headlines these days due to frequent murders and road accidents. Meanwhile, a Wagon R car was stolen from the house of the District Journalist Association's (DJA) President. While this news is another challenge for the police on one hand, the common people have lost their sleep thinking how will they remain safe. On Tuesday, thieves stole the Wagon R car parked inside the house of District Journalist Association President Jitendra Singh Gaur, a resident of Dauchaura in Khairagarh city. The incident of car theft from the house of the District Journalist Association President in this man-

ner has posed a challenge in front of the police. After this incident of theft, District Journalist Association President has lodged a complaint in the police station. After receiving the complaint and information about the car theft, the police started the investigation and other necessary actions have also been taken by scanning CCTV footage around the district headquarters. The District Journalist Association President, Patrons and other members reached the Superintendent of Police office to meet SP Trilok Bansal to complain about the matter. Addl SP Neha Pandey met the people and a complaint was registered.

### The Day's NUMBERS

#### TOP FIVE DAMS IN CHHATTISGARH IN TERMS OF STORAGE CAPACITY (IN CR/ CU.MTS)

|                  |        |
|------------------|--------|
| Minimata Hasdeo  | 341.16 |
| Gangrel Dam      | 91.05  |
| Tandula Dam      | 31.25  |
| Murrum Silli Dam | 16.53  |
| Kherkatta        | 02.94  |

Source: Statista

### INSPECTION

#### CEO District Panchayat Sukma inspects Gram Panchayats

**SUKMA:** In Sukma district, today, Chief Executive Officer, District Panchayat Sukma Lakshman Tiwari inspected the Gram Panchayats Gorgunda and Polampalli under Janpad Panchayat Konta, in which necessary instructions were given to all concerned to bring progress in the work at the inspection site regarding the progress of works going on under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana Gramin, Swachh Bharat Mission Gramin, MNREGA. And especially the concerned Nodal Officer (PMAYG) / Gram Panchayat Secretary was instructed to complete the houses under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana as soon as possible. Along with this, instructions were given to BPM and others for smooth implementation of schemes under National Rural Livelihood Mission. During the said inspection, the secretaries of both the Panchayats were found absent.

### SELECTION

#### Sukma's two students selected to participate in State Level Yoga



**SUKMA:** Division level Yoga Olympiad competition was organized at MLB School, Jagdalpur on Wednesday. 13 participants selected at district level from Sukma participated in which Kumari Manju Markam and Kumari Reena Markam, Kasturba Gandhi Girls Residential School Ranibahal were selected. Senior Category participants from Sukma district have been selected for state level. The junior classes that participated in this competition were from 6th-8th and senior classes were from class 9th-10th.

# Major paddy procurement fraud uncovered in Mungeli

Former manager Netram Sahu faces FIR for major paddy procurement fraud allegations.

Central Chronicle News

**MUNGELI:** In a significant development, an FIR has been registered against Netram Sahu, the former manager of Seva Sahakari Samiti Tarwarpur, for extensive irregularities in the 2019 paddy procurement process. The committee officials' complaints about his fraudulent activities had been initially ignored, prompting legal action.

The allegations against Sahu are serious and numerous. He is accused of failing to deposit funds for 900 quintals of paddy, not compensating farmers for gunny bags, issuing fake permits and cheques, and other financial irregularities totaling lakhs of rupees. When no FIR was initially filed, the committee escalated the matter to the court.

Following the court's directive, FASTERPUR police station registered an FIR under sections 120B, 420, 467, 468, and sections 74-75 of the Chhattisgarh Cooperative Society Act 1960. Former chairman Tulsi Sahu played a key role in exposing these fraudulent activities, accusing Netram Sahu of forging signatures and embezzling funds.



An outside view of the office of Seva Sahakari Samiti Tarwarpur, Mungeli.

The investigation revealed that Sahu had issued cheques worth Rs. 11.68 lakh and Rs. 1.71 lakh with forged signatures for fertilizer procurement at the District Cooperative Bank Setganga. He also illegally acquired gunny bags from farmers and forced the resignation of the committee's board members under false pretenses.

An investigative team, formed two years ago, found 1250 quintals of paddy missing in Madanpur.

## FIR Registered against former manager for fraud

An FIR has been filed against Netram Sahu, ex-manager of Seva Sahakari Samiti Tarwarpur, for fraud in the 2019 paddy procurement process. Allegations include failing to deposit funds for 900 quintals of paddy and issuing fake permits. The investigation revealed missing paddy and forged cheques, leading to further scrutiny across multiple

### HIGHLIGHT

● Allegations include embezzlement, forged cheques, and missing 900 quintals of paddy.

● Investigations extend to other centers, revealing potential large-scale procurement fraud.

centers. Assistant Commissioner Hitesh Shrivastava confirmed ongoing actions to address these irregularities, emphasizing the administration's commitment to cracking down on fraudulent practices. Further investigations revealed that out of 55 lakh quintals purchased, over one lakh quintals are pending in 78 centers, suggesting widespread irregularities.

## Assistant engineer suspended following death of tribal youth

Central Chronicle News

Electricity Company acts swiftly, suspending AE Soni after youth's tragic electrocution.

**KHAIRAGARH:** In a swift response to the tragic death of a tribal youth, the Electricity Distribution Company has suspended Assistant Engineer (AE) Sandeep Soni with immediate effect. Chief Engineer Tapesh Kumar Meshram issued the suspension order late Monday evening, citing prima facie negligence in the execution of his duties.

The incident occurred last Saturday when 26-year-old Santosh Mandavi, employed on a contract basis with the Electricity Distribution Company, was electrocuted while working on transformer shifting near the Collector's Bungalow. Mandavi was reportedly following verbal orders from AE Soni when he came into contact with an active LT line, leading to his fatal accident.

The departmental investigation revealed that Soni had directed scheduled line staff to another task, leaving Mandavi to handle the transformer work without proper precautions or tender procedures. This negligence resulted in Mandavi falling 40 feet

**AE Sandeep Kumar Soni has been suspended and attached to Mohla division after being found guilty prima facie.**

Chhagan Sharma  
EE Electricity Distribution  
Company Khairagarh

### FASTFACTS

● Immediate suspension of AE Soni demonstrates commitment to accountability and safety.

● Tribal community demands action, leading to immediate suspension and ongoing investigation.

and suffering a fatal electric shock.

Following the incident, the district's tribal community, including the Gondwana Students Union, has been vocal in demanding accountability and action against the responsible officers. The suspension of AE Soni is a significant step in addressing these demands and ensuring justice for the deceased.

During his suspension, Soni will be attached to the Mohla office of the MMC district and will receive subsistence allowance as per company rules.

### NEWSLINE

#### SUMMER CAMP

*Enthusiastic summer camp thrives at school*



**ARANG:** A vibrant summer camp is being held with great enthusiasm at Government Primary School Kurud (Baradera). Under the guidance of the cluster coordinator and head teacher, students are engaging in a variety of activities including dance, singing, playing instruments, indoor games like chess and carrom, as well as making clay and paper toys, painting, and writing. All school teachers are attending regularly, ensuring a supportive environment. Despite the scorching sun, the camp is thriving, showcasing that neither heat nor weather can hinder the blossoming of art and skills. Both teachers and students are participating with high enthusiasm, making the camp a resounding success.

#### TRAINING

*Comprehensive training for vote counting officials*

**SUKMA:** In preparation for the Lok Sabha elections 2024, comprehensive training was provided to the counting supervisors and assistants at the District Panchayat Sukma meeting hall. The training session, led by master trainers, covered the entire vote counting process as per Election Commission rules. Participants received detailed instructions on various aspects, including pre-counting preparations, human resource arrangements, and the EVM vote counting system. Emphasis was placed on ensuring a fair and transparent counting process. Joint Collector Suraj Kashyap, SDM Kanta Sabab Khan, SDM Chhindgarh Pratap Vijay Khesas, Deputy Collector Madhu Teta, and other election-related officials and employees were present.

#### CATTLE MENANCE

*Campaign launched to clear stray cattle*



**KORIYA:** Concerned about road accidents caused by stray cattle, Collector Vinay Kumar Langeh has initiated a campaign to remove animals from roads. Officials from urban bodies, the animal husbandry department, and district panchayats have been instructed to remove stray cattle immediately and equip them with radium collars for visibility. Langeh has appealed to cattle keepers and citizens to avoid leaving animals on roads to prevent accidents. He has mandated regular inspections by relevant departments to remove stray cattle and impose fines on irresponsible owners.

## World no tobacco day celebrations in Korea district today

Central Chronicle News

World No Tobacco Day focuses on raising awareness about the dangers of tobacco.

**KOREA:** World No Tobacco Day is celebrated annually on 31st May to raise awareness about the harmful effects of tobacco consumption. This global event aims to highlight the significant health risks associated with tobacco use, which affects millions worldwide each year.

In Korea district, World No Tobacco Day will also be observed on 31st May. The event will focus on educating the public about the detrimental health impacts of tobacco. On this day, the district will implement the provisions of the COTPA Act 2003 at the Gram Panchayat level, aiming to declare the Panchayats smoke-free.

Adult Tobacco Survey 2016-17 (GATS), 39.1% of Chhattisgarh's population consumes tobacco. Furthermore, the Global Youth Tobacco Survey 2019 (GYTS) reveals that 8% of school children aged 13 to 15 years in the state are addicted to tobacco.

Efforts to protect children from tobacco addiction will include making Gram Panchayats smoke-free and ensuring the compliance of COTPA Act 2003 provisions by educational institutions. The celebrations will include wide publicity, rallies, street plays, and oath ceremonies to raise public awareness about the dangers of tobacco use.

Additionally, Gram Panchayats will collaborate with various local organizations to organize the event. If tobacco products are found being sold at the Gram Panchayat level, rules will be prepared to penalize the offenders.

## Soaring heat troubles residents, roads deserted

**ARANG:** Despite soaring temperatures exceeding 45 degrees Celsius, the community in Arang is coming together to combat the extreme heat.

With streets deserted and people staying indoors to escape the scorching afternoons, local organizations are stepping up to support residents.

The Peepla Welfare Foundation and Rani Padmavati Mahila Sangathan have issued appeals for caution and health care during this period.

They emphasize the importance of staying hydrated and avoiding unnecessary outdoor activities.

While the heat has caused disruptions, the proactive measures and community spirit demonstrate resilience and care, ensuring everyone stays safe during this challenging time.

## Villagers demand urgent action amid water crisis

Central Chronicle News

Villagers in Kodebod are facing severe water shortages and daily conflicts.

**ANWARI:** Villagers in Kodebod are facing severe water shortages, receiving only 3 out of the needed 12 water tankers. This has led to daily conflicts among the women over limited water supplies. With no water provided for three days, villagers had to rely on a private bore 1 km away, which proved insufficient.

Frustrated, the village women marched to the PHE department in Kurud, submitting a written complaint to Officer SE PS Gajendra. He assured them that repairs would be made to the broken pipes and bore motor. On May 28, only 3 tankers were



Workers are fixing the line to get water supply from one of the sources.

representatives, revealing that out of 25 hand pumps, 15 are unusable, 5 produce dirty water with worms, and the remaining 5 have very low output. This has left villagers constantly searching for water.

Former Sarpanch Sitaram highlighted the neglect from public

representatives, revealing that out of 25 hand pumps, 15 are unusable, 5 produce dirty water with worms, and the remaining 5 have very low output. This has left villagers constantly searching for water. Current Sarpanch

### FASTFACTS

● Only 3 of 12 needed water tankers provided, causing severe shortages.

● Many hand pumps unusable, producing dirty water or having very low output.

Gauri Netam could not provide a clear plan or the total number of hand pumps, further frustrating the villagers. She promised that the bore would soon be operational and water supply restored.

On May 29, villagers and women gathered at the Gram Panchayat Bhawan, discussing their plight with journalists. PHE officer Paikara stated that the repairs would start with the pipes and bore, followed by hand pump maintenance.

### REVIVAL AHEAD

## Election results to resume stalled development work in Rajim

Central Chronicle News

**RAJIM:** Development work in the area is set to resume after a prolonged halt due to the model code of conduct for the Lok Sabha elections. The restrictions, imposed on March 16, will lift with the election results on June 4, allowing for the continuation of vital infrastructure projects. The current pause has led to deteriorated road conditions and stalled construction

projects, including those under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana. Many residents have experienced delays in essential services and development activities. However, with the election results approaching, there is renewed hope for progress.

Deputy Chief Minister Arun Sao assured that road repairs and other critical projects will be prioritized once the code of conduct ends. Our first task will be to repair the



Revenue office in Rajim is wearing deserted look, with no work in progress.

roads and initiate new projects to ensure they are completed before the rainy season, he stated.

The lack of new approvals during this period has left roads in poor condition, causing inconvenience to residents. Water-filled potholes during rains and dust clouds in dry weather have been common complaints. The Deputy Chief Minister's commitment brings hope for swift improvements.

**Our first task will be to repair the roads and initiate new projects to ensure they are completed before the rainy season.**

Arun Sao  
Deputy Chief Minister

The election results on June 4 will mark the end of these restrictions,

and government offices will resume normal operations. The officers and employees will start working on new schemes from both the central and state governments, bringing much-needed development to the area.

With new energy and a focus on progress, the local administration aims to address the backlog of projects and service requests, ensuring that the community's needs are met efficiently.



## QUOTE FROM THE QUOTABLE

"We believe in peace and peaceful development, not only for ourselves but for people all over the world."

[ Lal Bahadur Shastri ]

## Comment

## Comprehensive measures needed to combat tobacco use in India

## OUR VIEW |

## India sizzles: Innovative solutions urgently needed

Severe heatwave conditions are prevailing across northwest and central India, the western Himalayan region, and Maharashtra. The national capital, Delhi, recorded an unprecedented temperature of 52.9 degrees Celsius at Mungeshpur weather station, though the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) suspects a sensor error. Temperatures across Delhi-NCR ranged from 45.2 to 49.1 degrees Celsius, with isolated rainfall offering slight relief. IMD officials predict that the soaring temperatures in northwest India, including Delhi, will ease from Thursday. Currently, the heatwave affects parts of Rajasthan, Haryana, Punjab, Chandigarh, and Uttar Pradesh. Mrutyunjay Mohapatra, IMD Director General, explained, "Heatwave conditions have persisted due to the absence of western disturbances since May 16. We expect a slight easing after May 30, with extreme weather persisting for only four to seven days in June compared to the usual three days." Hospitals report a surge in heat-related illnesses, with some regions experiencing heatstroke deaths. Film star Shah Rukh Khan was hospitalized in Ahmedabad due to heat-related illness, drawing significant social media attention. Beyond health impacts, the extreme heat is also affecting workforce productivity and the economy. Issuing advisories to stay indoors and hydrated is insufficient; a comprehensive policy response to heat is urgently needed. The National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) has also issued advisories for state health departments. Evidence urges government agencies to combat heat effects actively. Measures like passive cooling, promoting heat-absorbent building materials, and enhancing water bodies and vegetation are essential. Public policies should encourage coordinated actions across health, urban planning, environment, transport, and other sectors. Technical and financial support for municipal corporations and local bodies, alongside scientific and community involvement, is crucial. Addressing extreme heat requires a comprehensive, multi-sectoral approach beyond the IMD and health sector.

## GUEST VIEW |

## Committed to consistency and service in politics

Making my debut in the Lok Sabha elections from the Chandigarh parliamentary seat, I firmly believe that my opponent, senior Congress leader Manish Tewari, is a "political tourist" who will seek a new constituency in 2029. Having served as the Chandigarh BJP President for 10 years, I am confident our party will secure a hat-trick of wins in the upcoming polls on June 1. Manish Tewari's history of jumping constituencies demonstrates his lack of commitment. In 1991, he went to Kanpur but was sent back before he could even start his campaign. Since then, he has been elected from two different constituencies, leaving Ludhiana after failing to deliver as the Information and Broadcasting Minister in the Manmohan Singh government. My father, a six-time MLA and former Chhattisgarh governor, instilled in me the values of dedication and service. As a chartered accountant by profession, I bring a unique perspective to this role. I believe Tewari's pattern of seeking new constituencies highlights his inability to fulfill his promises, and I am committed to representing Chandigarh with integrity and dedication.



Sanjay Tandon

Tobacco consumption is a major cause of preventable death and illness, killing half of its users prematurely, especially during their reproductive years. It is a significant risk factor for many chronic diseases, including cancer, cardiovascular disease (CVD), diabetes, lung diseases, stroke, infertility, blindness, tuberculosis (TB), and oral cavities. Second-hand smoke also causes numerous health problems in infants, children, and adults. Additionally, the spitting of tobacco products spreads swine flu, pneumonia, gastrointestinal diseases, and poses a risk of TB transmission, besides being a public nuisance.

Tobacco comes in two forms: "smoking tobacco" such as cigarettes, bidi, ganja, hookah, cigars, and "smokeless tobacco" such as khaini, jarda, gutkha. Emerging electronic products like e-cigarettes have introduced new challenges. These electronic nicotine delivery systems (ENDS) and electronic non-nicotine delivery systems (ENNDS), commonly known

as e-cigarettes, do not contain tobacco and may or may not contain nicotine, but are still harmful. The combustion of tobacco releases carcinogens like benzene and formaldehyde, which damage lung cells and DNA, leading to cancer. According to the Global Adult Tobacco Survey India (2016-17), about 33.2 crore adults (28% of all adults) above 15 years of age use tobacco in Bharat, including 10 crore smokers, 20 crore smokeless tobacco users, and 3.2 crore who use both. The Global Youth Tobacco Survey (2009) found that 14.6% of students aged 13 to 15 use tobacco. In Bharat, more than 13 lakh people die annually due to tobacco consumption, leading to significant social and economic costs.

Globally, 62 countries have adopted comprehensive smoke-free policies. Bharat Sarkar enacted the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply & Distribution) Act 2003 (COTPA 2003)



Er. Prabhat Kishore

Author is a technocrat & academician

in 2004 to effectively reduce tobacco consumption. Various rules and guidelines restrict tobacco use, including prohibiting smoking in public places, selling tobacco products to minors, selling tobacco products within 100 yards of educational institutions, and advertising and promoting such products. Smokeless tobacco products are banned under the Food Safety and Standards (Prohibition and Restriction on Sales) Regulations 2011, part of the Food Safety and Standards Act 2006. The National Tobacco Control Programme (NTCP) launched in 2007-08 focuses on community mobilization, school programs, IEC, and advocacy, besides implementing control laws. People's Representative Institutions (PRI) play a pivotal role in implementing laws, rules, and regulations to control tobacco consumption.

Children and adolescents are the future of any nation. To protect them, it is crucial to make educational institutions tobacco-free. Reports from GYTS and GATS show significant tobacco use among

adolescents and youngsters. Guidelines released in 2008 for "Tobacco-Free Educational Institutions" aim to raise awareness about tobacco's harmful health impacts, create a healthy, tobacco-free environment in institutions, and better implement legal provisions regarding tobacco use. Educational institutions should ensure no tobacco products are sold within 100 yards of the premises, impose fines on users, and help users quit by encouraging them to use Quitline services and mCessation.

Institutions should organize tobacco control activities such as pledge assemblies, poster and slogan contests, debates, and street plays. Certificates of appreciation should be given to those excelling in this field. Local law enforcement and health authorities should be invited to deliver lectures on tobacco control.

## Eco-friendly foods reduce emissions

Switching to eco-friendly food options could reduce grocery-related emissions by 26%, according to a study analyzing the purchases of 7,000 Australian households. by *Press Trust of India*



Eco-friendly foods significantly reduce environmental impact and promote sustainability. | Photo AP

Switching to more environmentally-friendly food and drink options could significantly cut greenhouse gas emissions from groceries, a new study analyzing the purchases of 7,000 Australian households has found. The research suggests that making simple swaps could reduce emissions by 26%, equating to removing over 1.9 million cars from the road in Australia.

The study, led by epidemiologist Allison Gaines and published in the journal *Nature Food*, emphasizes that consumers can make a substantial environmental impact by choosing greener alternatives. For instance, replacing a frozen meat lasagne with a vegetarian version could reduce emissions by up to 71%. To facilitate these changes, the researchers advocate for on-pack labeling of greenhouse gas emissions for every packaged food product, enabling consumers to make informed choices. "While consumers are increasingly aware of the environmental impact of the food system and willing to make more sustainable food choices, they lack reliable information to identify the more environmentally

friendly options," said Gaines.

The analysis utilized the FoodSwitch database, maintained by The George Institute, UK, which provides detailed information on ingredients, weights, and production life cycles. Over 22,000 grocery products were categorized into major, minor, and sub-categories to estimate potential emissions savings from switching both within and between groups. For example, 'bread and bakery' is a major category, 'bread' is a

minor category, and 'white bread' is a sub-category. The study found that switching higher-emission products for similar lower-emission ones could reduce total emissions by 26%, while opting for less similar lower-emission products could lead to a 71% reduction. The findings underscore the need for significant dietary changes to meet global emissions targets, especially in high-income countries like Australia, the UK, and the US.

The researchers discovered

that meat products, although comprising only 11% of grocery purchases, accounted for nearly half of all greenhouse gas emissions. In contrast, fruits, vegetables, nuts, and legumes made up about a quarter of purchases but only contributed 5% of emissions.

In 2019, the authors estimated that more than 31 million tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions were linked to products consumed at home in Australia. The average emissions per person for that year were 1.41 tonnes, while

the average emissions per household were 3.23 tonnes.

The analysis also revealed the three most emissions-intensive food categories per kilogram of product: meat-based eatables, which caused nearly seven kilograms of emissions, confectionery, which led to 5.6 kilograms of emissions, and dairy, which caused over four kilograms of emissions.

This study is the most detailed analysis to date of the environmental impacts of a country's food purchasing behavior, utilizing comprehensive data on greenhouse gas emissions and supermarket sales typical of diets in many Western countries. The results highlight the potential for substantial environmental benefits from relatively straightforward changes in food purchasing habits.

The authors conclude that for significant reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, dietary habits must change considerably. The research provides a clear path for consumers and policymakers to work towards more sustainable food systems, emphasizing the importance of informed consumer choices and systemic changes in food production and labeling.

## YOUR LETTERS

## Triumph for Indian cinema

Indian cinema had a stellar week at Cannes, with Payal Kapadia's "All We Imagine as Light" winning the Grand Prix at the 77th festival. This accolade demonstrates the global market's appreciation for innovative storytelling that transcends commercial aims. The event highlighted cinema's role as a global unifier. Indian filmmakers and artists received well-deserved recognition for their achievements. Continued support and promotion of Indian films and artists are crucial for enhancing India's influence on the international stage.

Ramkumar Menon, Kochin

## Key Issues for PM Modi

Amid the General Election, the Prime Minister has been actively engaging with the media, giving numerous interviews. However, several critical issues remain unaddressed. His BJP has been involved in the toppling of rival state governments, and there are allegations of crimes by opposition leaders being overlooked once they join the BJP. Additionally, concerns about the electoral bond scheme and accusations of quid pro quo between donors and recipients persist. These pressing matters need to be confronted in PM Modi's interviews.

Rakesh Gupta, Korba

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



# Business



Upgrade of India's rating outlook reflects solid growth.  
Nirmala Sitharaman  
Union Finance Minister

## iPhone models not allowed to register in Iran.



People shop in a store selling Apple products in a shopping mall in Tehran on Thursday.

# India to grow 7 pc in FY25, says Reserve Bank of India

The RBI's balance sheet size surged 11.08 per cent to Rs 70.48 lakh crore (about USD 845 billion) as of March 31, 2024. This was nearly 2.5 times that of Pakistan's entire GDP.

**Press Trust Of India**  
MUMBAI: Indian economy is projected to grow at 7 per cent -- the fastest among major economies across the world -- in the current fiscal year, underpinned by a sustained strengthening of macroeconomic fundamentals, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said in its latest annual report on Thursday. While the central bank expected head-

line inflation to moderate further, it flagged risks to food inflation saying that it remains vulnerable to supply-side shocks. The RBI's balance sheet size surged 11.08 per cent to Rs 70.48 lakh crore (about USD 845 billion) as of March 31, 2024. This was nearly 2.5 times that of Pakistan's entire GDP of close to USD 340 billion. The Indian economy, it said, expanded at a robust pace in 2023-24 (April

**NUMBER**  
**11.08%**  
● The economy showed resilience in FY24 (2023-24 fiscal) despite persistent headwinds.  
● The GDP growth is robust on the back of solid investment demand.

2023 to March 2024 financial year), with real GDP growth accelerating to 7.6 per cent from 7.0 per cent in the previous year -- the third consecutive year of 7 per cent or above growth pace. The economy showed resilience in FY24 (2023-24 fiscal) despite persistent headwinds. The GDP growth is robust on the back of solid investment demand which is supported by healthy balance sheets of banks and

corporates, the government's focus on capital expenditure and prudent monetary, regulatory and fiscal policies, it said, adding the Indian economy is navigating the drag from an adverse global macroeconomic and financial environment. Also, MSPs for both kharif and rabi seasons 2023-24 ensured a minimum return of 50 per cent over cost of production for all crops, it said.

## FDI inflows fall 3.5 pc to USD 44 billion in FY24

**NEW DELHI:** Foreign direct investment (FDI) equity inflows in India declined 3.49 per cent to USD 44.42 billion in 2023-24 due to lower infusion in sectors such as services, computer hardware and software, telecom, auto and pharma, according to the government data. FDI inflows stood at USD 46.03 billion during 2022-23. Inflows during January-March FY24, however, rose by 33.4 per cent to USD 12.38 billion as against USD 9.28 billion in the year-ago period. The total FDI -- which includes equity inflows, reinvested earnings and other capital -- declined marginally by one per cent to USD 70.95 billion during 2023-24 from USD 71.35 billion in 2022-23, data from Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) showed.

# JSW Steel eyes 50 pc market share in coated steel segment

**Press Trust Of India**  
JSW Steel the first and only Indian steel company to manufacture & market a zinc-magnesium-aluminium alloy coated steel product in domestic market.

**NEW DELHI:** JSW Steel on Thursday announced the rollout of zinc-magnesium-aluminium alloy coated steel and aims to capture 50 per cent market share in the segment within one year's time. JSW Steel has invested around Rs 500 crore in setting up the coated capacity of 0.9 million tonnes per annum at Karnataka and Maharashtra facilities where JSW Magsure will be manufactured, a JSW Group spokesperson told PTI. JSW Steel targets a 50 per cent market share



Jayant Acharya, Joint Managing Director and CEO of JSW Steel.

### FACTFILE

● JSW Steel targets a 50 per cent market share in this coated segment within one year of Magsure's launch in India.

in this coated segment within one year of Magsure's launch in India, the spokesperson said.

aging Director and CEO of JSW Steel said, "We are optimising our coated products mix to service the nation's requirements for indigenous Made In India superior quality zinc-magnesium-aluminium alloy coated steel. "JSW Magsure will help us to capitalise on emerging opportunities in the Indian market while supporting the government's 2030 renewable energy targets and Atmanirbhar Bharat mission."

JSW Steel said it is also exploring significant export opportunities for JSW Magsure in Europe and the Middle East. The company said the Indian market for zinc-magnesium-aluminium alloy coated steel has grown more than sixfold from about 15,000 metric tonnes to 120,000 in FY24. So far the entire market requirement was serviced by imports.

## FOR WOMEN TRAVELLERS |

# IndiGo introduces new feature for seat selection

**Press Trust Of India**  
NEW DELHI: Women booking tickets in an IndiGo flight can now know about the seats that have already been booked by other female passengers at the time of web check-in, with the airline introducing the new feature after a market research. IndiGo is the country's largest

domestic airline with a market share of over 60 per cent and carried 80 lakh passengers in April, as per an official data.

In a release issued, the airline said it has introduced a new feature that aims to make the travel experience more comfortable for female passengers. "This has been intro-



duced basis market research, and is currently in pilot mode aligning with our #GirlPower ethos.

The feature offers visibility of seats booked by female passengers, only during web check-in. It is specifically tailored to PNRs with women travellers - solo as well as part of family bookings," it said.

## BizBriefs

BEST OF THE REST

### Q4 RESULTS

## Godfrey Phillips Q4 net profit rises 46 per cent to Rs 215.12 crore

**NEW DELHI:** Cigarette maker Godfrey Phillips India Ltd on Thursday reported an increase of 46.25 per cent in its consolidated net profit to Rs 215.12 crore for the fourth quarter ended March 2024. The company had posted a net profit of Rs 147.09 crore during the January-March period of the previous fiscal, according to a regulatory filing from Godfrey Phillips India. Its revenue from operations increased 22.86 per cent to Rs 1,197.13 crore during the quarter under review, up from Rs 974.40 crore in the corresponding period of the previous fiscal. Total expenses of Godfrey Phillips in the March quarter were up 21.13 per cent to Rs 1,052.66 crore. Its revenue from cigarettes, tobacco and related products was up 22.81 per cent to Rs 1,073.56 crore in Q4 of FY24. Revenue from retail and related products remained flat at Rs 101.42 crore, compared to Rs 100.98 crore a year ago. **PTI**

### INDICATORS

#### Share MARKETS

| Market         | Close  | %chg  |
|----------------|--------|-------|
| Sensex         | 73,885 | -0.83 |
| Nifty          | 22,488 | -0.95 |
| Nifty, MidCap  | 51,426 | -1.34 |
| Nifty SmallCap | 16,612 | -1.62 |
| Nifty Bank     | 48,682 | +0.37 |

Closing rates as on at 5:30p.m. (IST)

#### Forex RATES

##### Foreign currency Vs Rupee

|                 |       |
|-----------------|-------|
| US Dollar       | 83.28 |
| Euro            | 90.18 |
| Chinese Yuan    | 11.50 |
| UAE Dirham      | 22.67 |
| Pakistan Rupee  | 0.29  |
| Sri Lanka Rupee | 0.27  |

May 30, 2024

#### World INDICES

| Stock            | Value  | % chg  |
|------------------|--------|--------|
| Dow Jones (US)   | 38,071 | -0.96  |
| FTSE 100 Index   | 38,071 | -0.96  |
| Nikkei 225 (JPN) | 38,054 | -1.30% |
| CSI 300 (CHN)    | 3,594  | -0.53% |

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

## How the markets behave today?

## Stock markets fall for 5th day; Sensex plunges 617 point on profit booking



**MUMBAI:** Benchmark equity indices Sensex and Nifty declined nearly 1 per cent on Thursday, continuing their falling streak for the fifth day running due to profit booking amid monthly expiry in the derivatives segment. The 30-share BSE Sensex plunged by 617.30 points or 0.83 per cent to settle at 73,885.60. The barometer hit the day's low of 73,668.73 due to selling in blue-chips. The NSE Nifty dropped by 216.05 points or 0.95 per cent to close at 22,488.65. Benchmark indices closed at lifetime high levels on May 23 which triggered profit-taking amid growing nervousness among investors ahead of the results of the Lok Sabha

polls on June 4. Since then, Nifty and Sensex have declined around 2 per cent in the five straight sessions. "The benchmark index is taking cues from the US market as treasury yields continue to climb following the stickiness of global inflation, delaying the central bank's interest rates cut policy," Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services, said.

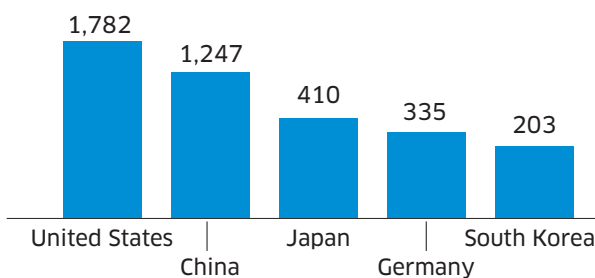
**MAJOR GAINERS:** ICICI Bank, Axis Bank, HDFC Bank, State Bank of India and Kotak Mahindra Bank.

**MAJOR LOSERS:** Tata Steel, Titan, Tech Mahindra, Wipro, Bajaj Finserv, Bajaj Finance, Nestle India, Tata Motors and JSW Steel.

## The Day's NUMBERS

Revenue generated from technology products and services (in billion U.S. dollars) in 2023

### GRAPH: LEADING TECH MARKETS BY REVENUE



### ACCIDENT POLICY

## Reliance General Insurance new accident policy covers EMI, loan

**MUMBAI:** Reliance General Insurance, one of India's leading general insurance companies, is proud to announce the launch of its latest product, the Reliance Personal Accident 360Shield, a personal accident insurance policy designed to provide unparalleled protection for individuals and families. This special protection cover is designed to prevent you and your loved ones from not just the effects of a personal accident, but the overall impact arising as an aftermath of an accident. Speaking at the launch of the product, Rakesh Jain, CEO, Reliance General Insurance, expressed his views saying, "We are committed to ensuring that all fellow Indians and their families are protected from unforeseen events. The Reliance Personal Accident 360Shield is designed to offer not only essential coverages but also comprehensive support during times of absolute need. **PTI**

### BULLION MARKET

## Gold tumbles Rs 350, silver retreats from record levels

**MUMBAI:** Gold prices declined Rs 350 to Rs 72,850 per 10 grams while silver prices retreated from record highs in the national capital amid weak trends in the global markets on Thursday. According to HDFC Securities, silver prices tumbled Rs 1,100 to Rs 96,000 per kg. It had closed at Rs 97,100 per kg on Wednesday. Meanwhile, gold prices fell Rs 350 to Rs 72,850 per 10 grams. In the previous session, it had settled at Rs 73,200 per 10 grams. "Gold declined on Thursday as investors assessed the recent hawkish comments from Fed officials on US interest rates.





Repeated polls not good for country.  
**Rajnath Singh**  
Union Minister

## Water crisis looms in national capital Delhi



Residents collect drinking water from a tanker amid ongoing water crisis at Vivekananda Colony, Chanakyapuri.

## Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

**MISHAP**  
**3 killed, 32 injured as heap of firecrackers explodes in Puri**

**PURI:** At least three persons, including a minor, died and 32 others were injured after a stockpile of firecrackers exploded during Lord Jagannath's Chandan Jatra festival in Odisha's Puri, police said on Thursday.

Hundreds of people had gathered on the banks of Narendra Pushkarinee, a water body, to witness the rituals when the accident happened on Wednesday night, a senior officer said. "One boy succumbed to his injuries at SCB Medical College in Cuttack and two others died while undergoing treatment in private hospitals in Bhubaneswar," he said.

Odisha Chief Secretary Pradeep Kumar Jena, Khurda Collector Chanchal Rana and Health Secretary Shalini Pandit visited different hospitals late Wednesday night to supervise the treatment of the injured people. **PTI**

**CALAMITY**  
**Three killed, thousands affected by floods in Manipur's Imphal valley**



**IMPHAL:** Three persons were killed while thousands were affected by floods triggered by heavy rain in Manipur's Imphal valley, officials said on Thursday.

A 34-year-old man was killed and three others were injured in a landslide caused by heavy rain at Thonglang road in Senapati district on Wednesday. An 83-year-old woman drowned in the overflowing Senapati river, officials said. **PTI**

# Woman to cycle around world in 124 days

In mid-July, 25-year-old Vedangi will embark on the ambitious journey from Finland, aiming to finish in the same country to become the fastest woman to cycle around the world.

Press Trust Of India

**MUMBAI:** The top bar of Vedangi Kulkarni's bicycle frame has a telling line - 'It's just around the corner'. For someone who will be embarking on a 29,251-km solo unsupported bicycle ride, it may well serve as motivation to keep going even in a most inclement weather and other adversities. In mid-July, 25-year-old Vedangi will embark on the ambitious journey from Finland, aiming to finish in the same country to become the fastest woman to cycle around the world.

This is not the first time that this Pune-born cyclist will be undertaking

an adventure like this. In 2018, she undertook a similar ride, albeit along a different route, and completed it in 159 days to emerge as the fastest Asian to cycle around the globe.

This time, her attempt would be to do it in under 124 days to break the current world record, she told PTI earlier this week from Inverness in Scotland where she is based currently.

"From the last ride, I have had learnings on what it takes to execute such a ride successfully," she said, sounding confident of achieving the feat.

In the last five years since her previous ride, Vedangi has found a men-

### HIGHLIGHT

● In 2018, she completed a similar ride in 159 days.

● Look beyond barriers' is the message she wants to spread.

tion in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 'Mann Ki Baat' address, and has also earned the tag of being the fastest woman to cycle on the arduous Manali-Leh stretch in 2023. Vedangi was into various sports including football during her schooling at Pune's Dnyan Prabodhini, and cycling caught her fancy later. During her undergraduate studies at Univer-

sity of Bournemouth, the idea of cycling around the world came, and she executed it before the COVID-19 pandemic struck. The last few months were spent on training, collecting the right gear, route planning and paperwork for visas, Vedangi said.

Her training includes regular yoga sessions and meditation besides putting in miles on the bicycle, both on an indoor trainer and out in the open.

During her ride, she will have to clock more than 300 km every day to achieve the record, Vedangi pointed out.

As things stand now, Vedangi will be cycling through Finland, Estonia,

Russia, Mongolia, Australia, New Zealand, US, Canada, Portugal, Spain, France, Belgium, the Netherlands, Germany, Denmark and Sweden before ending the ride in Finland.

In her past rides she has encountered incidents like being robbed at knife-point (in Spain) and chased by a grizzly bear (in Canada). She says cycle touring continues to be full of challenges, but the key is to have the right strategy for every situation. The endurance athlete-turned-entrepreneur pursues other interests including open water swimming, mountain biking and cross-country skiing.

### Scathing Attack

**Narendra Modi first PM to 'lower dignity' of public discourse, says former PM Manmohan Singh**



**NEW DELHI:** In a scathing attack on Prime Minister Narendra Modi, former prime minister Manmohan Singh on Thursday accused him of lowering the dignity of public discourse and the gravity of the office of the PM by giving "hateful speeches" during the poll campaign.

In an appeal to voters of Punjab ahead of the seventh-phase of Lok Sabha polls on June 1, Singh asserted that only the Congress can ensure growth-oriented progressive future where democracy and Constitution will be safeguarded.

The senior Congress leader also hit out at the BJP government for

imposing an "ill-conceived" Agniveer scheme on the armed forces.

"The BJP thinks that the value of patriotism, bravery and service is only four years. This shows their fake nationalism," he said in a letter to voters of Punjab.

Mounting an attack on Modi, Singh said, "I have been keenly following the political discourse during this election campaign. Modi ji has indulged in the most vicious form of hate speeches, which are purely divisive in nature. Modi ji is the first prime minister to lower the dignity of public discourse, and thereby the gravity of the office of the prime minister. **PTI**

## Case against builders, others for cheating customers

**NAGPUR:** The Nagpur police have registered a case against three persons associated with a real estate company and some staffers of a cooperative bank for allegedly cheating customers of Rs 3.5 crore, officials said on Thursday.

Two of the accused, associated with the real estate firm, had availed a loan of Rs 5 crore from a branch of the cooperative bank at Dev Nagar Maharashtra's Nagpur city for the construction of an apartment complex in New Somalwada area, they said.

A 47-year-old person, who is into furniture business, entered into an agreement with the builder in 2016 to purchase a shop in the complex for Rs 20 lakh.

# DRM honours two railway personnel with safety awards

Press Trust Of India

Safety awards are given to safety personnel for commendable contributions in ensuring safety through their excellent work.

**BILASPUR:** Safe railway operations are the top priority of the Bilaspur division. Various awareness campaigns related to safety are regularly conducted. Additionally, safety awards are given to safety personnel who make commendable contributions in ensuring safety through their excellent work.

Recently, during the operation of a train in the Kalmatar - Kargi Road section, Pendraroad's



Safety personnel receiving awards.

### FACTFILE

● Loco pilot Nandlal Prasad and assistant loco pilot Dheeraj Kumar rcvd award.

loco pilot Nandlal Prasad and Bilaspur's assistant loco pilot Dheeraj Kumar noticed smoke coming from the lower part of the engine. They promptly reported this to their in-charge and stopped the train at the next station,

Salkaroad. Their vigilance and quick thinking prevented a potential accident. For their commendable role in averting this potential accident and ensuring safe railway operations, they were selected for the Safety Award.

MAJOR MILESTONE |

## Sub-orbital test flight of Agnibaan rocket successful

Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI:** Chennai-based space start-up Agnikul Cosmos on Thursday successfully carried out a sub-orbital test-flight of its home-built 3D-printed semi-cryogenic rocket -- Agnibaan -- from its own launch pad at Sriharikota, making it India's second private entity to do so.

After four unsuccessful attempts, the test flight of Agnibaan Sub-Orbital Technology Demonstrator (SOTeD) on Thursday took place at 7.15 am without any live streaming and in the presence of fewer dignitaries at the Sriharikota launch pad located within ISRO's Satish Dhawan Space Centre. "Humbled to announce the successful completion of our

**Huge boost and a proud moment for thriving private space industry.**  
**Lt Gen A K Bhatt (Retd)**  
DG, ISPA

first flight - Mission O1 of Agnibaan SOTeD - from our own and India's first



and only private Launchpad within SDSC-SHAR at Sriharikota," Agnikul Cosmos said on X. It said all the mission objectives of this controlled vertical ascent flight were met and performance was nominal. "The vehicle was completely designed in-house and was powered by the world's first single piece 3D printed engine," the start-up said.

### The Day's NUMBERS

### STATE WISE DATA OF GUAVA PRODUCTION (IN TONNES)

|                |         |
|----------------|---------|
| Uttar Pradesh  | 800,000 |
| Maharashtra    | 600,000 |
| Madhya Pradesh | 550,000 |
| Bihar          | 500,000 |
| West Bengal    | 450,000 |
| Chhattisgarh   | 275,000 |

Source: Statista

**ALLEGATION**  
**NC chief Abdullah slams PM over remarks on Mahatma Gandhi**

**SRINAGAR:** National Conference (NC) president Farooq Abdullah Thursday described Narendra Modi's recent remarks about Mahatma Gandhi as "shocking" and said the prime minister "feels shame" in praising the 'Bapu' even as both of them hail from Gujarat.

Abdullah also slammed Union Home Minister Amit Shah over his announcement that the kin of militants and stone pelters in Jammu and Kashmir would not be provided government jobs, saying the Centre does not know how to win hearts of the people.

Talking to PTI Videos here, he said, "Modi ji says (Mahatma) Gandhi got recognition after a film was made on him! It's shocking."

The former Union minister said world leaders like Nelson Mandela and Martin Luther King Junior would take inspiration from 'Bapu'. **PTI**

**VERDICT**  
**Gangster Chhota Rajan convicted in 2001 case of murder of hotelier Shetty**

**MUMBAI:** A special court in Mumbai on Thursday convicted gangster Chhota Rajan in the case of murder of hotelier Jaya Shetty here in 2001. Special judge for cases under the MCOCA, AM Patil, held Rajan guilty under the Indian Penal Code provisions for murder. **PTI**

**Central Chronicle Classifieds**

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# World



In 'Hush Money trial', I don't even know what the charges are in this rigged case.  
**Donald Trump**  
Former US President

## A volcano spews lava in Grindavik, Iceland



A volcano in southwestern Iceland is erupting, spewing red streams of lava. | Photo: PTI

# 'Are you with me?' Biden-Harris launch Black voters outreach

US President Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris, in a joint appearance at a Philadelphia boarding school, thanked Black voters for their 2020 victory.

Press Trust Of India

**PHILADELPHIA (US):** President Joe Biden renewed his election-year pitch to Black voters on Wednesday, lashing out at Donald Trump's "MAGA lies" and said the winner of this year's White House race will make crucial decisions, including nominees for the Supreme Court, that could affect the country for decades. Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris, in a joint appearance at a Philadelphia boarding school, thanked Black voters in Pennsylvania and beyond for being the lynchpin to their 2020 victory and they made the case that

their agenda has had an enormous impact on improving lives for Black voters. The Democratic president also argued that an "unhinged" Trump is peddling misinformation in an effort to win back the White House. "I'll be damned if I'm going to let Donald Trump turn America into a place of anger, resentment and hate," Biden said, calling on the crowd to help him and Harris win a second term. "My question is a simple one: Are you with me?" At Girard College, which has a predominantly Black student body, Biden warned

### HIGHLIGHT

- The Democratic president argued that an 'unhinged' Trump is peddling misinformation in an effort to win back the White House.
- "I'll be damned if I'm going to let Donald Trump turn America into a place of anger, resentment and hate," Biden said.

about the threat he said a second Trump presidency would pose and cited some of the racial controversies fanned by the presumptive Republican nominee during

his life. "This is the same guy who wanted to tear gas you as you peacefully protested George Floyd's murder. The same guy who still calls the Central Park Five guilty, even though they were exonerated," Biden told the crowd. "He's that landlord who denies housing applications because of the color of your skin." The Philadelphia visit was the start of what the Biden campaign describes as a summer-long effort to engage Black student organizations, community groups and faith centers. It reflects in part how much of their support of

him has frayed as Trump aims to make inroads into the longtime Democratic constituency. The issue of abortion rights and the judiciary is also featured in the remarks from Biden and Harris. Biden pledged to codify the protections of Roe vs. Wade, the now-nullified Supreme Court decision that had legalized the right to an abortion, if he and enough Democratic lawmakers are elected, while Harris noted that Trump dramatically shaped the Supreme Court as she invoked the name of Thurgood Marshall, the high court's first Black justice.

## Missing Kashmiri poet traced to custody in PoK

**ISLAMABAD:** A missing Kashmiri poet has been traced to be in the custody of police in the Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK), the Islamabad High Court was informed on Wednesday, two weeks after he disappeared from Rawalpindi. Ahmad Farhad's wife had filed a petition in the Islamabad High Court (IHC) claiming that he had been abducted from his home. When neither police nor any intelligence agency claimed responsibility for his custody, Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kayani, who was hearing the case, on May 24 issued an eight-page written order, summoning Law Minister Azam Tarar along with the sector commanders of the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI).

# 'Algeria's proposed cease-fire in Rafah won't be helpful'

| MIDEAST MEETING |

Press Trust Of India

Algeria, the Arab representative on the council, circulated the draft resolution to its 15 members, seeking a halt in Israeli operation in Rafah.

**UNITED NATIONS:** The United States said on Wednesday a proposed UN Security Council resolution demanding an immediate cease-fire in Gaza and halt to Israel's military operation in the southern city of Rafah "is not going to be helpful". Algeria, the Arab representative on the council, circulated the draft resolution on Tuesday evening to its 15 members after emergency council consultations on the escalating Israeli



US deputy ambassador Robert Wood in a meeting | Photo: File photo

### FASTFACTS

- Algeria's resolution is not necessarily going to change things on the ground, said Robert Wood.

operation in Rafah. US deputy ambassador Robert Wood told reporters ahead of Wednesday's monthly Mideast meeting

that "another resolution is not necessarily going to change anything on the ground". He said the US is focused on getting an agreement on a temporary pause in the fighting and the release of some 125 hostages taken during Hamas' October 7 invasion of southern Israel, and then work-

ing on a long-term end to the seven-month war. Majed Banya, the Palestinian deputy ambassador, told the council meeting that adopting the resolution would be an important step "to force Israel to halt its military offensive and to withdraw its occupation forces, and to ensure an immediate cease-fire".

Algeria's UN Ambassador Amar Bendjama circulated the resolution as Israel pushed ahead with its military operation in Rafah, where over a million Palestinians had sought refuge from Israel's Gaza offensive. Most have now fled, but the UN says no place in Gaza is safe and humanitarian conditions are dire.

| FLIGHT MISHAP |

## SIA to revise protocol after recent severe turbulence

Press Trust Of India

**SINGAPORE:** Some frequent fliers have described Singapore Airlines (SIA) in-flight service protocol following the recent severe turbulence on its plane as a hasty move which is already having repercussions on its service offerings and driving up stress levels of cabin

crew, a media report said on Thursday.

However, the overall requirement of suspending meal service and "cabin crew members must buckle up when the seat-belt sign is turned on", has had a ripple effect on passengers and crew, The Straits Times reported.

SIA put more comprehensive safety mea-



sures in place shortly after Flight SQ321 from London to Singapore experienced severe

turbulence on May 21, leaving a passenger dead and dozens injured.

Previously, only hot drinks and soup were not allowed to be served when the seat-belt sign was turned on and service could continue at the discretion of the crew, but meal service must now be completely paused.

## Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

### CAMPAIGN

## Violence clouds the last day of campaigning for Mexico's election

**MEXICO CITY:** Mexico held the last day of campaigning before Sunday's nationwide election, but the closing rallies were darkened by attacks on candidates and the country's persistently high homicide rate. Opposition candidate Xóchitl Gálvez started her last campaign rallies early Wednesday on the outskirts of Mexico City, and she focused her ire on President Andrés Manuel López Obrador's "hugs not bullets" policy of not confronting the drug cartels. Gálvez is facing the candidate of López Obrador's Morena party, former Mexico City Mayor Claudia Sheinbaum. Sheinbaum, who leads in the race, has promised to continue absolutely all of López Obrador's policies. "Are we going to continue with hugs, or are we going to apply the law to criminals?" Gálvez asked a cheering crowd. "Mexico wants peace, wants tranquility." **PTI**

### ROW

## Nigeria's new anthem, written by a Briton, sparks widespread criticism



**ABUJA (NIGERIA):** Nigeria adopted a new national anthem on Wednesday after lawmakers passed a law that replaced the current one with a version dropped nearly a half-century ago, sparking widespread criticism about how the law was hastily passed without much public input. President Bola Tinubu's assent to the law comes a day after it was approved by both chambers of Nigeria's National Assembly, which is dominated by the governing party. **PTI**

### FROM AROUND THE WORLD

## 2 new giant pandas are returning to Washington's National Zoo from China by the end of the year



**WASHINGTON:** Two giant pandas are coming to Washington's National Zoo from China by the end of the year. The zoo made the announcement Wednesday, about half a year after it sent its three pandas back to China. Other American zoos also have sent pandas back to China as loan agreements lapsed amid heightened diplomatic tensions between the US and China.

The Smithsonian's National Zoo and Conservation Biology Institute said the pair of pandas are Bao Li (pronounced BOW'-lee) and Qing Bao (ching-BOW'). Giant pandas are icons in Washington, DC, and beloved around the nation and the world. For more than five

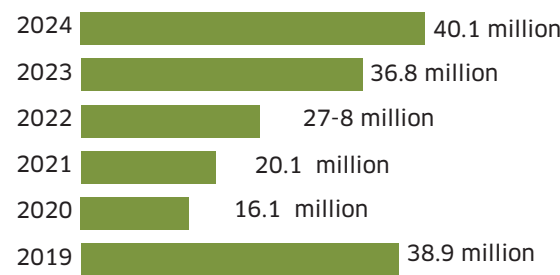
decades, the institute has created and maintained one of the world's foremost giant panda conservation programs, helping move the panda from "endangered" to "vulnerable" on the global list of species at risk of extinction. "We're thrilled to announce the next chapter of our breeding and conservation partnership begins by welcoming two new bears, including a descendent of our beloved panda family, to Washington, DC," said Brandie Smith, the zoo's director.

"This historic moment is proof positive our collaboration with Chinese colleagues has made an irrefutable impact", the zoo's director said. **PTI**

### The Day's NUMBERS

(Due to the COVID-19 pandemics the number of total flights were half and below half mark than usual in the year 2020 and 2021.)

### TOTAL FLIGHTS PERFORMED BY ALL AIRLINES IN THE WORLD



Source: Statista

### MISCONDUCT

## Harvey Weinstein may face new charges as more accusers come forward

**NEW YORK:** Manhattan prosecutors told a judge on Wednesday they are evaluating new claims of sexual misconduct made against Harvey Weinstein and could potentially seek a new indictment against the former movie mogul ahead of his scheduled retrial on rape charges later this year.

Assistant District Attorney Nicole Blumberg said during a court hearing that additional people have come forward with assault claims and prosecutors are currently assessing which fall under the statute of limitations. She said some potential survivors that were not ready to step forward during Weinstein's first trial may now be willing to testify. When asked by Judge Curtis Farber whether there was a possibility of prosecutors filing a new indictment, Blumberg replied: "Yes, your honour." Weinstein appeared before the judge on Wednesday afternoon in the same New York City courthouse where former President Donald Trump is on trial. **PTI**

### DIPLOMACY

## Palestinian PM visits Madrid : Seeking recognition as state



**MADRID:** Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez met with Palestinian Prime Minister Mohammad Mustafa and leading officials from several Middle Eastern countries in Madrid on Wednesday after Spain, Ireland and Norway recognized a Palestinian state.

The diplomatic move by the three western European nations on Tuesday was slammed by Israel and will have little immediate impact on its grinding war in Gaza, but it was a victory for the Palestinians and could encourage other Western powers to follow suit. **PTI**



# FineDine

MANGO BUFFET AT LOTTE HOTEL

## Seoul hotel's Mango Feast with Pokemon treats

Lotte Hotel in Seoul has opened its mango buffet for patrons who can now indulge in the opulent spread that has Pokemon characters in their dishes.



The summer season is all about indulging in mangoes in Seoul.

Mangoes, often crowned the king of fruits, captivate taste buds globally with their luscious flavor and versatility. Whether enjoyed fresh, in smoothies, or in salads, mangoes are universally adored. Elevating this fruity fascination, Lotte Hotel in Seoul, South Korea, has introduced a luxurious mango buffet, mesmerizing food enthusiasts and taking social media by storm. This culinary extravaganza, priced at 1,35,000 won (approximately ₹8,257) per person, follows the hotel's celebrated winter strawberry buffet. Mango aficionados can indulge in an exquisite selection of desserts. Highlights include mango cream cake, velvety mango pudding, and delicate mango mille-feuille, as showcased in a captivating Instagram video. The star attraction is the indulgent ice cream served within a whole mango, adding a dec-



### HIGHLIGHT

● Indulge in Seoul's opulent mango buffet at the Lotte Hotel, offering gourmet delights in an enchanting setting. This captivating experience has taken social media by storm.

adent twist. Beyond desserts, the buffet features a savory section with over ten gourmet options, such as tender sirloin, succulent lamb ribs, and spicy rice cakes, ensuring a well-rounded feast.

The buffet's ambiance is magical, set against a picturesque waterfall backdrop with an artistic decor, enhancing the overall dining experience. This enchanting setting, combined with an array of mango delicacies, transforms a meal into a sensory journey, making the premium price worthwhile. Social media users are enthralled. One exclaimed, "Is this the place where good people go after they die? Clearly, this mango buffet is a dream come true for mango lovers, making it a must-visit destination. Experience this mango paradise at Lotte Hotel, where culinary innovation meets artistic elegance."

## FoodPick

MUST TRY WHEN TRAVEL

### Go bananas

#### Peelable gummies arrive at Walgreens

Walgreens introduces a new sensation with its Nice! Gummy Banana Peelable Candy, following the success of its viral mango treat. Available for \$1.99 at over 5,000 stores nationwide starting June, this addition to the Nice! portfolio promises a delicious twist. With its peelable feature and authentic banana flavor, it's set to captivate candy lovers and TikTok enthusiasts alike.



### Fast food fight

#### Burger King's \$5 meal

Burger King joins the battle for budget-conscious diners with its \$5 value meal, featuring a choice of sandwich,



nuggets, fries, and a drink. This move follows industry-wide efforts to attract customers seeking affordable options amid declining traffic and profits. Other quick-serve restaurants, like Denny's, Applebee's, and Chili's, are also doubling down on value offerings in response to shifting consumer spending patterns.

### Bengaluru Bites

#### A taste of Sally by 1522

With a menu boasting diverse offerings from champers to naan bombs, Bengaluru's Sally By 1522 presents a fusion of English charm and American flair. Located at Phoenix Mall of Asia, its ambiance invites patrons to unwind after a day of shopping or cinema. Indulge in specialties like roasted pumpkin soup, Kodagu mutton fry, and innovative desserts, accompanied by an extensive beverage selection.



### Jasmine Tea Mocktail

#### Ingredients

1 cup brewed jasmine tea, 1/4 cup honey, 1/4 cup fresh lemon juice, 1/2 cup sparkling water, Ice cubes, Lemon slices (for garnish), Fresh jasmine flowers (for garnish).

#### How to make it

Brew jasmine tea and let it cool. In a pitcher, mix tea, honey, and lemon juice. Add sparkling water, stir gently. Pour into glasses over ice. Garnish with lemon slices and fresh jasmine flowers. Serve immediately for a refreshing mocktail.



### Gin-a Colada Slushy

#### Ingredients

2 cups pineapple juice, 1 cup coconut cream, 1/2 cup gin, 1/4 cup lime juice, 2 cups ice cubes, Pineapple slices (for garnish), Maraschino cherries (for garnish), Coconut flakes (for garnish).

#### How to make it

In a blender, combine pineapple juice, coconut cream, gin, lime juice, and ice cubes. Blend until smooth and slushy consistency is achieved. Pour the slushy into glasses and garnish with pineapple slices, maraschino cherries, and coconut flakes. Serve immediately.



### Moscow Mule Mocktail

#### Ingredients

2 cups non-alcoholic ginger beer, 1/2 cup fresh lime juice, 1 tablespoon ginger syrup, Lime wedges and/or crystallized ginger for garnish.

#### How to make it

Combine ginger beer, lime juice and ginger syrup in a small pitcher; stir until the syrup dissolves. Divide evenly between 2 ice-filled glasses. Garnish with lime wedges and/or crystallized ginger, if desired.



### Khapli Wheat: Revival of an ancient crop

With increasing awareness of ancient grains' health benefits, Khapli wheat is making a strong comeback. Farmers and millers are reviving its cultivation, making it more accessible. In Maharashtra, India, known as "Khapli Gehu," this nutrient-rich grain is gaining popularity. Health-conscious consumers are seeking alternatives to modern wheat, embracing Khapli wheat for its superior benefits. This ancient grain promises a healthier future, offering a wholesome and nutritious choice for modern diets.



### VIRAL NEWS

## Green Chilli Halwa: Viral hit takes internet by storm



Halwa, a cherished Indian dessert, gets a surprising twist in a viral video from Calicut. Featuring green chillies as the star ingredient, this unconventional creation has captivated social media users. The clip showcases the meticulous preparation process, from chopping chillies to blending them with sugar and milk, resulting in a vibrant green halwa. With over a million views, this innovative dish has sparked a flurry of reactions online.

### TRAILBLAZER

## Michelin Magic in Mexico: Tiny Taqueria wins big

### Central Chronicle News

Taqueria El Califa de Leon has been helmed by Chef Arturo Rivera Martinez for over 2 decades. He was presented with the iconic white chef's jacket by a Michelin representative.

Taqueria El Califa de Leon, a humble taco stand in Mexico City's San Rafael neighborhood, has achieved incredible fame by earning a Michelin star. This marks the first time a Mexican taco stand has received this prestigious honor. Chef Arturo Rivera Martinez, who has been serving delicious tacos for over 20 years, was given the Michelin star while still working at his stand. "The secret is the simplicity of our taco," Martinez told

reporters. "Just a tortilla, red or green sauce, and quality meat." El Califa de Leon, which is only 10 feet wide, has been around for over 50 years. It's famous for its Gaonera taco, named after the Mexican bullfighter Rodolfo Gaona. The Michelin Guide describes it as "exceptional," with thinly sliced beef seasoned with salt and lime, served on fresh corn tortillas.

Despite its small size, the taqueria offers a memorable dining experience. Besides the Gaonera taco, you can choose from three other meat-filled tacos, including a bistec (beef steak) taco, all served on a plastic plate for about \$5. "With meat and tortillas this good, the house-made salsas are hardly necessary," notes the Michelin Guide. Michelin also recognized other top Mexican restaurants



Taqueria El Califa de Leon makes simple tacos with meat, salt, lime juice and optional sauces.

like Quintonil and Rosetta, highlighting the rich culinary diversity of Mexico. "It's a joy to honor the uniqueness of Mexican cuisine," said Gwendal Poulennec, International Director of the Michelin Guides.

# Sports



Getting back on the field with an Indian jersey on is a different feeling altogether.

**Rishabh Pant**  
Indian Cricketer

## Sports Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

**HOCKEY**

**Men secure shootout win over Germany, women draw vs Orange Rood**

**BREDA (NETHERLANDS):** India concluded their junior hockey teams' tour of Europe with a gritty shootout win over Germany by the men's side, while the women were held to a 2-2 draw by Orange Rood club here. The men's team won 3-1 on penalties after a 1-1 stalemate in the regulation time in their match at the Bredase Hockey Vereniging Push here on Wednesday. Gurjot Singh, Dilraj Singh, and Manmeet Singh scored one each in the shoot-out after Mukesh Toppo struck off a rebound from a penalty corner in the 33rd minute. The Indian Colts held their lead in regulation time until Germany equalised four minutes into the fourth quarter, adding excitement to the game. Despite both teams' efforts to take the lead, the score remained unchanged, leading to a penalty shootout. **PTI**

**MENTOR**

**Dhawal Kulkarni: From player to Mumbai's bowling mentor**



**MUMBAI:** Dhawal Kulkarni, who led Mumbai Ranji team's pace attack for years, was on Wednesday appointed as bowling mentor of the premier domestic side across formats for the upcoming 2024-25 season. Kulkarni, who played 12 ODIs and two T20Is for India between 2014 and 2016, retired from all forms of cricket after helping Mumbai win the prestigious Ranji Trophy for a record-extending 42nd time in the previous season. **PTI**

*French Open*

**Iga Swiatek saves a match point and comes back to beat Naomi Osaka at the French Open**

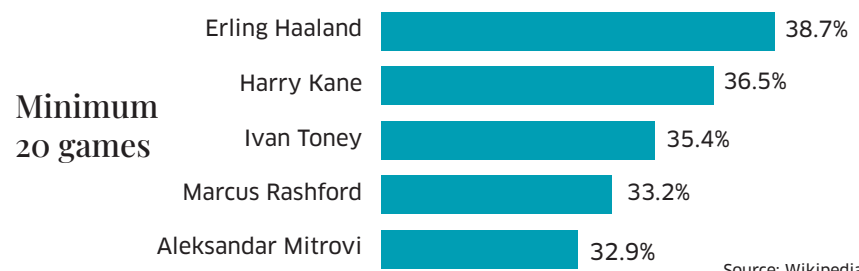


**PARIS:** Iga Swiatek showcased her prowess as the current No. 1 and two-time defending champion at the French Open, while Naomi Osaka reminded everyone of her elite capabilities. In an exhilarating second-round match on Wednesday night, Swiatek saved a match point and won the last five games to secure a 7-6 (1), 1-6, 7-5 victory. "For sure, this match was really intense. Much more intense for the second round than I ever expected. For sure, I'll be more ready next time," Swiatek said. "Naomi played amazing tennis. ... I'm happy that she's back and she's playing well." This vic-

tory extended Swiatek's Roland Garros winning streak to 16 matches as she chases a third consecutive title at the clay-court major. Osaka, who cried after losing her 5-2 lead in the final set, demonstrated her return to top form. The nearly three-hour match saw both players exchanging powerful shots under the closed roof at Court Philippe Chatrier, as rain postponed 23 other singles matches until Thursday. A riveted, albeit sparse, crowd alternated their support between the two players, sometimes calling out before points were completed, prompting chair umpire Aurélie Tourte to intervene. **PTI**

*The Day's NUMBERS*

**HIGHEST PERCENTAGE OF TEAM GOALS IN THE PREMIER LEAGUE SEASON (2023-24)**



**T20 WORLD CUP**

**India hold top spot in ICC rankings heading into T20 World Cup**

**DUBAI:** Inaugural T20 World Cup winners India held the top spot in the men's T20I team rankings ahead of the upcoming edition of the tournament, which the West Indies and USA are co-hosting from June 1-29. India have 264 rating points. Two-time champions West Indies have moved up to fourth position, their players showing some great form ahead of the T20 showpiece.

The winners of the 2012 and 2016 editions of the tournament are ahead of New Zealand and South Africa after their 3-0 win over South Africa, who were pushed down to seventh position in the list led by India. 2021 champions Australia are second with 257 points, defending champions England third with 254 points and the West Indies two points behind them on 252. New Zealand are on 250 while Pakistan and South Africa are both on 244 points with Pakistan slightly ahead on decimal points. **PTI**

**SOCCER**

**Messi scores, but Inter Miami's 10-match MLS streak ends in 3-1 loss**



**FORT LAUDERDALE:** Lionel Messi scored yet again. It was the lone real highlight for Inter Miami, as its 10-match Major League Soccer winning streak was ended by an Atlanta United side that got its first league win in nearly two months. Saba Lobjanidze scored once in each half, Jamal Thiare helped put the game away with a goal in the 73rd minute and Atlanta United snapped a nine-match MLS winless streak with a 3-1 victory on Wednesday night. Atlanta United was 0-5-4 in MLS play since beating Chicago 3-0 on March 31. **PTI**

# New York beefs up security for tense India-Pak cricket clash



Indian cricket team players during a training session for the T20 World Cup in New York.

New York will witness a huge outpour of security personnel and resources for the upcoming ICC T20 World Cup clash between India and Pakistan on June 9.

**Press Trust Of India**

**NEW YORK:** New York's Nassau County is gearing up for unprecedented security arrangements for the T20 World Cup clash between India and Pakistan on June 9 due to the threat of a terror attack, though state Governor Kathy Hochul has stated it is not credible "at this time."

The Eisenhower Park Stadium in Nassau County will host eight tournament matches, including India's three outings. The Indian team will also play a practice game against Bangladesh on June 1. State Governor Kathy Hochul has directed state police to increase security measures to ensure the safety of the crowds. "In preparation for the World Cup,

**HIGHLIGHT**

● The reason for putting up an army of security personnel for this match is because of a terror attack threat by ISIS-K group.

my team has been working with federal and local law enforcement to keep attendees safe. While there is no credible threat

at this time, I've directed NYPD to elevate security measures and we'll continue to monitor as the event nears," Hochul said in a post on X.

CNN reported that New York officials are implementing safety precautions "after terror group ISIS-K made a global threat earlier this year" against the World Cup. Nassau County

Police Commissioner Patrick Ryder confirmed that the event received an ISIS-K-linked threat in April. Nassau County Executive Bruce Blake described the megaevent as "Super Bowl on steroids," highlighting the county's coordinated security efforts with federal partners, including the FBI and Department of Homeland Security.

**CHESS**

# Praggnanandhaa stuns Carlsen, leads Norway chess

**Press Trust Of India**

In a stunning turn of events, Praggnanandhaa defeated Carlsen, claiming the top spot.

**STAVANGER:** Indian Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa crushed world number one Magnus Carlsen for the first time in Classical format to emerge as the sole leader in the Norway chess tournament here. Having beating him a few times in online and faster versions of the game and after losing to him in the finale of the last World Cup, Praggnanandhaa finally got past the home favourite in what would be known as a clear classical triumph. Following the



Indian GM Praggnanandhaa R during his match against Magnus Carlsen.

**FACTFILE**

● Praggnanadhaa has previously played Carlsen in the last World Cup where he lost out to the latter in the final of the tournament.

third-round win, the 18-year-old Indian now leads the men's section with 5.5 points in all, half a point clear of USA's Fabiano Caruana who scored his first victory in classical against reigning

world champion Ding Liren of China.

Carlsen, on three points, looks like a distant third for now in the updated standings but with each classical win worth three points, this might not hold for too long. Hikaru Nakamura of United States, Firouzja Alireza of France and Liren are all joint fourth currently on 2.5 points in the six-player double round-robin contest. Classical chess, also known as slow chess, allows players significant amount of time to make their moves, usually at least one hour. Carlsen and Praggnanandhaa had drawn their previous three encounters in this format.

**ALCARAZ VICTORIOUS**

# Alcaraz triumphs amid challenges at French Open

**Press Trust Of India**

**PARIS:** Carlos Alcaraz's forehand was giving him a hard time at the French Open. So was the 176th-ranked qualifier across the net. After ceding the third set and trailing by a break in the fourth, Alcaraz needed to get in gear – and he did, taking the last five games to beat Jesper de Jong 6-3,

6-4, 2-6, 6-2 Wednesday in the second round.

Heavy rain from early in the day caused the postponement of 23 singles matches, so Alcaraz was lucky to get the chance to compete, and advance, under the retractable roof at Court Philippe Chatrier. Still, he could not quite shake de Jong, a 23-year-old from the Netherlands with a flashy game who

**I saw that I need to forget about putting on a show. ... It was difficult for me today. I was in trouble a little bit.**

**Carlos Alcaraz**  
Spanish tennis player



was participating in just his second Grand Slam main draw. Alcaraz, a former No. 1 who is seeded No. 3, has won two major championships and is still just 21. But Alcaraz has been dealing with a bothersome right arm that limited his preparation for Roland Garros and, he said, made him afraid to hit his big forehand with full force.

## Sports News

## T20 WC: Top scorers and fastest strikers

With cricket's slam-bang version set for its ninth World Cup, PTI gives a rundown on the leading run-getters and the ones with best strike rates in the T20 showpiece.

## Leading run getters

## Virat Kohli: 1141 runs



Who else at No. 1 but the King himself? The talismanic Indian batter has been an absolute beast in the marquee event, scoring over a thousand runs across five editions. His ability to thrive under pressure and deliver match-winning performances has cemented his reputation as one of the finest batters in T20 cricket. He holds the record for most runs in a single edition of the tournament -- 319 in 2014. He was also sensational in the 2016 edition, scoring 296 runs.

## Jayawardene: 1016 runs



The now retired Jayawardene's performances in T20 World Cups have been instrumental in former champions Sri Lanka's success in the tournament. He was a consistent scorer across the five editions he played.

## Chris Gayle: (965 runs)



One of the most prolific and entertaining hitters in cricket history, Gayle is widely regarded as one of the most destructive batters, particularly in T20s. No longer competing for the West Indies, his performances in T20 World Cups have been nothing short of spectacular, making him a fan favourite and an important player for the West Indies when they won their maiden title in 2012.

## Tillakaratne Dilshan: (897 runs)



The leading run-scorer in the 2009 edition with 317 runs from seven matches, the retired Dilshan, with his aggressive batting style and ability to provide quick starts at the top of the order, was a vital cog in the Sri Lankan team's lineup across six editions.

## Rohit Sharma: (963 runs)



The current India skipper has been a key player for his team in the T20 World Cups, especially after taking on the opening position. His ability to score big runs and provide stability at the top of the order has been crucial for India's success in the tournament. He has played all editions, scoring 963 runs, including 91 fours at a strike rate on 127.88.

## Highest strike rates

## Jos Buttler: (144.48)



Regarded as one of the most dynamic and destructive batters, Buttler's greatest strength lies in his ability to score rapidly and that is why he has the best strike rate in the T20 World Cup history that fetched him 799 runs in 27 matches.

## AB de Villiers: (143.40)



The now retired South African has had an outstanding strike rate in T20 World Cups. His ability to score quickly and decisively made him one of the most feared batters. De Villiers collected 717 runs in 29 innings with the help of 51 fours and 30 sixes.

## Chris Gayle: (142.75)



Gayle's unparalleled level of fearlessness and confidence helped him to an amazing 142.75 strike rate in the T20 World Cups. The Jamaican always backed himself to take on any bowler. Gayle is the only player to have scored two centuries in the event, both of which were match-winning efforts.

## Jayawardene: (134.74)



Jayawardene had an impressive average of 39.07 and a strike rate of 134.74, a fine reflection of his ability to score quickly while maintaining consistency.

## David Warner: (133.22)



Warner's aggressive approach will once again be crucial for Australia. His ability to score runs quickly and efficiently has made him one of the most exciting and effective batters in T20 World Cups.

| SINGAPORE OPEN |

## Treesa-Gayatri upset World No. 2 Baek-Lee

Press Trust of India

PV Sindhu faces another defeat against Carolina Marin at the Singapore Open.

**SINGAPORE:** Singapore: PV Sindhu faced another defeat against Carolina Marin, but the rising Indian women's doubles pair of Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand stunned world number two Baek Ha Na and Lee So Hee of South Korea to enter the quarterfinals at the Singapore Open on Thursday.

Double Olympic medalist Sindhu blew an 18-15 lead in the decider to lose to her familiar rival Marin in a thrilling 21-13, 11-21, 20-22 women's singles last-16 match. It marked Sindhu's sixth consecutive loss against Marin, dating back to 2018.

However, the Commonwealth Games bronze



Treesa-Gayatri

## HIGHLIGHT

● Treesa and Gayatri advance to Singapore Open quarterfinals, defeating top-ranked Korean opponents.

medallist duo of Treesa and Gayatri kept the Indian flag flying by defeating Baek and Lee 21-9, 14-21, 21-15 in a close to one-hour battle. This was the world number 30 Indian duo's maiden win from three meetings against the world number two Korean pair. They will

now face another South Korean pair, sixth seed Kim So Yeong and Kong Hee Yong, in the quarterfinals of the BWF World Tour Super 750 event.

The Baek-Lee duo was error-prone as Treesa and Gayatri held a commanding 18-9 lead before taking the opening game comfortably. However, the Indians allowed the South Koreans to bounce back, committing unforced errors in the second game, forcing a decider.

## Chhattisgarh Cricket Premier League from June 7

**RAIPUR:** Chhattisgarh State Cricket Sangh is set to organize the Chhattisgarh Cricket Premier League (CCPL) from June 7th to June 16th, 2024, at Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh International Cricket Stadium, Raipur. A team-wise training camp for players will be held from May 29th to June 5th at various locations. Training camps for the teams are already started

Raipur Rhinos: RDCA Ground, Raipur  
Bilaspur Bulls: Railways Stadium, Bilaspur  
Raigarh Lions: Gharghoda Cricket Stadium, Rajnandgaon  
Panthers: Dijiway Stadium, Rajnandgaon  
Surguja Tigers: Ambikapur Cricket Stadium  
Bastar Bisons: New Cricket Ground, Kanker

This league promises exciting cricket action and extensive preparation for the players. Fans are eagerly anticipating the thrilling matches and star performances expected in the tournament.

| HOCKEY |

## Indian women's hockey team gets rousing welcome in London

Press Trust of India

**LONDON:** The High Commission of India here gave a rousing welcome to the country's women's national hockey team as dignitaries sang paeans to the players for their achievements in the sport after overcoming obstacles on the road to success. The women's team, along with the senior India men's squad, is in the United Kingdom for the FIH Pro League fixtures starting this weekend. The Indian men's and women's sides are scheduled to play their counterparts from Germany here on Saturday.

"Each one of them represents every part of



Indian Women's Hockey team at the Indian High Commission, in London.

India and every region and community of India. Their stories are the most wonderful stories of what is possible in India," said Indian High Commissioner to the UK Vikram Doraiswami, in his address at the reception.

The reception was held

at the India House on Wednesday evening.

"Each one of these girls is a story of sacrifice and struggle by their parents, and also a story of triumph and of spirit.

"These young ladies inspire every one of us today because what they

## HIGHLIGHT

● The women's team, along with the senior India men's squad, is in the United Kingdom for the FIH Pro League fixtures starting this weekend.

have achieved tells us that there is no ceiling to human ambition, there is no ceiling in a country like India - where anything and everything can be possible," Doraiswami added. The Indian teams are coming to the UK after playing some difficult Pro League matches in Belgium against sides such as Argentina, Ireland and the hosts.

| T20 WC |

## Rishabh Pant: India jersey feels different

Press Trust of India

**NEW YORK:** It would be 527 days since his life-threatening accident when Rishabh Pant dons the India jersey on June 5 at the Nassau County ground for the opening T20 World Cup match against Ireland and he can't wait for it.

On March 23 this year, back after the horrific car crash in 2022 but he is more eager to wear a different shade of blue -- the



Seeing the team here and meeting them again, spending time, I really enjoyed.

Rishabh Pant  
Indian cricketer

'India Blue' to be specific. "Getting back on the field with an Indian jersey on is a different feeling

altogether. this is something I missed a lot...Hopefully I (can) make it count and make it better from here," Pant told BCCLTV on the sidelines of India's first net session ahead of the warm-up game against Bangladesh on June 1. "Seeing the team here and meeting them again, spending time, having fun with them, having a conversation with them, I really enjoyed," a beaming Pant said.

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"She's satisfied with her household; no ambition. Women relate to me, to Manju Devi."

Neena Gupta  
Actress



# & Finally

## OTT Watch



**The Iron Claw** grapples on streaming June 14th

Hollywood star Zac Efron's "The Iron Claw" starts streaming on Lionsgate Play in India from June 14. The sports drama, directed by Sean Durkin, chronicles the true story of the Von Erich brothers in professional wrestling.



**Scott steps into Knives Out 3**

Andrew Scott joins Daniel Craig, Josh O'Connor, and Cate Blanchett in "Wake Up Dead Man: A Knives Out Mystery," the third installment of the franchise directed by Rian Johnson, set to release on Netflix next year.



**Saif hints at upcoming film**

Saif Ali Khan's new project, "Jewel Thief - The Red Sun Chapter," directed by Robbie Grewal and produced by Siddharth Anand, is a heist drama also starring Jaideep Ahlawat. Khan and Anand reunite after 17 years.



**Paresh Rawal to star in 'The Taj Story'**

Veteran actor Paresh Rawal will star in "The Taj Story," directed by Tushar Amrishi Goel. Filming begins on July 20, 2024. Rawal announced the news on his official X page, with production by CA Suresh Jha.



**Action Reunion: Kajol & Prabhudeva**

Kajol and Prabhudeva are reuniting after 27 years for the action-packed thriller "Maharagni - Queen of Queens". Directed by Telugu filmmaker Charan Tej Uppalapati, the film boasts an ensemble cast including Naseeruddin Shah and Samyuktha Menon.

CLOSE UP

## Sharvari promises big surprises in upcoming Horror-Comedy Munjya

Sharvari is all set for her next film, Munjya, which is an exciting horror-comedy directed by the talented Aditya Sarpotdar.

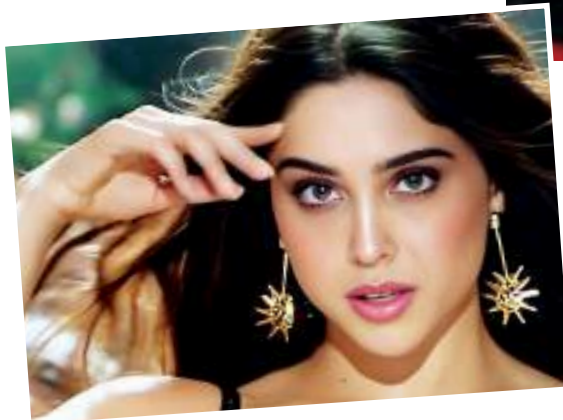
Central Chronicle News

The film also stars Mona Singh, Abhay Verma, and Sathyaraj and is inspired by Indian folklore and mythology. The mass entertainer is scheduled to be released on June 7, 2024.

Sharvari, renowned for her captivating performances in Bunty Aur Babli 2 and The Forgotten Army - Azaadi Ke Liye, eagerly anticipates her latest venture in the horror comedy Munjya. Produced by the esteemed Dinesh Vijan's Maddock Films, Munjya shares the cinematic universe with the acclaimed hits Stree and Bhediya. Directed by the talented Aditya Sarpotdar, known for his exceptional work in Marathi cinema as well, the much-awaited movie is set to premiere on June 7. Sharvari expresses profound gratitude for Vijan's unwavering belief in her talent, considering it a significant validation for her craft. "His confidence in me is truly humbling and validates my dedication to the art. I couldn't be prouder to be associated with Munjya," she remarked. Teasing audiences with the promise of a delightful surprise in the film, she is determined to captivate and enthrall them. "I am a significant surprise element in the film.



Sharvari Wagh breaks the internet with her first solo dance number 'Taras' from Munjya



Onward and Upward: Sharvari

Munjya features an ensemble cast including Abhay Verma, Mona Singh, and Sathyaraj. Produced by Vijan and Amar Kaushik, the film promises to be an exhilarating addition to the horror-comedy genre.

In addition to Munjya, Sharvari is set to grace the screen in the action-packed drama Vedaa, slated for release in July. This showcases her versatility and burgeoning talent in the industry, with audiences eagerly awaiting her forthcoming projects.

## CineBriefs

BEST OF THE REST

Bollywood

**Annu Kapoor urges patience in Hamare Baarah row**

Radhika G Films' "Hamare Baarah" is sparking attention with its thought-provoking narrative and performances, yet it's not without controversy. Annu Kapoor, a prominent figure in the film, urges audiences to reserve judgment until experiencing the entirety of the story. Amidst escalating tensions, Kapoor's plea for patience is underscored by seeking police protection. The film confronts India's population surge and women's challenges against Uttar Pradesh's backdrop. With Birender Bhagat producing, Kamal Chandra directing, and Rajan Agarwal scripting, the film promises a profound exploration of social issues.

Web Series

**Randeep Hooda's Savarkar streams on Zee 5**

Randeep Hooda's directorial debut 'Swatantrya Veer Savarkar' starts streaming on ZEE5, coinciding with Vinayak Damodar Savarkar's 141st birth anniversary. The film portrays Savarkar's revolutionary journey during India's independence struggle, with Hooda starring in the lead role. Ankita Lokhande plays Yamuna Bai, Savarkar's wife. 'Swatantrya Veer Savarkar' delves into the life of Vinayak Damodar Savarkar, born on May 28, 1883, in Bhagur. Experience the gripping tale of courage and conviction, and honor Savarkar's legacy by watching the film on ZEE5. Immerse yourself in history and witness the transformative power of one man's vision for a free India.

The Bollywood hot pair

**Maddock's new love story with Sid-Kriti**



Media reports suggest Siddharth Malhotra and Kriti Sanon will star in a romantic drama by Maddock Films. Although not officially confirmed, fans eagerly anticipate their pairing. Siddharth, transitioning from patriotic roles, may embrace romance after Yodha. Kriti, recognized for her

versatility, teams up with Siddharth post her successful outings. While Siddharth gears up for a mass action entertainer, Kriti focuses on her production debut Do Patti with Kajol and Shaheer Sheikh. Stay tuned for updates on this speculated collaboration amidst rising anticipation.

Fashion

**Black & Pearls: Karisma's classic look**

Karisma Kapoor recently graced the spotlight in a mesmerizing black dress by Gauri and Nainika, seamlessly blending contemporary design with vintage allure. Adorned with intricate pearl embellishments and strategically placed cut-outs, the gown's pleated skirt added an extra layer of drama to her silhouette. Opting for minimal accessories, Karisma's choice of pearl earrings and a sleek black purse perfectly complemented the monochromatic ensemble.



| HOLLYWOOD |

## Berry: Flintstones paved way for black women

Central Chronicle News

Celebrating the 30th anniversary of "The Flintstones," Halle Berry reflects on the film's impact, particularly for Black representation in Hollywood. Directed by Brian Levant, the 1994 live-action adaptation emerged as a significant milestone, blending nostalgia with contemporary relevance. Portraying Sharon Stone, Berry's role as a Black woman in Bedrock resonated deeply. In a heartfelt Instagram post, she acknowledged the film's cultural significance, recognizing it as a pivotal moment for Black people,



Halle Berry as Sharon Stone in The Flintstones.

HIGHLIGHT

Halle Berry reacts to scenes from one of her first big film roles in viral video: 'It was over the top and campy'

enduring impact. Berry expressed gratitude to fans for their continued support and affection for her character, Miss Stone. Her portrayal, though lighthearted, holds a special place in cinema history, highlighting the importance of representation and diversity in storytelling.

though seemingly minor, played a significant role in diversifying on-screen representation. As she revisited her scenes after two decades, Berry reminisced about the film's

## Trending on Insta



@shahidkapoor

**Ageless Shahid? Fans love his latest pic**

Shahid Kapoor teases fans on Instagram with a mirror selfie, hinting at a resemblance between his character in Deva and his iconic role in Haider, captioning it "Me and me just 10 years apart."

@priyankachopra

**Sweet Aussie welcome:**

Priyanka Chopra shares an Instagram reel from Australia, arriving for her film "The Bluff," featuring a stunning aerial view and a sweet moment with her daughter, Malti

Marie, at the airport.

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