

# Central Chronicle

## NEET row: CBI files FIR, sends teams to Bihar, Guj

Allegations of irregularities sparked protests in several cities, litigation and a slugfest.

Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI:** The CBI filed an FIR on Sunday in connection with alleged irregularities in the medical entrance exam NEET-UG held on May 5 on a reference from the Union education ministry, amid countrywide protests and litigation by students for a probe into paper leak claims. Officials said the ministry alleged in a complaint, now part of the FIR, to the agency that "certain isolated incidents" occurred in a few states during the conduct of the examination. Giving top priority to the case, the CBI has formed special teams that are en route to Godhra and Patna, where cases of question paper leaks have been registered by police, they said. The agency plans to take over the investigation of these cases registered by the police in Gujarat and Bihar,



CBI headquarters, in New Delhi.

**HIGHLIGHT**

● CBI has formed special teams that are en route to Godhra and Patna.

they added. "Steps are being taken to take over cases registered by state police," an official said. The CBI action came a day after the ministry

**ME requested the CBI to conduct a comprehensive investigation.**

**Official**  
CBI spokesperson announced it would hand over the probe into the alleged irregularities to

the central agency, a demand raised by a section of protesting students. "The ministry of education (ME) has requested the CBI to conduct a comprehensive investigation into the entire gamut of alleged irregularities, including conspiracy, cheating, impersonation, breach of trust and

destruction of evidence by candidates, institutes and middlemen," a CBI spokesperson said. The role of public servants, if any, connected with the conduct of the examination and also into the entire gamut of events, and the larger conspiracy will also be under the scanner, according to the officials.

## Arvind Kejriwal moves SC against HC's stay on bail

**NEW DELHI:** Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal has moved the Supreme Court against the Delhi High Court's interim stay on a trial court's order granting him bail in a money-laundering case linked to the alleged excise scam. The high court on Friday paused the release of the embattled chief minister after the trial court granted him bail on June 20. The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) national convener, who was arrested by the

Enforcement Directorate (ED) on March 21, could have walked out of Tihar Jail on Friday had the high court not granted the interim relief to the federal anti-money laundering agency. "Till the pronouncement of this order, the operation of the impugned order shall remain stayed," a vacation bench of the high court said and asked the parties to file written submissions by June 24.

## Mayawati declares 'successor'

**LUCKNOW:** Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) president on Sunday declared nephew Akash Anand her successor and made him the party's national coordinator, reversing her own previous decision. In the middle of the Lok Sabha elections on May 7, she had termed Akash Anand immature and relieved him of the party post.

## Cloudburst in Itanagar

**ITANAGAR:** A cloudburst on Sunday morning triggered multiple landslides and caused flooding in Itanagar, officials said. Despite heavy rains in Arunachal Pradesh over recent weeks, the weather had improved in the past two days with no forecast of rain, they added. The cloudburst occurred around 10:30 am, leading to landslides in various parts of Itanagar and adjacent areas. The NH-415, crucial for the state capital's connectivity.

**NEWSLINE**

**BENGALURU**  
**MLC Revanna in judicial custody**

JD(S) MLC Suraj Revanna, who has been arrested on charges of sexually abusing a male party worker, was produced before a magistrate court judge here on Sunday, who remanded him in judicial custody for 14 days. The investigation into the case was handed over to the CID earlier in the day, following which Suraj was shifted to Bengaluru from Hassan, and produced before the 42nd Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Court (ACMM) judge, at his residence.

**NEW DELHI**  
**Rahul writes emotional note**



Ahead of taking oath as the member of Parliament from Rae Bareilly, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi wrote an emotional letter to the people of Wayanad on Sunday, thanking them for their support. In the letter, the former Congress chief said he is sad but also consoled as his sister, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, will represent the people of Wayanad in Parliament.

**| VIOLENCE |**

## 2 CRPF jawans killed in IED blast as Naxals blow up truck

Press Trust Of India

The Naxal blast took place around 3 pm near Timmapuram village between Silger and Tekalgudem camps of security forces.

**SUKMA:** Two personnel of the Central Reserve Police Force's jungle warfare unit CoBRA were killed after Naxalites blew up a truck with an improvised explosive device (IED) in Sukma district on Sunday, police said.

The Naxal blast took place around 3 pm near Timmapuram village between Silger and Tekalgudem camps of security forces, over 400 km from the state capital Raipur, a senior police official said. An advance party



Ill-fated truck blown up in IED blast.

**FACTFILE**

● The security personnel were on motorcycles while their luggage and rations were being ferried in the ill-fated truck.

of the 201st unit of Commando Battalion for Resolute Action (CoBRA) had launched patrolling from Silger camp under Jagargunda police station limits as a part of its Road Opening Party duty towards Tekalgudem, he said.

The security personnel were on motorcycles while their luggage and rations were being ferried in the ill-fated truck, he said.

"Naxalites triggered an IED blast targeting the truck that claimed the lives of constable Shailendra (29), a resident of Uttar Pradesh, and driver Vishnu R (35) hailing from Kerala. The truck did not have any other occupant," he said.

After being alerted about the blast, more forces were rushed to the spot and the bodies were evacuated from the forest, while a search operation continues there, he said.

Expressing grief over the incident, Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai said in a message on X that the martyrdom of jawans will not go in vain.

## ISRO completes its RLV tech demonstrations thru LEX trio

Press Trust Of India

This mission simulated the approach and landing interface and high-speed landing conditions for a vehicle returning from space.

**BENGALURU:** Space agency ISRO on Sunday said it has achieved a third consecutive success in the Reusable Launch Vehicle Landing Experiment by demonstrating the autonomous landing capability of the launch vehicle under more challenging conditions.

This mission simulated the approach and landing interface and high-speed landing conditions for a vehicle returning from space, reaffirming the Indian Space Research Organisation's (ISRO) expertise in acquiring the most critical technologies



**HIGHLIGHT**

- Third and final test in the series of LEX-03 was conducted in Chitradurga, K'taka.
- ISRO's expertise proved in acquiring the most critical technologies required for RLV.

required for the development of a Reusable Launch Vehicle (RLV), the space agency said.

The third and final test in the series of Landing Experiment (LEX-03) was conducted at 07:10 IST at the Aeronautical

Test Range (ATR) in Chitradurga, Karnataka. Following the success of the RLV LEX-01 and LEX-02 missions, ISRO in a release said, RLV LEX-03 re-demonstrated the autonomous landing capability of the RLV under more challenging release conditions (cross range of 500 m against 150 m for LEX-02) and more severe wind conditions.

The winged vehicle, named 'Pushpak', was released from an Indian Air Force Chinook Helicopter at an altitude of 4.5 km "from a release point 4.5 km away from the runway.

Pushpak autonomously executed cross-range correction manoeuvres, approached the runway and performed a precise horizontal landing at the runway centreline," it said.

**AMRITSAR**  
**Fashion designer Archana booked**

The Punjab Police has booked a fashion designer and lifestyle influencer for "hurting religious sentiments" by performing yoga at the Golden Temple complex here. The case was registered after the Shriromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) filed a complaint against fashion designer Archana Makwana. She was booked under Section 295-A (deliberate and malicious intention of outraging the religious feelings of any class) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), police said on Sunday.



**Wellness**  
**Marble 2024: Bold veins, nautical blues, and luxurious choices**

Marble is reshaping 2024 interior design with bold veining patterns, nautical-inspired hues, and luxurious furniture choices. From grand palaces to modern homes, its timeless allure symbolizes sophistication and sustainability.

## 750 of 1,563 students skipped NEET-UG retest

Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI:** As many as 813 of the 1,563 candidates who were earlier awarded grace marks in NEET-UG appeared for a retest on Sunday, officials said. The retest was conducted at seven centres following an order from the Supreme Court. The grace marks were awarded to make up for

the loss of time at six centres where the examination started late on May 5. "At least 52 per cent -- 813 out of 1,563 candidates -- appeared for the retest on Sunday," a senior National Testing Agency (NTA) official said. The students who appeared for the exam will be issued a revised score. However, the students who have skipped



the retest will now be awarded their old original score, which is the score without the grace marks. As per data, none of the two candidates from Chandigarh appeared

**NUMBER**  
**52**

● At least 52 per cent, 813 out of 1,563 candidates appeared for the retest. 291 students out of 602 appeared from Chh'garh.

for the exam. A total of 291 students out of 602

appeared from Chhattisgarh, 1 student from Gujarat, 287 out of 494 appeared from Haryana and 234 appeared from Meghalaya's Tura. Amid a raging row over alleged irregularities in the medical entrance exam, the NTA on Sunday debarred 17 candidates who had appeared for the exam on May 5 at centres in Bihar.

## Sonakshi, Zaheer wed at private ceremony

Press Trust Of India

**MUMBAI:** "We are now man and wife," longtime actor couple Sonakshi Sinha and Zaheer Iqbal said on Sunday after their low-key ceremony in the presence of family and close friends. Sonakshi, 37, and Zaheer, 35, wed in a civil marriage at the "Heeramandi"

star's sea-facing Bandra West apartment with the blessings of their families and "both of our gods". The newlyweds shared their news of their wedding in a joint Instagram post. "On this very day, seven years back (23.06.2017) in each other's eyes, we saw love in its purest form and dedicated to hold on to it.

# Raipur



Peaceful Chhattisgarh  
has become restless  
under BJP rule  
**Sushil Anand Shukla,**  
PCC Communication Head



MP Brijmohan Agarwal instructs NHAI to provide land acquisition amount to farmers soon.

## Negligence will not be tolerated: Brijmohan

Land use should not proceed until the farmers are paid.

Central Chronicle News

**RAIPUR:** MP Brijmohan Agarwal has taken decisive action regarding central schemes, especially concerning the long-pending compensation for land acquired under the Bharat Mala National Highway Scheme. Farmers from the Abhanpur area have not yet received the compensation amount of Rs 78 crore for their acquired land, leading to complaints directed to MP Agarwal. The issue pertains to the Raipur Visakhapatnam National Highway

Bharat Mala Project. Despite an order for payment on June 30, 2022, farmers from villages Bhelwadih, Tokro, Nayakbandha, and Urla Abhanpur have yet to see the funds.

The delay was attributed to a report from a newly appointed NHAI officer, which claimed that the payment amount was 30 percent higher than expected, causing a bureaucratic hold-up.

Responding to the farmers' grievances, MP Brijmohan Agarwal instructed Commissioner Sanjay Alang,

### HIGHLIGHT

● Farmers from the Abhanpur area have not yet received the compensation amount of Rs 78 crore for their acquired land, leading to complaints directed to MP Agarwal.

Collector Gaurav Singh, and RO AK Singh of the National Highway Authority to release 75 percent of the compensation within a week. Agarwal emphasized the unfairness of utilizing

the land and commencing construction without settling compensation and insisted that land use should not proceed until the farmers are paid, aligning with the BJP government's policy.

Agarwal sternly warned officials to handle central schemes with the utmost seriousness, as negligence would not be tolerated. The farmers, represented by former Apex Bank Chairman Ashok Bajaj and accompanied by several local leaders and farmers, presented their case, leading to the decisive actions by the MP.

## Provide seeds to farmers on time: CS

**RAIPUR:** Chief Secretary Amitabh Jain emphasized the importance of providing fertilizers and seeds to farmers promptly during the current Kharif season. In a video conference with Divisional Commissioners and Collectors on Sunday, he highlighted the need for immediate organization of camps to benefit farmers under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi scheme. He stressed the urgency of completing KYC, including Aadhaar seeding in bank accounts, and ensuring the transfer of beneficiaries under the Forest Rights Act (FRA). Jain also discussed the upcoming implementation of the new Code of Justice from July 1, 2024. He instructed that arrangements should be made for conducting workshops in districts, ensuring the participation of enlightened citizens and college students. Special campaigns were mandated to resolve both disputed and undisputed revenue cases.

Central Chronicle News

Students participating in the re-exam shared their concerns and challenges.

**RAIPUR:** The NEET UG re-exam has commenced in Balod, with strict security measures and videography in place to ensure a smooth and fair examination process. This re-exam is specifically for students who received grace marks in the initial NEET UG exam results. The examination center has been established at DAV School in Dallirajhara, Balod. Students entered the examination center with their admit cards, and the exam officially started at 2:00 pm and continued till 5:20 pm. The final entry time was set at 1:30 pm, after which the doors were closed. A total



000

### FACTFILE

● The re-examination was necessitated by irregularities during the original NEET exam.

of 185 students appeared the re-exam at the Dallirajhara center. To maintain the integrity of the exam, videography is being conducted throughout the

duration. The re-examination was necessitated by irregularities during the original NEET exam held on May 5 in Balod. At one of the examination centers, students were initially given incorrect question papers. After 45 minutes, the correct papers were distributed, but the students were not compensated with extra time as initially promised. This led

## BJP to observe 'Black Day of Emergency' on June 25

**RAIPUR:** The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) will observe the 'Black Day of Emergency' on June 25th across all districts in the state, commemorating the 21-month period from 1975 to 1977 when Prime Minister Indira Gandhi imposed an Emergency in India. State convenor of the organizing committee, Sachchidanand Upasane, announced that Chief Minister Vishnudeo Sai and Chief Spokesperson Loktantra Senani and National Vice President Sachchidanand Upasane will be the chief guests at the state-level event in Raipur. The Emergency period, which saw the suspension of constitutional rights, suppression of political opposition, and media censorship, is considered by the BJP as a "black chapter" in Indian history. The BJP's annual observance of this day aims to remind the public of the dangers of authoritarian rule and the importance of democratic values. Chief Minister Vishnudeo Sai will participate in the Raipur event, joined by Sachchidanand Upasane, who emphasized the significance of remembering this period of India's history.

## Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

### RENEWAL

#### e-KYC for Ration Cards to be completed till June 30 in Chhattisgarh

**RAIPUR:** The Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Protection Department has announced that the renewal of all categories of ration cards and the completion of e-KYC for ration card holders must be completed by June 30, 2024. This directive applies to the Antyodaya, Priority, Single Destitute, Disabled, and APL scheme ration cards. The renewal process is crucial as it ensures that all ration cards are updated and valid, allowing beneficiaries to continue receiving their entitlements. The e-KYC process is mandatory for the renewal of ration cards, serving as a key step in the verification and update procedure. Currently, there are about 77 lakh ration card beneficiaries in the state. Out of these, 70 lakh beneficiaries have successfully renewed their ration cards.

### EXAM RESULTS

#### 10th-12th Re-calculation and Re-evaluation exam results released

**RAIPUR:** The Chhattisgarh Board of Secondary Education (CGBSE), Raipur, has announced the results for the re-calculation and re-evaluation of the Higher Secondary Main Examination for the year 2024. The results were released on June 23 and are now available on the Board's official website, www.cgbse.nic.in. According to the Secretary of the Chhattisgarh Board of Secondary Education, a total of 10,960 applications were received for re-calculation, while 9,876 applications were submitted for re-evaluation. The results have shown changes in marks for a significant number of students. Specifically, 153 applications for re-calculation and 4,284 applications for re-evaluation resulted in changes, making a total of 4,437 students whose marks were altered.



### Advanced surgical techniques

#### Patients celebrate mobility with dance and Fashion walk after joint transplant surgery



**RAIPUR:** A heartwarming event was recently held at Ramakrishna Care Hospital, Bilaspur, where patients who had undergone joint transplant surgeries showcased their regained mobility through a dance and fashion walk. Organized by joint transplant specialist Dr. Ankur Singhal, the event highlighted the transformative impact of advanced surgical techniques on patients' lives. Dr. Ankur Singhal, known for his expertise in joint transplant surgeries, invited patients to share their experiences. Many of these patients, some aged 80 to 85, demon-

strated their newfound ability to walk without support - a stark contrast to their pre-surgery dependence on sticks and wheelchairs. The event celebrated not just their physical recovery but also their return to a normal, active lifestyle. The success stories were made possible through Dr. Singhal's use of the Minimum Cut Technique (MCT). This innovative approach involves performing the surgery through a small incision without stitching the skin, which significantly reduces pain, speeds up recovery, and eliminates the need for blood transfusions.

### The Day's NUMBERS

#### ELECTRICITY PRODUCTION IN THE STATE

Year	Production (million units)
2024	26,732.56
2023	23,572.97
2022	20,883.01
2021	11,896.80
2020	11,241.10

Source :Agencies

### TRIBUTES PAID

#### Chief Minister pays tribute to Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee

**RAIPUR:** Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai paid homage to the esteemed educationist, nationalist thinker, and philosopher Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee on his martyrdom day. On June 23, the Chief Minister garlanded a photograph of Dr. Mukherjee at his residence office, honoring his memory and contributions to the nation. During the tribute, Chief Minister Sai spoke highly of Dr. Mukherjee's dedication, loyalty, and patriotism. He emphasized that Dr. Mukherjee's thoughts and principles continue to inspire generations. "His strong principles and thinking showed a new direction to the youth. He will always be remembered for his immense patriotism and dedication to the unity and integrity of the nation," said Chief Minister Sai. The Chief Minister reaffirmed the commitment to Dr. Mukherjee's ideals, expressing determination to build a prosperous and strong India by following the path laid out by the late philosopher. The tribute serves as a reminder of Dr. Mukherjee's lasting impact on Indian society and his unwavering dedication to the country's unity and progress.

### TENNIS TOURNAMENT

#### Manasvi and Viharsharan Bhatia triumph in Bhavan's Open Tennis Tournament



**RAIPUR:** The Bhavnas RK Sarda Vidya Mandir hosted the Under-17 Tennis Tournament, where Manasvi emerged victorious in the girls' category and Viharsharan Bhatia clinched the title in the boys' category. The school-level competition saw participation from around 40 young players, showcasing their talents on the tennis court. In the semi-finals, Aiyana triumphed over Shailja with a score of 7-5, while Manasvi defeated Gyanvi 7-4 to secure her spot in the final. In a decisive final match, Manasvi outplayed Aiyana with an 8-3 victory, earning the prestigious title in the girls' category. The semi-finals witnessed Shivansh defeating Vedanchal 7-3. In the other semi-final, Viharsharan Bhatia overcame Manas with a close 7-5 victory to advance to the final.

### TRAINING PROGRAM |

## Training held of Legal Aid Defense Counsels

Central Chronicle News

**RAIPUR:** The Chhattisgarh State Legal Services Authority (SALSA), in collaboration with the State Judicial Academy, has commenced a three-day advanced training program for Chief, Deputy, and Assistant Legal Aid Defense Counsels.

These councils are appointed under the Legal Aid Defense Counsels System in 23 districts of the state. The program is being held at the



State Judicial Academy, Bilaspur. The inaugural session was graced by Justice Ramesh Sinha, Chief Justice of the Chhattisgarh High Court and Chief Patron of SALSA, who emphasized the collective responsibility of providing high-quality free legal aid to prisoners

and the needy. He urged the councils to effectively fulfill their responsibilities and thoroughly study the new laws to ensure proper defense for those under trial. Justice Gautam Bhaduri, Judge of the Chhattisgarh High Court and Executive Chairman of SALSA, highlighted

### Collective responsibility to provide free legal aid to prisoners and needy.

Justice Ramesh Sinha,  
Chief Justice, Chhattisgarh HC

the primary objective of NALSA and SALSA, which is to protect the innocent and needy. He encouraged the councils to view their roles not as mere assign-

ments but as service-oriented responsibilities.

Justice Sanjay K. Agarwal, Judge of the Chhattisgarh High Court and Chairman of the State Judicial Academy, discussed the importance of the upcoming Indian Judicial Code, Indian Civil Defense Code, and Indian Evidence Act.

These new laws, effective from July 1, aim to enhance the justice system, promote social equality, and ensure swift and effective justice.



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**KALSEE/KAL-MAT**



Awareness drive underway to disseminate information on new criminal laws

Satya Narayan Rathore  
Divisional Commissioner, Durg

# SAIL-MTI Ranchi signs MoU with IIM Raipur

To collaborate on academic activities and HRD interventions.



Sanjay Dhar, CGM (HR-L&D) on behalf of SAIL-MTI, Ranchi, and Prof Ram Kumar Kakani, Director (IIM Raipur) were MoU signatories.

Central Chronicle News

## FASTFACTS

**BHILAI:** A MoU was signed between SAIL-Management Training Institute (MTI), Ranchi, and the Indian Institute of Management Raipur (IIM Raipur), for the provision of Learning and Development (L&D) services to MTI for its selected employees, by IIM Raipur, for coming three years. KK Singh, Director(Personnel), SAIL joined the programme virtually while Anirban Dasgupta, Director I/c (BSP) presided over the

• This MoU will enable creation of tailor made courses for SAIL

• MTI will also render academic support to IIM Raipur

MoU signing ceremony to MTI at Ispat Bhawan. Sanjay Dhar, CGM (HR-L&D) on behalf of SAIL-MTI, Ranchi, and Prof Ram Kumar Kakani, Director (IIM Raipur) were signatories to the Memorandum of Understanding. Prof Satyasiba Das,

## IIM Raipur will provide Learning and Development services to MTI

IIM Raipur will provide L&D services including certificate programmes, open programmes, custom-designed programmes, Faculty support in SAIL MTI programmes etc. Under this initiative, MTI will also render academic support to IIM Raipur. With this MoU, SAIL and IIM Raipur shall collaborate on academic activities and HRD interventions and organise training programmes for MTI-nominated participants by IIM Raipur through Open Programmes or customised Programmes of IIM Raipur, and joint training programmes for a third party particularly in the steel and allied sectors.

Dean, External Relations and Prof Varsha Maidi, Chairperson, Entrepre-

neurship from IIM Raipur were present as Special Guests.

## Women Commission hearing on July 04

**BHILAI:** Chhattisgarh State Women Commission Chairperson Dr Kiranmayi Nayak and Members will conduct hearing of 41 cases of Durg district related to harassment of women on July 04 in Durg. Hearing will commence at 11:00 hrs at Prerna Sabhakhaksha of Balgrih Complex, Panch Building, Women and Child Development Department office, Durg. After the Lok Sabha polls and with the model code of conduct being enforced, no hearing into the cases could take place for last three months and due to which on lifting of code of conduct that this fresh date of hearing into the pending cases of women's commission.

## Biker rams into parked truck; dies

**BHILAI:** A youth was killed after his bike rammed into a parked truck at Dhamdha. The deceased was identified as Tameshwar Kosre (24) son of Human Das Kosre a resident of village Mandla, Khairagarh. Police lodged an FIR against the driver of truck bearing registration number MP07-GA-6803 under section 304-A, 283 of IPC.

## Events organised for water conservation

Central Chronicle News

**BHILAI:** With the joint efforts of Bhilai Municipal Corporation and Surya Vihar Colony, a seminar was organised on Sunday. As per the instructions of the District Collector, the event emphasised public awareness for the success of the 'Catch the Rain' campaign. BMC Officers, residents of Surya Vihar Residency and locals attended the programme. Drawing and painting competition was organised for the children. They gave the message of saving rainwater to save the future. Women staged a street play and gave the message of saving every

drop of water. They demonstrated how we waste water in our homes. We can save thousands of liters of water by preventing wastage while

## HIGHLIGHT

• Women and children give message of 'Catch the Rain'

brushing teeth, bathing, washing utensils, washing cars, cooking food, washing hands and feet, etc. Under the Catch the Rain campaign, officers and employees of the corporation are visiting various colonies, labour colonies, slum housing societies, etc.

## BMC removes roadside encroachments

Central Chronicle News

**BHILAI:** Bhilai Municipal Corporation is continuously taking action against roadside vendors and encroachers. Zone Commissioner Yesha Lehre and her team conducted an inspection on Sunday. During the visit, the team spotted the workers of Bombay Dhaba throwing garbage in the drains. Taking immediate action against them, a fine of Rs 8000 was imposed on the dhaba owner. The Municipal Corporation

team inspected the road between Supela Gada Chowk to Under Bridge. Even after repeated warnings, some of the traders continue to encroach upon the road for doing business. On spotting the BMC team, most of them fled from the spot. On the other hand, some people started arguing with the team. Bhilai Municipal Corporation team took action against the traders who had put their shops on the roadside even after repeated warnings.

## NEWSLINE

### RENAMED

**Supela Under-Bridge named after Lt VR Bhasin**



**BHILAI:** The newly constructed Supela Under Bridge in Bhilai Municipal Corporation limits has been named after former MLA Late Vidya Ratan Bhasin on his first death anniversary. On this occasion, family members, his wife Chander Bhasin, daughter Divya Bhasin Makkar, son-in-law Sanjay Makkar, Vaishali Nagar MLA Rikesh Sen, Mayor Neeraj Pal, MIC members, Bhilai BJP President Mahesh Verma, Corporators, public representatives, social workers, businessmen, and citizens were present.

### BREACH OF TRUST

**Cement factory files complaint against transporter**

**BHILAI:** ACC Cement Jamul filed an FIR against the transporters and contractor on charges of criminal breach of trust. The transporter was supplying sub-standard coal to the cement factory. Even after repeated reminders, there was no improvement. Recently, the company received sub-standard coal consignment in three trucks bearing registration numbers CG10 BS 8330, CG 11 AB 7704 and CG04 LR 7645. An FIR under section 407, 511 has been lodged against the drivers and owners of the trucks.

### DEATH

**BSF jawan's live-in partner found hanging**

**BHILAI:** A woman allegedly committed suicide by hanging self at the rented house of a BSF Jawan. The investigating police initially believed that she was his wife but later it was discovered that she was his live-in partner. BSF Jawan's wife and five children live in Kolkata. The deceased was identified as Pinky Singh (28) a resident of Assam. She was living in Bhilai with BSF Jawan Santosh Singh Rajput at a rented house in Priyadarshini Parisar. Recently they shifted to a new house in Indira Nagar Supela, where the woman committed suicide.

### FELO-DE-SE

**Teenage girl commits suicide**

**BHILAI:** A 14-year-old girl allegedly committed suicide by hanging self at home on Sunday morning. She was a student of class 10th. The deceased was Laxmi Vishwakarma, a resident of PM Awas Colony near Amrapali Vananchal. Around 05:30 hrs, she dropped her grandmother off at her work place. After returning back, she had a cup of tea with her mother. Later, the family members found her hanging in her room.

## Bar and Bench practice Yoga on IYD



Central Chronicle News

**BHILAI:** District Legal Services Authority Durg organised a special yoga session on the occasion of International Yoga Day at the New Auditorium of District Court Durg. District and Sessions Judge Sudhir Kumar and Family Court Principal Judge Gijra Devi Meravi, other judicial officers of District Court and Family Court, judicial employees, Counsel of Legal Aid, Bar Association President Neeta Jain, Secretary Ravi Shankar Singh and other advocates participated in the program.

Khushal Chandra Chauhan and Chandrakala Chauhan, Master Trainer of Art of Living Bhilai,

were specially invited as yoga instructors to conduct the session. They displayed various yoga asanas and explained the benefits of yoga. One can get a healthy and fit body by regularly practicing yoga every day. Yoga is useful for physical and mental health. They said that the art of living a stress-free life in this stressful world is possible only through yoga. Today the entire world is practicing yoga and experiencing its benefits. We are proud that Yoga is India's gift to the world, he said.

District and Session Judge Sudhir Kumar appreciated and thanked the master trainers and urged all the people to practice yoga daily.

## Bootlegger nabbed with liquor

**BHILAI:** Police arrested a man on charges of peddling illicit liquor. Acting on a tip off, a team of Chhawani Police Station nabbed Balvinder Singh (34) son of Jagir Singh a resident of Camp-2, Bhilai. 29 quarters of liquor worth Rs 3480 were recovered from his possession. He was booked under the provisions of the Excise Act.

## Truck hits pedestrian

**BHILAI:** A pedestrian was hit by a rashly moving truck at Saksharta Square in Supela on Sunday. The victim Moolchand Sao is a labourer and was crossing the national highway when a speeding truck bearing registration number RJ47-GA-3362 hit him. The victim suffered injuries on left leg and hands and is recuperating at District Hospital. Police lodged an FIR against the accused truck driver.

# Devasnan Purnima celebrated with fervour

| MAHAPRABHU FALLS ILL |

Central Chronicle News

Mahaprabhu was brought to the Devsnan Mandap while performing Pahandi

**BHILAI:** Shri Jagannath Temple Sector-4 will celebrate the 55th Rath Yatra Festival of Mahaprabhu Shri Jagannath Swami ji with religious fervour. As the first episode of the Rath Yatra, the religious event of Devsnan Purnima was performed on Saturday. Mahaprabhu was taken out of the temple and brought to the Devsnan Mandap while performing Pahandi with musical instruments. Mahaprabhu Shri Jagannath Swamy, elder brother Lord Shri Balabhadra Dev, and sister Mata Subhadra were bathed



Rituals of Devsnan being performed.

## FASTFACTS

• God on falling fell ill is kept in Ansar Griha

• Temple doors closed, herbs and divine medicines to be offered to God

with scented water in Devsnan Mandap with all the rituals performed by Purohit Pitwas Padhi

and Pandit Seemanchal Rath, Saroj Das, Prakash Das, Ranjan Mohapatra, Ranjit Rath, Sushant Satpathy.

After the bath, Mahaprabhu was decorated in the guise of a Gajraj. Due to Mahaprabhu falling ill after Devsnan, he was set in Ansar Griha for rest. Now till July 05, the doors of the temple

will remain closed. Various herbs and divine medicines will be offered to Mahaprabhu during this period. The doors of temple will now be opened for darshan after "Netrotsav festival on July 05. Then on July 07 a rath yatra will be taken out from Shri Jagannath Temple located in Sector-4.

| SKILL TRAINING |

## Godna tattoo art training inaugurated at Village Dumardih

Central Chronicle News

**BHILAI:** SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant's CSR Department in association with Chhattisgarh Hasthshilp Vikas Board inaugurated a three-month training to train women from Village Dumardih, Durg in the skill of Godna tattoo-making. Preeti Bhatnagar, GM (MM) inaugurated the 3-month-long workshop.

Shivrajan Nair, GM (CSR), CS Kehri, Manager (CG Handicrafts Devpt Board), Chakshuprabha,



The guests at the inaugural function of training.

Sarpanch (Village Dumardih), SK Kamde, Sr Mgr (CSR), and other officials from the CSR Department and CG Handicrafts Devpt Board were present on this occasion, along with trainee women, Panchayat

representatives, and villagers in large numbers.

As many as 30 women shall be trained in the skill of Godna tattoo-making by trainer Gayatri Das, so that they can be self-employed and thereby empowered.

“Tattoo making is very attractive art in today's era and is in demand”

Preeti Bhatnagar,  
GM (MM), BSP

During the course of their training, the women would be given a stipend of Rs 3,000 per month.

Chief guest in her address appreciated

the training initiatives by the CSR department to empower women. This training program is a holistic approach to providing employment opportunities to women and making them self-reliant. Tattoo making is very attractive art in today's era, and there is also a lot of demand for handicrafts in the market, said Bhatnagar. At the outset, Shivrajan Nair, gave the welcome address and highlighted the significance of godna tattoo art training.

## Fight the Bite campaign underway

Central Chronicle News

**BHILAI:** Bhilai Municipal Corporation is conducting a campaign to avoid mosquito-borne diseases. The joint teams of District Malaria Eradication Department and Municipal Corporation Bhilai are visiting various wards and efforts are being made to prevent the production of larvae at the source. Apart from this, Mitans are visiting door-to-door two days a week and inspecting the spots of water accumulation in coolers, pots, tyres,

tanks, etc and are destroying the larvae.

Experts opined that people can prevent breeding of mosquitoes by keeping the cooler or utensils dry. Through small steps, people can win the war against dengue, malaria and water-borne diseases. Dry Day is observed every Wednesday in the BMC office. If the team of the Health Department or Municipal Corporation is not visiting any locality, people can seek help from the Control Room on telephone number 07882294303.

# Fake notes printed by Naxalites seized

Naxalites were allegedly using the fake currency notes in weekly markets.



A huge cache of fake currency notes belonging to Naxalites and equipment used to print them in Sukma district.

Central Chronicle News

## FASTFACTS

● The recovery was made on Saturday evening on a forested hill near Korajguda village of the district.

**SUKMA:** Security forces have for the first time recovered a huge cache of fake currency notes belonging to Naxalites and equipment used to print them in Chhattisgarh's Sukma district, a senior police official said on Sunday.

According to the police, Naxalites were allegedly using the fake currency notes in weekly markets of interior areas of Bastar region for a long time and duping innocent tribals.

Naxalites were also trying to destabilise the Indian economy with this

move, Sukma Superintendent of Police Kiran G Chavan claimed. The recovery was made on Saturday evening on a forested hill near Korajguda village of the district when a joint team of security personnel from various forces was out on a search operation, he said, without specifying the exact face value of the fake currency. "For the first

## Naxalites engaged in printing fake notes

"Prima facie it was found that Naxalites were engaged in printing fake notes in huge quantities. Further investigation suggested that in 2022, Naxalites in west Bastar division area gave training of printing fake notes to one or two members of each of their area committees," he said. The continuous anti-Naxal operations have choked the funding chain of ultras, he said. "Under pressure and due to shortage of funds, Naxalites have been trying to use fake notes for procurement of various items in the weekly markets of the region's interior pockets and duping local tribal vendors," he said.

time, fake currency notes belonging to Naxalites have been recovered in the state which has been struggling with the menace for more than three decades," Chavan said terming the seizure as a crucial success in

the anti-Naxal operation.

On sensing the presence of security personnel near Korajguda, Naxalites escaped into a dense forest leaving behind their belongings, the official said.

## Selection exam of Class 11th in Prayas on July 21

**RAIPUR:** The entrance exam in Class 11th of Paryas Residential School run by the SC, ST Development department will be held on July 21 from 11:00 am to 1:30 pm at different examination centres.

The students interested in taking part in the selection exam can apply through department's website viz. [www.tribal.cg.gov.in](http://www.tribal.cg.gov.in) till 8 July 2024.

## Co-op inspectors appointed

**RAIPUR:** It is based upon the results of the exam by State Public Service Commission exam year 2022, the appointment of selected officers in the co-operative department has been made. The appointed candidate will be on three years probation from the date of joining on temporary basis till further orders. The candidates who have been appointed in the post of Co-operative Inspectors include Shashank Tiwari in Korba; Garima Sharma in Janjgir-Champa, Nitin Agrawal inDurg, Abhishek Kumar Sinha in Raipur; Rukhsar Bano in Mungeli, Samridhi Tamrakar in Mahasamund; Mukesh Gupta in Raipur; Manish Kumar Ratre in Bilaspur.

## Restoration work in Collector, District Panchayat office done

Central Chronicle News

**RAIPUR:** The District Collector's and SP office in Balodabazar suffered massive damage in the arson and violence that took place few days back. To restore the damages caused, the restoration work of the Collectorate got completed today.

It is as per instructions by the Chief Minister, the Collector Deepak Soni completed the same with a well-formulated strategy. The Public Works department worked for 24 hours and completed it soon. Apart from this the restoration of the damaged District Panchayat office and District Election office was also completed in record time along with cleaning. On completion of the restoration work, there is an altogether a different look of the office



## HIGHLIGHT

● It is as per instructions by the Chief Minister, the Collector Deepak Soni completed the same with a well-formulated strategy.

now. In the restoration work, the construction of parapet; removal of burnt APC board; new railing and whitewash with 'putti', installation of CCTVs, Broadband; removal of window panes, ACs, fans, lights, switches and others was done.

## Tokhan Sahu pays courtesy visit to CM Sai

**RAIPUR:** The Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai accorded warm welcome to the newly elected LS MP and Union Minister of State for Housing and Urban Affairs Tokhan Sahu at his official residence here on Sunday. Sai extended greetings to Sahu on becoming Union Minister of State at the Centre.

CM Sai held detailed talks with the Union Minister of State for Housing and Urban Affairs about giving momentum to the housing and urban development schemes in Chhattisgarh. On this occasion MLA Purandhar Mishra, along with citizens of Mungeli, Bilaspur, Lormi, Takathpur and other places of Bilaspur region were present.

## NEWSLINE

### BRAND ENDORSER

**Sumit Nagal made Brand Endorser of BoB**



**RAIPUR/MUMBAI:** Bank of Baroda (Bank), one of India's leading public sector banks, today announced that the Bank has signed rising Indian tennis player Sumit Nagal as its brand endorser. The move is in alignment with the Bank's long-standing philosophy to support emerging talented and ambitious Indian sportspersons as they endeavour to compete with the best on the world stage. Aged 26 years, Sumit Nagal will be strategically positioned by the Bank to target a younger demographic and a new generation of customers with a range of products specifically designed for this segment.

### REVIEW

**Balodabazar Collector, SP review law and order**

**RAIPUR:** As the traces of recent violent agitation in the collectorate, is diminishing, and the office administration is gradually coming back to normal, the Balodabazar District Collector Deepak Soni and Senior Superintendent of Police Vijay Agarwal today reviewed the law and order in a meeting with senior officials. All sub divisional magistrates (SDMs) and sub divisional officer-police (SDOPs) were asked to strengthen the information system at the ground level and increase police patrolling. The Collector instructed the concerned officers to compulsorily hold peace committee meetings in villages from time to time, keep a constant watch on religious places.

### CRIME

**Liquor contractor brutally beats his wife**

**RAIPUR:** A heart-wrenching video of a man was seen beating his wife. The victim lady has blamed city police for not taking action against her husband. As the video showing the brutality of the liquor contractor is intolerable the degree of the torture can be fathomed, yet no case has been registered against the accused, lamented the victim.

The victim accused her husband, liquor contractor Priyaprakash Gupta alias Raju, a resident of Boriyakhurd, and her brother-in-law of brutally beating her and doing obscene acts to her. In the viral video, husband Priyaprakash is seen brutally beating his wife on the road. The victim has accused the husband and his brother Prabhsh Gupta alias Kaju Gupta of brutally beating her. The victim has also accused her brother-in-law and husband of doing obscene acts after beating her. When she went to Tikrapara Police Station, despite complaining for the last several days, the police did not take any action, she blamed.

## Action taken against unauthorized vendors at Rly stn



Central Chronicle News

**RAIPUR:** On June 23, 2024, under the guidance of Senior Divisional Commercial Manager Avadhesh Kumar Trivedi, the Commercial Department conducted a thorough inspection of catering services and unauthorized vending at Raipur Station.

The inspection, led by Divisional Commercial Manager Rakesh Singh, Assistant Commercial Manager Arvind Kumar Sawhney, along with 04 Chief Commercial Inspectors, Senior Publicity Inspector, and 15 TTEs, covered all platforms at Raipur Sta-

tion and trains passing through, including the 12130 Azad Hind Express and 12410 Gondwana Express. A rigorous campaign was conducted against unauthorized vendors and a special drive was initiated to enhance catering quality.

During this operation, 05 unauthorized vendors from Sopan Caterers and 04 trolleys from Sun Shine Caterers were apprehended for selling food openly on the platforms without proper covering. Three vendor staff members were also caught during checking without appropriate uniforms and were dealt with accordingly.

## Sai condoles demise of Agni Chandrakar

**RAIPUR:** Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai paid condolences on sad demise of former MLA and senior leader Agni Chandrakar. He prayed for peace to the departed soul and offered condolences to grief stricken family members.

## CM Sai offer rich tributes to Rani Durgawati

**RAIPUR:** CM Vishnu Deo Sai remembered Rani Durgawati on her martyrdom day i.e June 24 and offered her rich tributes. Sai said that Rani Durgawati is among the courageous fighters of Bharat, who sacrificed their lives for the safety and security of mother land. She has written a new chapter of victory with her courage and dare. Her courage and martyrdom would always continue to motivate the countrymen.

## MATS students showcase talent and creativity

FASHIONOTSAV-2024

Central Chronicle News

MATS School of Fashion Designing & Technology proudly organized its annual fashion show, FASHIONOTSAV 2024, one of the most prestigious events promoted by MATS University.

**RAIPUR:** The MATS School of Fashion Designing & Technology proudly organized its annual fashion show, FASHIONOTSAV 2024, one of the most prestigious events promoted by MATS University. The ceremony, held at Chokar Dhani, witnessed the gracious presence of esteemed dignitaries and distinguished guests, who came together to celebrate and support the budding talents of the fashion designing students.

The chief guest for



Students of MATS presented variety of designs in fashion show.

## FASTFACTS

● The students presented their mesmerizing designs and outfits through various thematic rounds, including Bridal collection, Kathakali outfit.

the event was Dr. Aruna Palta, Vice Chancellor of The Hemchand Yadav Vishwavidyalaya who described the event as

commendable. The guests lauded the efforts of MATS University and motivated the students by highlighting the vast career prospects in fashion designing. The program was inaugurated with the lighting of the lamp in front of the idol of Maa Saraswati by the Chief guest Dr. Aruna Palta, Chancellor of MATS University Shri Gajraj Pagaria, Director General Shri Priyesh Pagaria, Vice Chancellor Prof. KP Yadav, Pro Vice Chancellor Dr.

Deepika Dhand, Registrar Shri Gokulananda Panda, and Head of Department Mrs. Parvinder Kaur. Many notable and esteemed guests attended the show.

Audrey Hepburn once said, "Elegance is the only beauty that never fades," and this sentiment was vividly reflected in the event. "Fashionotsav" served as a platform for all the fashion designing students to showcase their style quotient and creativity.

BREAK THE BARRIER

## Walkathon for infertility awareness month

Central Chronicle News

**RAIPUR:** Nova IVF Fertility celebrated Infertility Awareness Month with a walkathon in Marine Drive Raipur. The event, held on June 23, intended to break the stigma around infertility and promote open conversations about the medical condition. The Chief Guest, Ms Lalita Meher, Deputy Superintendent of Police Raipur and Dr Paulami Dey, Fertility Specialist at Nova



IVF Fertility, flagged the event. Over 80 participants came forward to spread awareness of infertility.

"Infertility is not just a problem in big cities; it's becoming common in smaller cities

too," said Dr Paulami Dey, Fertility Consultant at Nova IVF Fertility Raipur. "In Raipur, I see PCOS (hormonal disorder) in 35-40% of women and unhealthy sperm in 50% of men.

One major cause of rising infertility is the increased use of tobacco, especially Gutka, which significantly affects male fertility. Additionally, many men use steroids for bodybuilding, which also reduces their ferti-

ity. Through this Walkathon, we aim to educate the public about infertility and break the stigma thereby encourage cou-

ples to seek medical advice and support." Several lifestyle factors can influence fertility including lifestyle, environmental, and medical issues. Poor diet, lack of exercise, obesity, and excessive alcohol, tobacco can lead to infertility issues. Dr Paulami emphasized the importance of addressing infertility early, "Infertility is on the rise, and it is critical to visit fertility specialist in a timely manner.



**Infertility is not just a problem in big cities; it's becoming common in smaller cities too**

Dr Paulami Dey  
Fertility Specialist

to seek medical advice and support."

Several lifestyle factors can influence fertility including lifestyle, environmental, and medical issues. Poor diet, lack of exercise, obesity, and excessive alcohol, tobacco can lead to infertility issues.

Dr Paulami emphasized the importance of addressing infertility early, "Infertility is on the rise, and it is critical to visit fertility specialist in a timely manner.

Central Chronicle News

**RAIPUR:** Mahtari Vandana Yojana Chhattisgarh government's ambitious scheme, Mahtari Vandana Yojana, is proving to be a boon for women across the state. Smt. Laxmi Futan of Raipur had a dream that financial difficulties prevented her from fulfilling. However, the scheme has brought about significant changes in her life. Laxmi manages the household chores while her husband, Shri Gopal Futan, works as

a daily wage labourer. She explained that previously, household expenses were covered by her husband's earnings, but purchasing small daily necessities was not less than a challenge for her. With the financial assistance received through this scheme, she now manages these needs and even saves money. Expressing her happiness, Smt. Laxmi shared, "I have always wanted to wear gold and silver jewelry, but due to our financial situation, it wasn't possible.

Officers and employees associated with sickle cell program in the district should plan and work for screening of maximum number of people.  
**VK Langeh**  
Collector Korea



# Chhattisgarh

## Sai launches greenery protection drive

Bastar Commissioner developed a strategy to plant 562,000 saplings across seven districts in the Bastar region

Central Chronicle News

**JAGDALPUR:** Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai has initiated an effort to preserve the greenery around the centres of faith in Bastar. The state government will launch a special campaign to plant trees around these sacred sites in the region, with active involvement from tribal communities.

It's worth noting that tribal communities and other traditional forest dwellers hold immense faith in water, forests, land, and their places of worship. Trees around the Dev Gudi and Mata Gudi sites have significance as deities. There is a tradition of preserving the trees and plants located at these faith centres. In this plantation drive, trees will be planted at approximately 7,055 Devgudi-Matagudi sites and 3,455 sites having forest rights recognition certificates across the Bastar region, covering a total area of 2,607.200 hectares. Besides Devgudi and Matagudi, trees will also be planted around ancient monuments and other significant sites. The initiative will include fruit-bearing and shade-providing plants such as neem, mango, jamun, karji, and amaltas, along with other species suggested by the villagers.



CM Sai planting sapling at Dev Gudi and Mata Gudi sites have significance as deities.

The Bastar Commissioner has developed a strategy to plant 562,000 saplings across seven districts in the Bastar region. The Chief Executive Officers of the zila panchayats in each of the seven districts have been designated as nodal officers for the tree-planting initiative. The Commissioner instructed the officials to invite village heads, Baiga, Sirha, Perma, Manjhi, Chalki, Guniya, Gayta, Pujari, Patel, Bajniya, Atpahariya, and public representatives on the day of the planting. He set a goal to complete the plantation work by July 15, 2024, with the support of the Forest Department. Additionally, he instructed the collectors to monitor the progress of the tree-planting efforts.

It should be noted that 3,455 community forest rights certificates have been issued to various gram sabha in the name of deities under Section 3(1)(5) of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006.

### HIGHLIGHT

State government will plant trees in approximately 7,055 Devgudi-Matagudi sites and 3,455 sites with forest rights recognition certificates across the Bastar region

## Five narrowly escape a major accident

**ARANG:** Five youths in Ertiga car bearing No. CG 10 BS 1629 left from Bilaspur Mungeli to Jagannath Puri and when they reached Mordhwaj Nagri Arang near Pipala Chowk at around 3:30 in the night and saw full beam of headlights from a truck coming from opposite direction and due to which the car turned out of control and hit the Board in the front. Due to full beam the person could not see clearly and it got badly damaged. The five persons including Rishabh (Shubhash) narrowly escaped a major accident and did not even receive any scratches.

## Woman murdered on suspicion of witchcraft

**GAURELLA:** A 60 yr old woman was murdered with suspicion of witchcraft in a planned manner by Kotavar. Body of this woman was found near the bridge between Gram Bhasakura and Kodoras. It was based upon facts and evidences, the police nabbed Kotavar Virasulal and he accepted his crime and another female accused Kanwaria Bai was also nabbed from her residence.

## Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

### INVITED

## Applications invited for state level sports awards

**KORBA:** The Sports and Youth Welfare Department has invited applications for sports awards till June 30. These awards are given to players, trainers, judges who perform outstandingly for the state and under the State Sports Decorations, such players of the senior category are decorated with the Shaheed Rajiv Pandey Award, who have won a medal in the National Championship or National Games or have represented the country in an authorized international competition. Similarly, those players of the junior category are decorated with the Shaheed Kaushal Yadav Award, who have won a medal in the National Championship of the Junior category. Such male and female players who have represented Chhattisgarh in the national championship in the senior category four times in the last 5 years are awarded the Shaheed Pankaj Vikram Samman.

### WELLNESS

## Yoga Day celebrated in Shishu Mandir



**ARANG:** International Yoga Day was celebrated in Saraswati Shishu Mandir High School Arang. It started with the chanting of the organization mantra and Om and on this occasion, Kapalbhati, Bhastika, Bhramni, Pranayama, Vajrasana, Ushtrasana, Sarvangasana, Shirshasana, Ardhakati Chakrasana, Tadasana, Trikon Asana, Parsva Kon Asana, Veerbhadra Asana Type 1 Ash-tanga Yoga were explained. Hasta Mudrika was concluded with Pledge and Kalyan Mantra finally. The program was conducted by the school's Yoga Acharya Santosh Shankh.

### Unity Through Yoga Day

## Chouksey Group of Colleges celebrate Int'l Yoga Day with enthusiasm and unity



**BILASPUR:** In a vibrant celebration of wellness and unity, CHOUKSEY GROUP OF COLLEGES marked international yoga day on June 21 with a series of engaging events promoting the physical, mental and spiritual benefits of yoga. The celebration kicked off at sharp 06:30 AM with a large-scale Yoga Session on the main lawn, led by renowned instructor and sport Officer Dr. Md. Shahid. Participants of all ages including all teaching, non-

teaching staffs and students gathered to practice asanas and pranayama, creating a harmonious and invigorating start to the day.

"Yoga is not just and exercise; it's a way to discover oneness with yourself and nature," said Dr. Ashish Jaiswal, Managing Director of Chouksey Group. Practical sessions on meditation, Stress Management, and balanced diets were also conducted.

## Int'l Yoga Day celebrated at ADUEMS

**ARANG:** International Yoga Day was celebrated with enthusiasm in the district in Arundhati Devi Utkrisht English Medium School (ADUEMS) Arang as per directions of Sub-Divisional Officer Revenue Pushpendra Sharma and under the leadership of Chief Executive Officer Janpad Panchayat Arang Kumar Singh Lahare. People from all walks of life were seen enthusiastically participating in the program, in spite of the pouring rain here. On this occasion, the Yoga instructors instructed the audience with asanas of Utkatasana, Vrikshasana, Sarvangasana, Bhujangasana, Shashank Asana, Vajrasana, Titi Asana, Mandukasana, Greevasana as well as Pranayama and Anulom Vilom, Bhramari and Kapalbhati Yoga were also done.

### SICKLE CELL AWARENESS

## Collector flags off sickle cell eradication publicity vehicle

Central Chronicle News

A district level program for screening and awareness of sickle cell was jointly organized by District Health Committee and two departments at the District Hospital.

**KOREA:** On World Sickle Cell Day, in the presence of Collector Vinay Kumar Langeh, District Panchayat Chief Executive Officer Dr. Ashutosh Charurvedi, President of Janpad Panchayat Baikunthpur Smt. Saubhagyawati Kusro, a district level program for screening and awareness of sickle cell was jointly organized by District Health Committee, Women and Child Development and Tribal Development Department at the District Hospital on Wednesday.

On the occasion of



Sickle Cell patients were issued Sickle Identity card.

### FACTFILE

Information was given about symptoms of sickle cell disease and prevention from infection.

On this occasion, sickle cell identity cards were distributed to the beneficiaries.

World Sickle Cell Day, Collector Vinay Kumar Langeh informed that this campaign will run from 19 June to 3 July 2024. He asked the officers and employees associated with the sickle cell program in the district to plan and work for screening of maximum number of people and achieve 100% status.

On World Sickle Cell Day, people were told that Haemoglobin works to deliver sufficient oxygen to all the cells in our body, but this work gets disrupted in sickle cell disease. It is a genetic disease. The most common symptom of sickle cell disease is sudden sharp pain in bones, muscles,

stomach or back. People often feel tired and weak. Sickle cell disease destroys red blood cells, which causes anemia. A person suffering from this may have problems like yellowing of the skin, difficulty in breathing and dizziness.

On this occasion, sickle cell identity cards were distributed to the beneficiaries. With this identity card, they will get proper treatment of sickle cell disease and the benefits of various schemes.

### MEDICINAL PLANT

## Ank: An Ayurvedic plant with potential health benefits

Central Chronicle News

**PANDARIA:** There are a large number of Ank plants in Pandaria and the surrounding areas which are laden with flowers. The number of Ank plants is increasing continuously in the last few years. Ank flower is small, white and bowl-shaped. It is red and purple in color. Ank flower is attractive to look at. It is considered to be the favorite flower of Lord



Shiva and is used for His worship.

Bumblebees and sunbirds suck the nectar of Ank flowers. The plant grows on its own in barren land, open and dry areas in India. Its height is 5 to 7 feet and it's bush-like. Ank is a medicinal plant. Everything of this plant is useful. Ank provides relief from many physical problems.

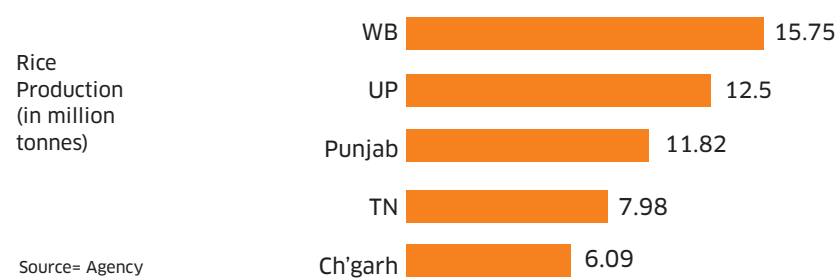
Ank is a medicinal plant and every part of this plant is useful and it provides relief from many physical problems.

Villagers Pandaria

vides relief from many physical problems. Mixing 3 grams of turmeric powder well with two spoons of Ank milk and rose water and applying its paste on the face makes the skin soft. Ank flower is used for headaches and ear pain. Applying its milk on the head provides relief in migraine. Ear related diseases can be cured by putting the juice of Ank leaves in the ear.

### The Day's NUMBERS

Rice Production (in million tonnes)



Source= Agency

### TOP FIVE RICE PRODUCING STATES IN INDIA AS ON 2024

### HARMONY

## Agriculture Minister Netam leads mass yoga session in Koriya

**KOREA:** Agriculture Minister and Minister in charge of Koriya district Shri Ramvihar Netam participated in a mass yoga session at Ramanuj Mini Stadium in Baikunthpur district headquarters this morning to mark International Yoga Day. He urged people to integrate yoga into their daily routines. Baikunthpur MLA Bhaiyalal Rajwade graced the event as a special guest. Public representatives, dignitaries, officers, employees, and a large number of school students participated in various yoga asanas during the programme. Minister Netam extended congratulations and best wishes on the occasion, stressing the global significance of yoga. He stated "Today we all practiced yoga here, similar programmes are being organized worldwide. Our country's Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has taken a step ahead to unite the world through yoga, promoting health and well-being. A healthy body stems from a healthy mind; incorporating yoga into our daily lives is essential for maintaining good health." Baikunthpur MLA, Bhaiyalal Rajwade, conveyed his wishes on Yoga Day on behalf of himself, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and the state's Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai.

### EMPOWERMENT

## Teachers must take up social responsibilities: BEO Joshi



**RAJIM:** The government is organizing a teacher training workshop to develop Hindi and mathematical skills of children through new techniques in education in which the last day of the second phase of Rajim zone was started with the worship of Goddess Saraswati in which SRG Mrs. Neeta Sarva, Ramesh Kumar Malekar, Bhole Shankar Soni, Ram Manohar Nishad Balram Banjare and others participated. To make the atmosphere devotional, Saraswati Vandana was presented by Ramesh Malekar and Mrs. Padmani Sahu. After that, prayer song was performed by Bhagwati Patel; inspirational song by Tej Ram Sahu and Santosh Sahu (cac) Mat kar tu abhimaan re bande inspired everyone.

# Illegal brick kilns operate rampantly despite ban

Over 1000 brick kilns operate illegally in Mungeli, supplying red bricks

Central Chronicle News

**MUNGELI:** The government has enforced a complete ban on the use of red bricks in both government and private institutions. Despite this, more than 80 percent of construction projects in the district continue to use them. Over 1000 brick kilns operate illegally in Mungeli, supplying red bricks to numerous houses being built under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) and private projects. The government's ban aims to control environmental pollution and prevent deforestation. However, the widespread use of red bricks in PMAY houses raises questions about enforcement. Illegal brick kilns are rampant in various blocks, including villages near the city, ignoring regulations. These operators have not obtained the necessary No Objection Certificates (NOCs) or informed the government or Panchayat.

Fly ash, a byproduct of coal dust from power plants and factories, is an environmental hazard due to its high silica content, causing respiratory issues like asthma. The government mandates the use of ash bricks to mitigate this threat. Yet,



Illegal brick kilns are operational in many parts of district without NOC.

## FASTFACTS

- **Illegal brick kilns in Mungeli operate without No Objection Certificates, ignoring government regulations and enforcement, raising serious concerns.**

- **Fly ash from power plants poses respiratory hazards due to high silica content, prompting government mandates for ash brick use.**

red bricks continue to be used, highlighting a gap in policy implement-

## High demand for red bricks

Despite their higher cost, red bricks remain in high demand in both cities and rural areas, sold at 8 to 12 rupees per brick. In contrast, fly ash bricks are cheaper, yet less preferred. Red bricks are widely used in Gram Panchayat projects. The government is implementing various environmental protection schemes, including efforts by the Forest Department to prevent illegal wood cutting. However, brick kiln operators continue to cut green trees to produce bricks. According to the District Mineral Officer, some sections have exemptions for manufacturing red bricks, but unauthorized production is illegal.

tation. Panchayat representatives, including Sarpanchs and secretaries, are allegedly complicit, allowing illegal operations without proper permits. Complaints have surfaced

about their involvement in running these kilns and using red bricks in PMAY houses, undermining government efforts to promote sustainable construction practices.

## International Yoga Day celebrated

**MUNGELI:** On International Yoga Day, Yoga Instructor and National Cultural Minister Jaya Gupta, along with State Women's Assembly Vice President Anita Gupta, Patron Pramila Gupta, President Sapna Gupta, Asha Gupta, and other members, performed yoga at the local Radhakrishna Temple. They demonstrated various asanas including Swastikasana, Yoga Mudrasana, Gorakshasana, Ardhamatsenasana, and Butterfly Asana. These asanas are beneficial for protecting the body from diseases, enhancing facial beauty, and keeping mental disorders at bay. The event highlighted the importance of yoga in promoting physical and mental well-being.

## Crackdown on illegal mining

**MUNGELI:** Strict action is underway against illegal mineral excavation and transportation. A joint team, including Sargaon Tehsildar Shashi Narmada Nayak, R.I., Patwari, and Police, seized five tractor-trolleys involved in illegal sand excavation in the Maniyari river of Nagar Panchayat Sargaon. The seized vehicles were handed over to Sargaon Police Station. Further action will be taken as per regulations.

## Sarpanch removed after no-confidence motion

Central Chronicle News

**KHAIRAGARH:** Sarpanch Manorama Sanjay Yadav of Pandadah village panchayat was removed from her position after a no-confidence motion was passed. Surrounded by allegations of arbitrariness and failing to construct a building despite withdrawing funds, Yadav lost the support of the panchayat members.

On June 3, more than 16 panchs submitted a memorandum to the SDM, demanding the no-confidence motion. Following an investigation, SDM Tankeshwar Sahu scheduled the motion for June 21. Naib Tehsildar Mohan Jharia presided over the proceedings.

During the vote, 16 panchs supported the

motion, while only one voted in favor of Yadav. With a total of 19 officials in the panchayat, the overwhelming vote led to her removal. Panchs cited multiple grievances, including Yadav's arbitrary decision-making, lack of communication about panchayat works, and failure to start construction despite withdrawing 4 lakh rupees months ago. Her irregular attendance further fueled the discontent. The no-confidence motion was seen as a necessary step to address these issues and restore accountability in the panchayat. The presiding officer announced the results, confirming the successful removal of Sarpanch Yadav, aiming to bring better governance to Pandadah.

## Akashvani news credibility remains strong

**RAJIM:** The Jai Maa Ghatrani Yuva Radio Listeners Club President, Yogeshwar Sahu, confirmed that Akashvani news maintains its credibility. A media survey revealed that both main and regional news from Akashvani Delhi are broadcasted in various dialects and considered highly reliable. Radio has a long history as a powerful communication medium, broadcasting

news, sports, entertainment, and more. Today, Akashvani reaches 95% of the population through mobile apps, DTH, AM, and FM. The popularity of radio has surged since Prime Minister Modi's "Mann Ki Baat" program. Listeners, including club members like State President Mohan Lal Devangan, have praised Akashvani for its consistent reliability and widespread reach.

## NEWSLINE

### Honoured

*NCC cadets honored by CM*



**RAJIM:** NCC cadets from SAGES Charra were honoured by the Chief Minister for their outstanding performances at national camps. Under the guidance of 27 Chhattisgarh NCC Battalion Raipur, Cadet Muskan Devangan excelled in the All India Girls Trekking Camp in Himachal Pradesh, and Cadet Konika Sahu shone in the Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat Camp in MP, winning in a folk dance competition. On International Yoga Day, June 21, they received accolades at the Medhavi Vidyarthi Samman Samaroh. Officials and educators congratulated them, wishing them bright futures.

### DISRUPTED

*Blocked culvert causes road closure*

**PANDARIA:** Light rains have caused water to overflow on Badaura road due to a blocked drain pipe on Harinala near Rehman Kapa, 4 km from Pandaria town. The culvert's cement pipes, crucial for water flow, were filled with mud, causing overflow onto the road. This blockage affects residents of Badaura, Jamunpani, and Kulhidongri, who rely on this route.

### ARRESTED

*Youth arrested for carrying ganja*

**ARANG:** Under the Abhiyan Nijat initiative by Senior Superintendent of Police Raipur, Arang police arrested a youth for carrying illegal ganja. Station in-charge Satyendra Singh Shyam reported that near Lakhauri Over Bridge, a suspect was spotted with a white plastic bag. Upon seeing the police, the suspect tried to flee but was apprehended.

### Crackdown

*Crackdown on illegal liquor continues*

**KHAIRAGARH:** The District Excise Department is intensifying efforts to curb illegal liquor activities. Since the formation of the new district, 111 cases have been registered and 101 accused arrested. Officials have seized 619 liters of illegal liquor worth Rs 1.44 lakh, along with 1965 kg of Mahua Lahan and two two-wheelers. District Excise Officer Digesh Devangan refuted rumors about opening a liquor shop in Gram Panchayat Udaipur, clarifying that there are no such plans. To report illegal liquor activities, residents can confidentially contact district officials at provided numbers.

## Farmers demand compensation for railway land

Central Chronicle News

**KHAIRAGARH:** Farmers from Sarangpur village, along with the Railway Sangharsh Samiti, have demanded immediate action from the Collector regarding compensation and job allocation. The memorandum also pointed out that since the Bhoomi Pujan in 2018, the process of land transactions and obtaining death certificates has been halted for seven years, causing complications for farmers. Many have developed their lands, including building houses and bore wells, during this period.

The farmers have called for a re-survey of the land to be acquired to address the changes and developments made over the years. They reiterated their demands for a new survey, adequate compensation, and job provision to mitigate the impact of the land acquisition for the railway project.

numerous farmers. The committee and villagers stressed that the state or central government should ensure fair compensation and job allocation.

The memorandum also pointed out that since the Bhoomi Pujan in 2018, the process of land transactions and obtaining death certificates has been halted for seven years, causing complications for farmers. Many have developed their lands, including building houses and bore wells, during this period.

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## Union minister welcomed

**MUNGELI:** Union Minister of State for Housing and Urban Affairs, Tokhan Sahu, was warmly welcomed in Umaria on Thursday. The Janpad Panchayat family, led by District Vice President Pawan Pandey, greeted him. Chairman Dr. Shivkumar Banjara, Shailendra Tiwari, Vijay Sahu, Ramphal Sahu and Dinesh Jaiswal were also present for the occasion.

## Dilapidated Road Woes Persist

**PANDARIA:** The 4 km stretch from Kumhi to Bodtara in Pandaria block is in dire condition, with pond-like potholes forming. This makes commuting to the block headquarters challenging, especially with the onset of the rainy season. Despite being over six years old, the road has not been repaired, worsening its condition.

## District administration acts to resolve water crisis

| ENSURING WATER ACCESS |

Central Chronicle News

**Khairagarh administration takes action to address the ongoing water crisis issues.**

**KHAIRAGARH:** The district administration is actively addressing the water crisis in Atikasa and surrounding villages. Following Collector Chandrakant Verma's directives, a team led by Executive Engineer Sahdev Prasad Sonwani from the Public Health Engineering Department inspected the affected areas. They engaged with local Sarpanch and villagers, promising to complete pending works under the Jal Jeevan Mission within a week.

Sonwani reported that pipeline laying, domestic tap connections (FHTC), and power pump installations have



Drinking water is being supplied by installing a power pump in Pirchatola.

## FASTFACTS

- **Pipeline connections and power pump installations completed in multiple villages.**

- **Adequate water supply ensured through operational hand pumps and power pumps.**

been finalized in Pirchatola, Atikasa, Bhursatola, and Khonga. Currently, Pirchatola benefits from a newly installed power pump. Within a week, direct water supply via power pumps will commence in the aforementioned villages through the connected pipelines. Previously, the absence of successful tube wells

delayed marking locations for high-level water reservoirs, boundary walls, and chlorinator rooms. Now, successful tube wells have been established, and construction sites selected, expediting these projects. Presently, Pirchatola has six hand pumps and two power pumps operational, while Atikasa has five hand pumps.

| PUBLIC FRUSTRATION MOUNTS |

## Illegal liquor sales rampant in Kurud district

Central Chronicle News

**KURUD:** Despite a government-imposed dry day to honor Kabirdas, illegal liquor sales flourished in Kurud city. Kabirdas, a revered saint, thinker, and social reformer, preached against societal evils like alcoholism. His teachings emphasize serving humanity and living simply, highlighting the harms of alcohol. The Chhattisgarh government declared his birth anniversary a dry day, ban-



ning liquor sales.

However, in Kurud city, illegal liquor sales persisted from Sandha Chowk, the bus stand, to Dhobani Para-Bharda

Road. Vendors operated openly throughout the day, unaffected by the ban, while the police administration remained seemingly unaware.

**We're frustrated and angry at the police for their lack of action against these illegal liquor vendors.**

Residents Kurud

The new bus stand, intended for commuter use, has become a hub for illicit activities,

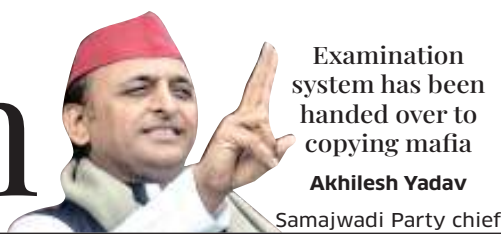
including liquor theft and sales. Despite its proximity to the electricity department and a senior police officer's office, illegal activities continued unabated, frustrating residents. Residents are particularly angry at the police for not taking action against the illegal vendors. The widespread sale and consumption of alcohol not only defy the ban but also lead to littering and disturbances across the city.

## Free yoga camp concludes on Yoga Day

Central Chronicle News

**DHAMDHHA:** A five-day free yoga demonstration and training camp was successfully organized from June 17 to 21 under the Chhattisgarh Government Directorate of AYUSH Department. Held near Pushp Vatika Ward No. 04 Government Pharmacy, the sessions ran from 7 to 9 AM. The event concluded on Yoga Day, June 21, with enthusiastic participation from the community. A total

of 229 people joined the camp, including 77 women, 84 men, 30 boys, and 38 girls. The final session took place at the Bazaar Ground building, drawing widespread participation. The closing ceremony featured Dr. Ruby Vasnik, Ayurvedic Medical Officer at Government Ayurvedic Pharmacy Dhamdha, along with prominent citizens of Dhamdha. The camp aimed to promote physical and mental well-being through yoga.



Examination system has been handed over to copying mafia  
**Akhilesh Yadav**  
Samajwadi Party chief

## Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam campaign



Union Minister Jagat Prakash Nadda plants a sapling in memory of his mother under the campaign 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam', in New Delhi.

# 'He didn't live to see his son's first birthday'

Ghulam Bhat remembers the son who went too early, memories that come back to hit even stronger when he sees the child who will never know his father.

Sumir Kaul

**SRINAGAR:** Eight months on, his son's dying words, calm and reassuring even as he took his last breath, still reverberate. "I am hit...Please don't panic," DSP Humayun Bhat told his father, retired Jammu and Kashmir Inspector General of Police Ghulam Hasan Bhat, over the phone.

That was September 13 last year. Humayun called his father from Kokernag in south Kashmir after a

gunfight with terrorists that eventually claimed the lives of four security personnel. The call lasted just 13 seconds. Today, a month away from his grandson Ashar's first birthday, Ghulam Bhat remembers the son who went too early, memories that come back to hit even stronger when he sees the child who will never know his father.

"When I see Ashar crawling, I remember my son Humayun. I wish Humayun could have

### HIGHLIGHT

- Humayun rests in a cemetery just 150 metres from the family home.

- Humayun received bullet injuries and later succumbed to the injuries.

lived longer. Next month is Ashar's first birthday. He didn't live long enough to see even that," Ghulam Bhat said.

The former IGP, who

dedicated 34 years to the police force, recounts in detail that last phone call, the 13 seconds at 11.48 am that will live in his memory forever.

"Papa I am hit. I have been hit in the abdomen," Humayun said. And then added after a pause, "Please don't panic." The phone got cut after that. But panic the father did. "It is easier said than done. I guess those were the most difficult moments of my life because I was not

sure what was happening till I reached 92 Base Hospital of the army in Srinagar waiting for my injured son," he said. Security forces personnel are always brought to the hospital. Around 3.30 pm came the next call he had been dreading. "I was constantly in touch with senior officers of the police. Around 3.30, then DIG of South Range sent me a picture of Humayun being brought down the hillside on a makeshift stretcher."

## Kelu sworn in as Minister in LDF govt in Kerala

**THIRUVANANTHAPURAM:** CPI(M) MLA O R Kelu was sworn in as a Minister in the CPI(M)-led LDF government in Kerala on Sunday at the Raj Bhavan here. Governor Arif Mohammed Khan administered the oath of office to the new minister.

Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, his Cabinet colleagues, Left Legislators, Leader of Opposition V D Satheesan and IUML leader P K Kunhalikutty among others were present. Kelu, the 54-year-old CPI(M) leader from a tribal community in Wayanad replaces K Radhakrishnan, who resigned as Minister for Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, Parliamentary Affairs and Devaswam after being elected to the Lok Sabha from the Alathur seat.

# Under-construction bridge collapses in Motihari

QUALITY COMPROMISED

Press Trust Of India

The 16-metre-long bridge was being built at a cost of Rs 1.5 cr.

**MOTIHARI:** An under-construction small bridge collapsed in East Champaran district on Sunday in third such incident in Bihar in less than a week, officials said.

No casualty was reported in the incident that happened in Ghorashan block in Motihari, they said.

The 16-metre-long bridge was being built over a canal by the state's Rural Works Department (RWD) to connect Amwa village to other areas of the block. It was being built at a cost of Rs 1.5 crore, they added.



A portion of the under-construction bridge after it collapsed.

### FACTFILE

- This is the third bridge which collapsed in less than a week.

"The exact cause of the incident is not yet

known. It is a serious matter and a departmental inquiry has been ordered. Strict action will be taken against those found guilty," Additional Chief Secretary of RWD Dipak Kumar Singh told PTI.

"Senior officers of the district administration have reached the spot. A detailed report is awaited," he said.

District Magistrate Saurabh Jorwal said the exact cause of the incident was being ascertained.

BOON FOR EXAM ASPIRANTS

## Former ED chief's book on internal security

Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI:** Former ED Director Karnal Singh has penned a book on the subject of internal security for UPSC and state civil services exam aspirants.

The 353-page book covers the history, present day scenario and emerging challenges in various areas like Left

Wing Extremism (LWE), terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir and Punjab, radicalisation, anti-terror laws, cyber crime, digital data protection, money laundering and terror financing.

These topics are covered under the umbrella of India's internal security architecture, its challenges and threats from emerging technologies.

**Book covers the history, present day scenario and emerging challenges in various areas like LWE, terrorism, terror financing etc.**

Karnal Singh  
Retired IPS officer



Special chapters on the Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA), the digital data protection law and media and social networking sites are among other the topics explained in the book apart from methodologies of money laundering.

The book was launched last year and is set for a revised edition.

## Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

### CRIME

## FIR against Palghar man for throwing parents out of house after dispute

**PALGHAR:** Police have registered an FIR against a 44-year-old man after he allegedly threw his elderly parents out of their house following a dispute in Maharashtra's Palghar district, an official said on Sunday.

The man and his 75-year-old father had a heated argument over management of the family-owned restaurants, bars and resorts last month after which the latter and his wife aged 74 were driven away from their home in Vikramgad taluka, he said. The dispute had escalated after the victim, who is also a social worker and president of a local senior citizens' association, asked his son for the accounts of their businesses. This led to a violent outburst during which the accused allegedly threw some objects at his father and subsequently changed the locks of their property, the official from Vikramgad police station said quoting a complaint by the victim.

### EMERGENCY

## Paradip Calciner Limited conducts comprehensive Disaster Management Drills



**PARADIP:** On June 21, 2024, Paradip Calciner Ltd. conducted a comprehensive "Mock Drill" program focusing on disaster management. The event was presided over by Niranjan Khuntia, Vice President of the company, with Mr. Jyotiranjana Rajaram Panda, the Manager, organizing and conducting the meeting. The event saw participation from several key figures, including Chandrashekhar Behera, Assistant Deputy Director of Factories and Boilers Department, Pradeep Kumar Kar, Chief Security Officer of Paradip Port,

### All for health

## International Yoga Day celebration at Swami Atmanand Govt Excellence School Khorpa



**KHOPRA:** On 21st of June 2024 Swami Atmanand Government Excellence School Khorpa celebrated International Yoga Day in the premises of the school to erect awareness about this ancient practice

and wholesomeness of human development by dint of yoga demonstration. The event witnessed the active participation of

Sarpanch, Deputy Sarpanch, district members and public representatives, all the department employees were present in the yoga camp organized by the Water Resources Department teaching staff and stu-

dents with full vigour and verve. The attendees performed various asanas, chanted hymns and understood the momentousness of breathing exercises which declutters the toxicities in a daily routine.

The event successfully emphasized the significance of incorporating yoga into daily life. This year marks the 10th International Day of Yoga with the theme "Yoga for Self and Society." Yoga, a transformative practice, represents the harmony of mind and body, the balance between thought and action, and the unity of restraint and fulfilment.

### The Day's NUMBERS

### STATE WISE DATA OF ONION PRODUCTION (IN MILLION TONNES)

Maharashtra	13.3
Madhya Pradesh	4.7
Karnataka	2.8
Gujarat	2.6
Rajasthan	1.4
Chhattisgarh	0.4

Overall, India produced about 25.44 million tonnes of onions

Source: Statista

### KEEPING FIT

## Paradip College organized International Day of Yoga at college premises



**PARADIP:** Paradip College was organized International Day of Yoga in the college premises on Friday. More than hundreds of students got themselves registered at 6.00 A.M to participate in the event. At the outset Dr. Sasmita Satapathy, Principal, Paradip College delivered welcome address and spoke on the significance of Yoga in practical life. Yoga Guru Murchhana Mishra and her associates also highlighted the necessity of yoga urging the students to practise it regularly to lead a healthy life. On this occasion the students offered prayer, made pranayam, chanted Shanti Mantra. A pledge was also administered during the moment

in which members of staff and students took part. As per the schedule closing ceremony was held at 7.50 am to 8.00 am. A good numbers of members of staff were present and extended their active cooperation. S. K Parida, HOD Physics, Sujit Kumar Bhoi, Lect. in Economics, Mrs Saswati Pattnaik, Mrs Sanghamitra Pradhan, NSS P.O. and many others also participated in the event.

## Classifieds

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**Central Chronicle**







**QUOTE FROM THE QUOTABLE**  
Defeat and failure are sometimes  
necessary steps of victory  
[ Lala Lajpat Rai ]

# Comment

## Why are workers most severely affected by the scorching heat?

| OUR VIEW |

### Revamping NTA amid NEET irregularities scandal

The upheaval within the National Testing Agency (NTA) marks a critical juncture in India's education system, highlighting severe lapses in the conduct of national examinations. The removal of Subodh Kumar Singh as NTA Director General and the appointment of Pradeep Singh Kharola signify the government's urgent response to these controversies. The entrusting of the NEET-UG irregularities probe to the CBI underscores the gravity of the situation and the need for transparency and accountability in the administration of competitive exams. The NTA's credibility has been severely tarnished, primarily due to alleged irregularities and malpractices in the NEET-UG conducted on May 5, along with the cancellation of the CSIR-UGC-NET. These incidents have not only shaken the trust of millions of students and their families but have also raised questions about the robustness of the agency's processes. The Education Ministry's decision to involve the CBI in the investigation is a welcome step, reflecting a commitment to a thorough and unbiased probe. However, this should be the beginning of a broader overhaul aimed at restoring faith in the examination system. One cannot ignore the timing of these events. The sudden postponement of NEET-PG, a crucial exam for medical aspirants, caused significant inconvenience to 2,28,757 registered candidates. The logistical nightmare and financial burden faced by these students and their families, many of whom had made extensive travel and lodging arrangements, highlight the systemic failures within the NTA. This postponement, albeit a precautionary measure, reflects poorly on the administrative foresight and preparedness of the agency. Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan's acknowledgment of institutional failure and his acceptance of responsibility are commendable. His assertion that safeguarding students' interests is paramount should now translate into concrete actions. The focus must shift towards implementing stringent measures to prevent future malpractices, ensuring rigorous scrutiny of the examination processes, and enhancing transparency in the NTA's functioning.

| GUEST VIEW |

### Controversy over speaker protem appointment

President Droupadi Murmu has appointed Bhartruhari Mahtab, a seven-term MP from Cuttack, as the pro tem Speaker of the 18th Lok Sabha under Article 95(1) of the Constitution. This role is traditionally given to the senior-most MP, a position currently held by senior Dalit MPs Kodikunnil Suresh (INC) and Virendra Kumar (BJP), both serving their eighth term. By convention, the MP with the longest tenure administers the oath to newly elected MPs. Given that Virendra Kumar is now a union minister, Kodikunnil Suresh was expected to be appointed Speaker Protem. However, the government's decision to appoint Mahtab raises questions. Is it merely a deviation from convention, or does it signal deeper issues influencing the decision? Some speculate that Mahtab's switch from BJD to BJP ahead of the elections might have influenced the NDA government's choice. Regardless, this move appears to undermine established parliamentary norms, prompting concerns about the motives behind such appointments and their potential impact on the integrity of the Lok Sabha.



Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee

The recent heatwave in India, with temperatures soaring above 45 degrees Celsius in many regions, has intensified the hardships faced by daily workers, particularly delivery personnel and daily wage laborers. These workers, often engaged in open-air tasks, have been severely affected by heat exhaustion and dehydration due to prolonged exposure to extreme weather conditions without adequate health and safety measures or sufficient breaks. This has tragically resulted in untimely loss of lives.

Daily workers typically operate on short-term contracts or freelance arrangements, lacking the stability of permanent jobs. This group includes those in temporary, flexible, and project-based roles, often facilitated through digital platforms such as Uber, Swiggy, and Zomato. While these jobs offer flexibility, they do not provide the benefits and protections associated with traditional employment. For many, these jobs are their

only means of livelihood; if they don't work, they won't have food to cook at home. Consequently, they often live in extreme poverty, lacking basic amenities like clean water, and enduring sweltering heat under tin or tarpaulin roofs.

The nature of these jobs, mostly performed outdoors, heightens the risk of heat-related illnesses. These workers typically lack access to health insurance, retirement benefits, or paid leave, leaving them financially vulnerable during illness or injury. Their income is highly variable and unpredictable, making financial planning difficult. Moreover, as independent contractors, they are deprived of many labor protections that formal employees receive, such as safe working conditions and the right to unionize.

Given these challenges, it is crucial to provide these workers with protection and fair treatment. Social security benefits, including health insurance, maternity benefits, and pensions, are essen-



Priyanka Saurabh

Research Scholar in Political Science, Poetess, Independent journalist and columnist

tial. For example, the Rajasthan Platform Based Workers (Registration and Welfare) Bill, 2023 aims to provide social security to workers, setting an example for other states. Implementing a minimum wage policy would ensure a stable income and minimum paid hours or earnings. Singapore's proposed legislative changes, which include expanding work-injury insurance and pension coverage, could serve as a model for India.

Recognizing these workers as employees or providing them with equal rights and protections is critical. This includes the right to organize and form unions. Legal battles in the UK and California have led to workers being recognized as employees, entitled to a minimum wage and other benefits. Ensuring safe working conditions, including protective gear, regular breaks, and measures to shield workers from extreme weather, is also vital. Although guidelines have been issued in India to promote fair treatment and grievance redressal

mechanisms, these need to be strengthened.

Establishing independent labor courts to resolve cases promptly and fairly is another important step. Qatar's labor dispute committees have improved access to justice, though delays and enforcement issues remain, requiring further improvement.

Enhancing employability and earning potential through skill development programs is also important. This should include training in financial literacy and digital skills. Government initiatives like Skill India can be expanded to specifically target these workers, providing them with relevant skills and training. Using digital platforms to simplify registration and access to welfare schemes and integrating worker data into the National Labour Database can improve service delivery. For instance, India's e-Shram portal, which aims to create a national database of unorganized workers, can be leveraged to include platform-based workers to ensure they receive timely benefits.

## Revamping public healthcare quality standards

NHM strives for universal healthcare through improved infrastructure and quality care. By Dr J N Srivastava, Dr K Madan Gopal, Dr Swarnika Pal, Dr Abhay Dahiya



Wide-view image of a healthcare facility in a rural and tribal area. | Photo AP

The National Health Mission (NHM) strives for universal healthcare access by enhancing infrastructure, human resources, and medical supplies, focusing particularly on tribal and underserved areas. Through these efforts, India aims to improve public health, making healthcare accessible to every citizen.

India has made significant progress in population stabilization, maternal and child health, and combating communicable diseases. Key health indicators, such as maternal and infant mortality rates, have declined faster in India than the global average. Despite these improvements, the healthcare system faces challenges from a growing population, emerging diseases, and variability in the quality of care.

Challenges persist in the underutilization of public healthcare facilities, unsafe treatments, misdiagnoses, and disrespectful services. These issues stem from poor infrastructure, a shortage of healthcare professionals, and suboptimal care quality, leading to preventable deaths, poor health outcomes, financial burdens, and a loss of trust in public healthcare.

To address these challenges, the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare has imple-

mented a multi-pronged strategy, including upgrading healthcare facilities through the revised Indian Public Health Standards (IPHS) of 2022. These standards provide a comprehensive framework for improving healthcare delivery at public health facilities, specifying essential and desirable services for each level of care. The guidelines cover infrastructure, equipment, drugs, diagnostics, and human resources, helping states and union territories plan and ensure consistent care.

The IPHS aims to improve accessibility by establishing

healthcare facilities based on population norms and a "time to care" approach. It also seeks to create a seamless patient referral system and deliver patient-friendly services with reduced financial burdens. By providing standardized services, the IPHS builds trust in public healthcare, as evidenced by increased patient footfalls and better stakeholder relationships.

To ensure high-quality care, the Ministry's National Quality Assurance Standards (NQAS) program focuses on making public health services safe, patient-centric,

and of assured quality. NQAS addresses gaps in understanding, measuring, and improving healthcare service quality, leading to better patient outcomes, safety, and overall satisfaction. It also improves community health, patient experiences, and service provider efficiency by reducing care costs.

The implementation of NQAS ensures compliance with regulatory requirements and preparedness for emergencies, including fire safety. Quality healthcare also addresses disparities, ensuring equitable care for all patients, regardless of back-

ground or circumstances, and aligns with the government's goal of ensuring ease of living for all citizens.

Learning from the recent pandemic, the Indian government launched the Pradhan Mantri Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission (PM-ABHIM) to strengthen healthcare infrastructure and surveillance. A key component of PM-ABHIM is the Integrated Public Health Lab (IPHL) system, designed to provide rapid, reliable, and accurate test results at district and sub-district levels. This system enhances diagnosis and surveillance, contributing to a resilient health system.

The IPHS guidelines and NQAS program are transformative initiatives that aim to make healthcare more accessible, affordable, and dignified, particularly for vulnerable populations. By setting uniform standards and ensuring their implementation, these initiatives promise improved health outcomes, reduced preventable diseases, and renewed trust in the government's healthcare system. Through these efforts, India continues to strive toward achieving universal healthcare that is safe, effective, patient-centered, timely, efficient, and equitable.

#### YOUR LETTERS

**Scourge of rail mishaps**  
Despite increasing rail mishaps in recent years, lessons remain unlearned. Tragedies prompt ministerial visits, but preventive actions are lacking. Politicians offer tall promises and rhetoric without substantial change. Massive funds are spent on fancy, ultra-fast trains, while rail safety measures and passenger service quality remain neglected. Resources should prioritize upgrading safety measures and improving existing services to ensure traveler safety. Authorities must shift their focus from superficial advancements to genuinely safeguarding the lives of passengers.

Ramkumar Menon, Kollam

**Resurgence of the Gandhis**  
The resurgence of the Gandhis, with Rahul as the potential Leader of Opposition and Priyanka as an MP from Wayanad, is a positive development. After Rahul's twin wins in Raebareli and Wayanad, allowing Priyanka to contest from Kerala was a wise decision. The Congress must now focus on converting this momentum into voter base growth, following a similar strategy in Bihar, UP, and Maharashtra. The Gandhi family can significantly boost the party's electoral prospects.

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



Centre needs to examine demands of AP, Bihar.

Rajiv Kumar,  
Chairman, Niti Aayog.

## Stars present in the jewellery launch exhibition in Hyderabad



Miss India-World 2023 Nandini Gupta, actor Donal Bisht and others at the launch of a jewellery exhibition, in Hyderabad.

## BizBriefs

BEST OF THE REST

### TEAM HEADCOUNT

**BoB aims to double tech team headcount to 3,000 by FY26-end**

**MUMBAI:** State-owned Bank of Baroda is aiming to double its in-house technology team headcount to 3,000 in the next two years, a top official has said. The new additions to the current team strength of 1,500 employees will be done both through the regular hiring processes and lateral hires of specialist talent, Debadatta Chand, its managing director and chief executive officer told PTI recently. "In the next two years, we will double the number of people in our IT team," Chand said after the announcement of its March quarter earnings. Recently, the Reserve Bank of India has taken stringent action on banks for shortfalls in technology architecture which impacted the ability to execute transactions. Apart from the 1,500 in-house workers, there are also contractual employees engaged by the bank in the IT function, Chand said. **PTI**

### EXPANSION

**SBI plans to open 400 branches in FY25: Chairman Khara**

**NEW DELHI:** As part of the network expansion plan, State Bank of India (SBI) is planning to open 400 branches across the country in the current financial year. The country's biggest lender opened 137 branches last fiscal. Of the total, 59 new rural branches were launched. "Somebody asked me if 89 per cent of digital and 98 per cent transactions were happening outside the branch, whether the branch is required anymore. My answer is yes. It is still required because there are newer areas which are emerging," SBI Chairman Dinesh Kumar Khara told PTI in an interview. There are certain services like most of the advisory and wealth services that can be offered only from the branch, he said. "We will be identifying locations where the opportunity exists, and in those locations, we plan to open branches. **PTI**



# Taxpayers now have option to amend sales return form

Taxpayers with an annual turnover of up to Rs 5 crore can file GSTR-1 quarterly within the 13th day of the end of the quarter.

Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI:** GST taxpayers will now have the option to amend outward supply or sales return form GSTR-1 before payment of taxes for a month or quarter. The GST Council in its meeting on Saturday had recommended providing a new optional facility by way of Form GSTR-1A to facilitate taxpayers to amend the details in Form GSTR-1 for a tax period

and/or to declare additional details. GSTR-1A will, however, have to be filed before filing of return in GSTR-3B for the said tax period. This will facilitate the taxpayer to add any particulars of supply of the current tax period missed out in reporting in form GSTR-1 of the said tax period or to amend any particulars already declared in GSTR-1 of the current tax period (including those

### NUMBER

5

• Currently, GST taxpayers file outward supply return GSTR -1 by the 11th day of month.

• GSTR-1A will, however, have to be filed before filing of return in GSTR-3B.

declared in IFF, for the first and second months of a quarter, if any, for quarterly taxpayers), to ensure that correct liability is auto-populated in GSTR-3B. Currently, GST taxpayers file outward supply return GSTR -1 by the 11th day of the subsequent month. Taxpayers with an annual turnover of up to Rs 5 crore can file GSTR-1 quarterly within the 13th day of the end of the quarter. Shardul

Amarchand Mangaldas & Co Partner Rajat Bose said this is a positive change recommended by the council from a compliance perspective and will facilitate ease of doing business.

Abhishek Jain, Indirect Tax Head & Partner, KPMG, said allowing revision of filings made in GSTR-1 is a good move to rectify clerical and inadvertent errors before the payment of taxes.

## New home supply falls 13 pc in Apr-Jun

**NEW DELHI:** Fresh supply of housing units is estimated to decline 13 per cent during this quarter across nine major cities with builders launching less number of projects because of the general election, according to real estate data analytic firm PropEquity. PropEquity data shows that new housing supply in April-June is estimated to fall to 97,331 units across nine major cities as against 1,11,657 units in the year-ago period. Pune and Hyderabad are witnessing fewer launches during this quarter while the new supply in Delhi-NCR has almost doubled. Samir Jasuja, Chief Executive Officer & Managing Director of PropEquity, attributed the fall in new supply of housing units to the Lok Sabha election which took place in this quarter. The new supply is 7 per cent lower from the January-March quarter of this calendar year, he added.

# Bajaj Auto looks to sustain domestic biz momentum

Central Chronicle News

Company would also aim for recovery in export volumes.

**NEW DELHI:** Bajaj Auto looks to sustain momentum in its domestic business and expand production capacity for new businesses as it expects demand to remain robust in the current fiscal, according to its Chairman Niraj Bajaj.

Addressing shareholders in the company's Annual Report for 2023-24, he noted that the company would also aim for recovery in export volumes.

"It is anticipated that India, now the fastest growing economy in the world, will achieve upwards of 7 per cent real GDP growth in FY2024, and various forecasts expect this buoyancy to



Bajaj Auto Chairman Niraj Bajaj.

### FACTFILE

• Bajaj Auto also plans to expand capacity, capabilities and network for its new businesses - Chetak electric scooters, electric three-wheelers and Triumph motorcycles.

continue in FY2025," Bajaj said. With stable CPI inflation at around 5 per cent, the company envisages

double-digit nominal GDP growth, he added. "In such a milieu and barring any unforeseen event, I would expect domestic demand to continue to pave the way for another year of growth up ahead," Bajaj said. Elaborating on the focus areas, he noted that the company aims to sustain momentum in its domestic business and continue to drive growth across all segments. Besides, the Pune-based

firm looks to "navigate the challenging international landscape and stay the course on recovering our export volumes", Bajaj said. Bajaj Auto also plans to expand capacity, capabilities and network for its new businesses - Chetak electric scooters, electric three-wheelers and Triumph motorcycles, the Chairman informed the shareholders.

Commenting on the last fiscal, Bajaj noted that a strong domestic performance more than made up for muted exports which continued to be impacted by the challenging context in overseas markets. The company had to navigate continued rough macroeconomic conditions across its key markets, he stated. Bajaj stated that the balance sheet of the company remains very healthy with surplus cash and cash equivalent as on March 31, 2024.

## Stock markets to perform this week

Global trends, trading activity of foreign investors to guide movement in mkts this week: Analysts

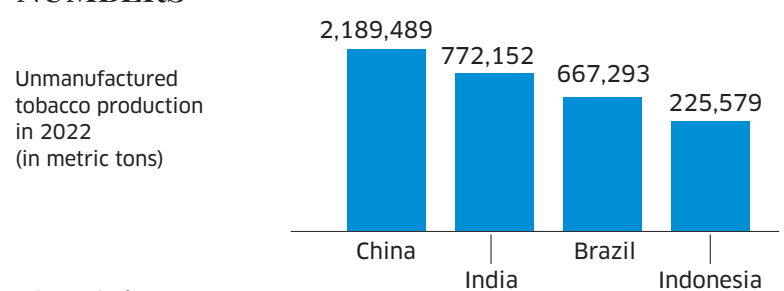


**NEW DELHI:** Stock markets will take cues from trading activity of foreign investors and global trends this week with benchmark equity indices likely to face volatility amid the scheduled monthly derivatives expiry, analysts said. Moreover, factors such as the progress of monsoon and Brent crude oil would also dictate investors' sentiment during the week. "This week, sector-specific movements are anticipated amid budget-related buzz. Key factors to watch include the progress of monsoon, which will be closely monitored for its near-term impact on investors'

confidence. "Investors will also keep a close eye on FII (Foreign Institutional Investors) and DII (Domestic Institutional Investors) fund flows, as well as crude oil prices, to gauge overall sentiment," said Praveesh Gour, Senior Technical Analyst at Swastika Investmart Ltd. On the global front, economic data like the US GDP will be released on June 27, he added. "Looking ahead, attention will remain on updates related to the budget and global market cues, particularly from the US," Ajit Mishra, Senior Vice-President, Research at Religare Broking Ltd, said. **PTI**

## The Day's NUMBERS

### WORLD'S LARGEST TOBACCO PRODUCERS



### CONSUMER OFFER

**Nuvoco unveils unique Duraguard Microfiber consumer offer**

**BHUBANESHWAR:** Nuvoco Vistas Corp. Ltd., India's fifth-largest cement group in terms of capacity, launched the Duraguard Microfiber Consumer Offer in Western Odisha. This consumer offer is designed to offer lucrative benefits to consumers. A consumer purchasing 100 bags of Duraguard Microfiber will get complimentary 5 kgs pack of branded atta. This unique campaign will run for over 2 months till the end of July 2024. Nuvoco's Duraguard Microfiber cement is a uniquely formulated product with visible fibers that enhance binding, ensuring longer-lasting construction. Sunil Mahajan, Head of Sales and Business Development (East), Nuvoco Vistas Corp. Ltd., said "Launching the Duraguard Microfiber Consumer Offer underscores our commitment to empowering individual home buyers (IHB) with superior construction solutions." Chirag Shah, Head, Marketing & Innovation, Nuvoco Vistas Corp Ltd, said, "The 'Fiber Ki Khushi - Andar Bhi, Bahar Bhi' campaign underscores the unique benefits of our patented technology."

### NEW STANDARDS

**BIS introduces 2 new standards for electric vehicles**

**NEW DELHI:** The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has introduced two new standards to boost safety and quality of electric vehicles. In an official statement, the department of consumer affairs said BIS has come out with two new standards -- IS 18590: 2024 and IS 18606: 2024. These standards are aimed at enhancing the safety of electric vehicles in the L, M, and N categories. "These standards focus on the critical component of electric vehicles 'the powertrain' ensuring it meets stringent safety requirements. Additionally, they emphasize the safety and performance of batteries, ensuring they are both powerful and secure," the statement said.



## TOTAL REMUNERATION

# Gautam Adani drew Rs 9.26 cr salary in FY24

Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI:** India's second richest person Gautam Adani received a total remuneration of Rs 9.26 crore in the fiscal year ended March 31, 2024, lower than most industry peers as well as his own key executives.

Adani, 61, drew salary from only two out of the 10 companies

in his ports-to-energy conglomerate, annual reports of the 10 listed entities of the group showed.

His remuneration for 2023-24 from the group's flagship firm Adani Enterprises Ltd (AEL) included Rs 2.19 crore salary and perquisites, allowances and other benefits worth Rs 27 lakh. The total remuneration of Rs 2.46 crore was 3 per cent more than



Adani's salary is lower than heads of almost all large family-owned conglomerates in India. While the richest Indian, Mukesh Ambani has been foregoing his entire

the previous financial year, according to AEL's 2023-24 annual report.

Besides, he drew Rs 6.8 crore from Adani Ports and SEZ Ltd (APSEZ).

Adani's salary is lower than heads of almost all large family-owned conglomerates in India. While the richest Indian, Mukesh Ambani has been foregoing his entire

salary since Covid-19 broke out prior to which he had capped his remuneration at Rs 15 crore, Adani's remuneration is much lower than telecom czar Sunil Bharti Mittal (Rs 16.7 crore in 2022-23), Rajiv Bajaj (Rs 53.7 crore), Pawan Munjal (Rs 80 crore), L&T Chairman S N Subrahmanyam and Infosys CEO Salil S Parekh.

"We are fully committed to collaborating and hopeful that within one or two years, we will find the right project."

**Farhan Akhtar**  
Actor



# & Glitters

CLOSE UP

## Beyond Idli & Sambar: Shruti Hassan fights cultural stereotypes

Actor Shruti Hassan called out a person on her Instagram who was trying to do some micro-racism against her by talking in a South Indian accent.

Central Chronicle News

**Saalaar actress Shruti Haasan encountered discrimination during an Ask Me Anything session, reigniting the fire of the North vs South debate once more.**

During an Instagram Q&A, Shruti Haasan addressed micro racism when a follower asked her to speak in a South Indian accent. The actress, who is Tamilian, firmly criticized the request, stating, "This sort of micro racism is not ok." She emphasized that reducing South Indian identities to food stereotypes like "idli dosa sambar" is not only insensitive but perpetuates harmful cultural stereotypes. This incident highlights the ongoing cultural insensitivity faced by South Indians, both in personal interactions and within the entertainment industry. Recently, Shah Rukh Khan faced significant backlash for similar remarks directed at actor Ram Charan, sparking debates about respect and representation in public discourse. Shruti's response not only asserts the importance of challenging stereotypes but also advocates for greater awareness and sensitivity towards diverse cultural identities.



Shruti Haasan called out a person for asking her to 'talk in south Indian accent.'



Shruti Hassan's next chapter: New films and breaking barriers

Shruti was last seen in Prashanth Neel's Saalaar Part 1: Ceasefire. The film produced by Hom bale Films saw Prabhas and Prithviraj Sukumaran in the lead roles, apart from Jagapathi Babu, Bobby Simha,

Sriya Reddy and Tinnu Anand in pivotal roles. Saalaar 2 is currently in production and expected to release next year. Shruti will also star alongside Adivi Sesh in Shaneil Deo's Dacoit. The film tells the story of two ex-lovers who are forced to work together one last time.

| HOLLYWOOD |

## Whoopsie on Kimmel! Dakota Johnson deals with wardrobe malfunction

Central Chronicle News

Dakota Johnson displayed her trademark composure during her recent appearance on Jimmy Kimmel Live! where she adeptly handled a wardrobe malfunction with finesse. While discussing her role in the upcoming film "Daddio," Johnson's elegant black dress, adorned with metal pieces and floral charms, unexpectedly encountered an issue with its strap. Host Jimmy Kimmel, ever attentive, promptly inquired about her well-being upon noticing the mishap. Johnson, unfazed by the momentary setback,



HIGHLIGHT

● Mid-interview the floral-embellished, golden straps on her Bottega Veneta dress suddenly broke.

humorously quipped, "My dress just – it just fell off," as she skillfully adjusted the strap to maintain her poise. Throughout the interview, Johnson remained poised and engaged,

Fifty Shades Grey' actress Dakota Johnson suffers wardrobe malfunction

smoothly navigating the unexpected wardrobe challenge. Kimmel, known for his quick wit, lightened the atmosphere with humorous banter, joking about securing the "important part," to which Johnson responded with playful ease, ensuring she kept her composure and the conversation flowing seamlessly. This incident adds to Johnson's repertoire of gracefully handling wardrobe malfunctions in public appearances, showcasing her professionalism and ability to adapt under pressure.

## CineBriefs

BEST OF THE REST

Bollywood

**Producer opens up about potential 'Madgaon Express' follow-up**

In an exclusive interview, producer Ritesh Sidhwani hinted at a possible sequel to 'Madgaon Express', featuring Divyendu, Pratik Gandhi, and Avinash Tiwary.

Sidhwani confirmed that director Kunal Kemmu had planned a sequel from the outset, expressing confidence in Kemmu's script and the film's positive reception. While not confirming it as Kemmu's next project, Sidhwani teased, "If you ask him, he will tell you yes."

The comedy, co-produced by Farhan Akhtar, has generated anticipation with its ensemble cast and marks Kemmu's directorial debut under Excel Entertainment.

Web Series

**Ranvir Shorey makes shocking entry into Bigg Boss OTT 3**

Bollywood actor Ranvir Shorey has been confirmed as a contestant for "Bigg Boss OTT 3," hosted by Anil Kapoor.

Known for his versatile roles in films like "Ek Chhoti si Love Story" and "Khosla Ka Ghosla," Shorey joins a diverse lineup that includes actress Sonam Khan, viral sensation Chandrika Dixit, and TV star Sana Sultan.

The digital spin-off of Bigg Boss premiered in August 2021 with Karan Johar as host, and in 2023, Salman Khan took over hosting duties, elevating the controversial reality show's digital presence to new heights.

The bollywood hot pair

**Mommyhood bliss! Alia Bhatt talks celebrating Raha's growth with Ranbir**



Alia Bhatt shares the joys of motherhood, reveling in daughter Raha's developmental milestones with Ranbir Kapoor. In a heartfelt conversation with Indian Express, Alia expresses delight in Raha recognizing animals and mirroring her actions. She discloses, "Every night, Ranbir and I eagerly discuss Raha's day, cel-

ebrating her special moments." Alia embraces the role of nurturing Raha, emphasizing the profound bond of learning and growth they share. As parents, she and Ranbir cherish each step of Raha's journey, finding fulfillment in witnessing her evolve into an individual, fostering love and experiences along the way.

Fashion

**Palak Tiwari rocks a fiery look with designer touch**

Palak Tiwari recently turned heads in a striking red ensemble, showcasing her impeccable fashion sense. The Gen Z actress effortlessly embodies modern style with bold choices, evident in her vibrant Limoncello mini-dress priced at Rs. 3,600. The outfit's upper-thigh length, asymmetrical ruffles, and halter neckline exude both elegance and allure, complemented by chic gold sandals.



## Trending on Insta



@kartikaaryan  
**Work it, Girl! Kartik Aaryan shares Katori's adorable fitness journey**

Kartik Aaryan takes to Instagram to humorously train his pet dog Katori, sharing a video of her exercise routine from leg flutters to planks, captioned 'Champion ban gayi.'



@kiaraaliadvani  
**Kiara Advani Celebrates Yoga Day with a picture perfect Chakrasana**

Celebrities like Kiara Advani are marking International Yoga Day 2024 with inspiring poses on social media. Kiara shared a photo mastering the Chakrasana (wheel pose), captioning it simply with "Happy Yoga Day."

## OTT Watch



**Showtime returns for final episodes on July 12th**

Final three episodes of 'Showtime' starring Emraan Hashmi and Mouni Roy premiere July 12 on Disney+ Hotstar.

The series explores Bollywood's ambition and legacy, showcasing Raghu Khanna's journey and stellar performances.



**Ahmed leads comedy for Prime Video**

Riz Ahmed leads a new comedy series on Prime Video, navigating an actor's existential crisis and conspiracy thriller.

Created under his Left Handed deal with Amazon MGM Studios, Ahmed also writes and co-showruns.



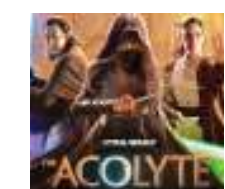
**They're back! Sister Wives gets season 19**

Meri Brown has confirmed "Sister Wives" will return for Season 19, despite major changes in the Brown family. With Kody now monogamous with Robyn, and Janelle and Christine gone, fans are eager for the new chapter.



**Sizzle & Burn! Nia Sharma gets burned on 'Laughter Chefs'**

Nia Sharma injured herself while frying food on 'Laughter Chefs Unlimited Entertainment.' Despite blisters on her stomach, she remained calm and continued cooking. "Cooking has its ups and downs, but it's fulfilling," she said.



**Who's that Kel Dor? Acolyte debuts new Jedi master**

The Acolyte episode 4 surprised fans with a Kel Dor cameo, leading many to believe it was the beloved Jedi Master Plo Koon. The unexpected appearance created a buzz among Star Wars enthusiasts.



# Wellness

POWER YOGA

## Unleash your inner warrior: Power Yoga for strength & Balance

Power Yoga is a great way to give yourself some peace and calm while also energizing your senses in the process.



Power Yoga will awaken your inner warrior, but it's about more than just feeling like a superhero



HIGHLIGHT

● Experience the dynamic fusion of strength, flexibility, and mindfulness in Power Yoga—an empowering journey to physical vitality and inner serenity this International Yoga Day.

alongside deep stretches, fostering improved posture and increased range of motion. The journey into Power Yoga is a personal one, offering growth in strength, flexibility, and inner peace. Embrace this practice as more than a workout—view it as a journey toward self-discovery and empowerment, where each session on the mat fosters a resilient body, an agile mind, and a spirit ignited with determination. On this International Yoga Day, consider embracing Power Yoga as your path to physical vitality and mental serenity—an exploration that promises not just fitness, but a profound connection to your inner strength and balance.

HealthTips

WEB SERIES & CHILL WITH A SIDE OF EASY CHINESE FOOD

Fried Rice

Ingredients

Cooked rice, mixed vegetables (carrots, peas, bell peppers), eggs (optional for non-vegetarian), soy sauce, sesame oil, garlic, ginger, green onions, salt, pepper.

Instructions

Heat oil in a pan, sauté garlic and ginger until fragrant. Add mixed vegetables and stir-fry until tender. Push vegetables to the side, scramble eggs (if using). Add cooked rice, soy sauce, sesame oil, salt, and pepper. Stir well until heated through. Garnish with chopped green onions.



Sweet and Sour Tofu

Ingredients

Firm tofu, bell peppers, pineapple chunks, onion, ketchup, soy sauce, vinegar, sugar, cornstarch, garlic, ginger, oil.

Instructions

Drain tofu, cut into cubes, and coat with cornstarch. Fry until golden brown. Sauté garlic and ginger in oil until fragrant. Add bell peppers and onions, stir-fry until tender. Mix ketchup, soy sauce, vinegar, and sugar in a bowl. Add the sauce and pineapple chunks to the pan, simmer until the sauce thickens. Serve hot with rice.



Sweet and Sour Chicken

Ingredients

Chicken breast, bell peppers, pineapple chunks, onion, ketchup, soy sauce, vinegar, sugar, cornstarch, garlic, ginger, oil.

Instructions

Coat chicken in cornstarch, fry until golden. Sauté garlic and ginger, add bell peppers and onions. Mix ketchup, soy sauce, vinegar, and sugar. Add sauce, pineapple to pan. Simmer until thickened, serve hot.



Vegetable Chow Mein

Ingredients

Chow mein noodles, mixed vegetables (carrots, cabbage, bell peppers), garlic, ginger, soy sauce, oyster sauce, sesame oil, green onions, oil.

Instructions

Cook chow mein noodles according to package instructions, drain and set aside. Heat oil in a large pan or wok, sauté garlic and ginger until fragrant. Add mixed vegetables and stir-fry until tender-crisp. Add cooked noodles, soy sauce, oyster sauce, and sesame oil. Toss everything together until well combined and heated through. Garnish with chopped green onions before serving.



Vegetable Spring Rolls

Ingredients

Spring roll wrappers, cabbage, carrots, bean sprouts, bamboo shoots, soy sauce, sesame oil, vegetable oil (for frying), salt, pepper.

Instructions

Mix cabbage, carrots, bean sprouts, bamboo shoots with soy sauce, sesame oil, salt, pepper. Fill spring roll wrappers, fold tightly. Fry in hot vegetable oil until golden brown. Serve with dipping sauce.



Vegetable Dim Sum Dumplings

Ingredients

Dumpling wrappers, cabbage, carrots, shiitake mushrooms, ginger, garlic, soy sauce, sesame oil, vegetable oil, salt, pepper.

Instructions

Finely chop cabbage, carrots, and mushrooms. Mix with ginger, garlic, soy sauce, sesame oil, salt, and pepper. Fill dumpling wrappers, fold and seal. Steam or pan-fry dumplings until cooked through and golden brown. Serve hot with dipping sauce.



Cullinan's Legacy: A diamond through time

The Cullinan Diamond, discovered in South Africa in 1905, remains one of the most famous and valuable diamonds ever found. Weighing a staggering 3,106 carats in its rough form, it was cut into multiple polished diamonds, many of which are part of the British Crown Jewels. The largest cut diamond from the Cullinan, known as the Cullinan I or the Great Star of Africa, weighs 530.2 carats and is set in the Sovereign's Sceptre with Cross. Its immense size, flawless clarity, and historical significance make it an enduring symbol of prestige and royal heritage.

GOOD LIVING

## Marble 2024: Bold veins, nautical blues, and luxurious choices



Marble is reshaping 2024 interior design with bold veining patterns, nautical-inspired hues, and luxurious furniture choices. From grand palaces to modern homes, its timeless allure symbolizes sophistication and sustainability. Embracing organic swirls and vibrant colors, marble transforms spaces with unique patterns that celebrate authenticity. Popular for its calming oceanic vibe, blue and green marble complements diverse interior styles effortlessly. Beyond traditional uses in bathrooms and kitchens, marble enriches furniture designs, adding elegance to coffee and dining tables. As design trends lean towards vibrant hues and intricate veining, marble remains a versatile and cherished choice in contemporary aesthetics.

SELF-SILENCING

## The student mental health revolution: Breaking the silence

Radhika Vyas

FACTFILE

● With mental disorders on the rise, there are still various misconceptions regarding visiting a psychologist or psychiatrist even today.

a breeding ground for future mental health concerns.

In India, there exists a deeply ingrained perception that therapy and psychologists are only for those who are "pagal". This widespread misconception acts as a significant barrier to mental health awareness and well-being. This ingrained belief acts as a formidable barrier. Young people, facing the mounting pressures of academics, social lives, and parental expectations, often struggle with crippling anxiety. The fear of being ostracized or labeled with a mental health condition prevents them from reaching out for the support they desperately need. This silence not only isolates them in their struggles but also normalizes the bottling up of emotions, creating



In India, many students are suffering from one mental disorder or the other.

constant comparison game on social media, the fear of disappointing parents - it all adds up. Exams become monsters under the bed, social interactions feel like walking a tightrope, and the weight of expectation feels like it's crushing our lungs. But where do we turn? Therapy? Psychologists? These words are often met with raised eyebrows and whispers of "weakness."

The result? We bottle it up. We pretend everything is fine, a facade that crumbles under the relentless pressure. This silence isn't just isolating, it's dangerous. It normalizes the idea that struggling is a sign of failure, that seeking help is a weakness. But it's not.

We, the students of India, need a mental health revolution. We need open conver-

sations, where talking about anxiety and seeking help isn't taboo, but a sign of strength. We need access to resources - counselors in schools, online support groups, workshops that equip us with coping mechanisms. This isn't a luxury, it's a necessity.

The statistics are clear - ignoring student mental health is a recipe for disaster. With one in five Indians battling mental illness, can we afford to neglect the student population any longer. Schools, parents, and policymakers need to come together to create a comprehensive mental health support system for students. Early intervention, access to resources, and a shift in societal attitudes are all crucial.

# Sports



Massive win for us as a team and as a nation. Great feeling. It's something we missed in last two years.

**Rashid Khan**  
Afghanistan Skipper

## Sports Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

**BERLIN OPEN**  
**Sabalenka and Jabeur the latest to retire from matches in Berlin**

**BERLIN:** Aryna Sabalenka and Ons Jabeur retired from their respective quarterfinals in the Berlin Ladies Open. The second-seeded Sabalenka was trailing Anna Kalinskaya 5-1 at the grass-court event when she stopped playing because of shoulder pain. Jabeur had just lost a first-set tiebreaker to Coco Gauff – 7-6 (9) – when she exited with an illness. They're just the latest on the list of injured or ill players, nine days before the start of Wimbledon. Elena Rybakina, the 2022 Wimbledon champion, retired from her quarterfinal on Friday, apparently ill. Marketa Vondrousova, last year's Wimbledon champion, retired from her match because of a leg injury. First-round play begins at Wimbledon on July 1. Several quarterfinals were pushed to Saturday because of rain. **PTI**

**T20 WC**  
**Pat Cummins grabs back-to-back hat-tricks at T20 World Cup**



**KINGSTOWN:** Australia pacer Pat Cummins has become the first bowler to register back-to-back hat-tricks at the T20 World Cup during his team's Super Eights game against Afghanistan here. The 31-year-old dismissed Rashid Khan off the last delivery of the 18th over and then returned to snare the wickets of Karim Janat and Gulbadin Naib in the 20th over to achieve the historic feat. **PTI**

# Afghanistan shocks Australia with stunning 21-run win

Afghanistan stuns Australia in T20 World Cup with a remarkable 21-run victory, marking their first-ever win against the cricketing giants in international play.



Afghanistan players celebrate after defeating Australia by 21 runs.

### HIGHLIGHT

- Gulbadin Naib's four-wicket haul proved crucial in Afghanistan's remarkable defense of 148 for six.
- Pat Cummins' hat-trick wasn't enough as Australia collapsed to 127 all out in 19.2 overs.

batting lineup. His crucial wickets included the dangerous Maxwell, whose dismissal in the 15th over swung the match decisively in Afghanistan's favor. Naib also dismissed Marcus Stoinis and Tim David, further denting Australia's hopes. Rashid Khan contributed by removing Matthew Wade, while Naveen-ul-Haq and Azmatullah cleaned up the tail, with Australia collapsing to 127 all out in 19.2 overs. This victory not only kept Afghanistan's hopes alive in the tournament but also dealt a severe blow to Australia's chances of advancing.

The result has opened up Group 1, with both Australia and Afghanistan having one win each, while India leads with two wins from two matches. Afghanistan now looks forward to their match against Bangladesh, hoping to build on this monumental win.

### Press Trust Of India

Afghanistan secured a historic 21-run win over Australia in the T20 World Cup Super 8s.

**KINGSTOWN:** Afghanistan pulled off an upset of epic proportions with a shock 21-run win over mighty Australia in T20 World Cup with Gulbadin Naib's four-wicket haul upending Pat Cummins' hat-trick to produce one of most memorable days in Afghan cricket.

Afghanistan's innings was built on a solid 118-run opening partnership between Rahmanullah Gurbaz, who scored 60, and Ibrahim Zadran, who added 51. Despite a hat-trick by Australia's Pat Cummins, which spanned two overs and restricted Afghanistan's total, the Afghan team remained resilient.

Australia's chase got off to a shaky start, with Naveen-ul-Haq taking two early wickets, reducing them to 32 for 3 in the powerplay. Glenn Maxwell attempted to anchor the innings with a valiant 41-ball 59, but regular wickets kept Australia on the back foot.

Gulbadin Naib's four-wicket haul was instrumental in breaking the backbone of Australia's

### Richards backs India triumph

**NORTH SOUND:** Batting legend Vivian Richards visited the Indian team's dressing room and expressed his support for Rohit Sharma and his men, saying, "if the Men in Maroon falter, I'm backing you," to win the T20 World Cup. The West Indian was a part of the fielding medal ceremony of the Indian team after it defeated Bangladesh in the Super Eights at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium here on Saturday. "Well done today, going all the way?" he asked. "What can I say to a team that is already so powerful? You have a good thing going here and I can only say that if the guys in maroon don't get it done, I will be backing you. Is that reasonable enough? "As a Caribbean person, really good to see what you have here," Richards said in the video posted by the BCCI.

### | T20 WOLD CUP |

# India aims to derail Australia's T20 campaign

### Press Trust Of India

India looks to derail Australia's T20 World Cup campaign in crucial match.

**GROS ISLET:** India aims to derail Australia's T20 World Cup campaign in their final Super 8 game on Monday. A third straight win for India will make them group toppers and secure a semifinal spot, while jeopardizing Australia's chances following their unexpected loss to Afghanistan.

After Afghanistan's win, Australia no longer controls their own destiny and will be closely watching Afghanistan's final game against Bangladesh. India, having suffered previous defeats



India players at a practice session.

to Australia in major ICC events, would relish eliminating their strong rivals early. India has performed well in their back-to-back wins against Afghanistan and Bangladesh. Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli delivered

crucial innings, while Shivam Dube responded to critics with a key knock. Rishabh Pant aims to improve his shot selection, and Hardik Pandya's all-round performance has been a significant boost. Kuldeep Yadav has

### FACTFILE

- A win will secure India's place in the semifinals as group toppers.
- Australia's defeat against Afghanistan puts their semifinal chances in jeopardy.

quickly made impactful contributions, essential for middle-over wickets. Despite hectic travel, India chose not to train ahead of the game. Australia, with concerns over their batting and fielding, needs Mitchell Marsh and Glenn Maxwell to step up. The match will test Kohli against Adam Zampa, a frequent challenger. Ashton Agar may also return for the crucial encounter.

### | AGGRESSION PAYS OFF |

## 'You've got to match aggression with aggression'

### Press Trust Of India

**GROS ISLET:** Gros Islet: Kuldeep Yadav attributes his success in the Caribbean leg of the T20 World Cup to his aggressive approach. Benched during the league stage in the USA due to pace-friendly surfaces, Kuldeep has excelled on spin-friendly tracks in the Caribbean, taking five wickets in two games, including a three-

wicket haul against Bangladesh.

Kuldeep's strategy involves maintaining an aggressive length, even against attacking batters. He believes that sticking to a good length increases the chances of taking wickets, despite the pressure of high run rates. This approach, honed during the IPL, has proven effective in the T20 World Cup.



For any spinner around the globe, the length matters a lot. And especially in this format, you have to read what the batter is trying to do, be more aggressive.

**Kuldeep Yadav**  
Indian Cricketer

### The Day's NUMBERS

### TOP FIVE LEADING CATCHERS IN WOMEN'S ODI

Mithali Raj	58
Charlotte Edwards	53
Suzie Bates	49
Stafanie Taylor	42
Ellyse Perry	39

Source: Wikipedia

### T20 WC

## South Africa's David Miller reprimanded for Code of Conduct breach

**ST LUCIA:** Explosive South African batter David Miller was reprimanded and handed one demerit point for breaching Level 1 of the ICC Code of Conduct during a Super Eights Group 2 match of the T20 World Cup against England. Miller was found to have breached Article 2.8 of the Code of Conduct for Players and Player Support Personnel, which relates to "showing dissent at an Umpire's decision during an International Match." Since it was the first offence in a 24-month period, one demerit point was added to Miller's disciplinary record. The incident occurred in the 19th over of South Africa's innings. Miller played a full toss from pacer Sam Curran and expected it to be called a 'no ball' for height. When it was not declared a 'no ball', the left-hander showed dissent at the umpire's decision by signalling to review the decision when it could not have been reviewed. **PTI**

### TENNIS

## Sinner reaches first grass-court final in Halle, to face Hurkacz



**HALLE:** Top-ranked Jannik Sinner reached his first grass-court final by beating Zhang Zhizhen 6-4, 7-6 (3) at the Halle Open on Saturday to set up a title match against Hubert Hurkacz. The Italian Sinner saved a set point in the second set before jumping out to a quick lead in the tiebreaker. The Australian Open champion improved his record to 37-3 this year. The Italian reached the Wimbledon semifinals last year, losing in straight sets to Novak Djokovic. **PTI**

## Sports News

# Bruyne crowns Belgium's 2-0 win over Romania

Belgium bounces back with a 2-0 victory over Romania, securing three crucial points. De Bruyne and Tielemans score, keeping their Euro 2024 campaign alive.

Press Trust Of India

Belgium's royal family witnessed a triumphant 2-0 win over Romania, reviving their Euro 2024 campaign.

**COLOGNE:** In front of Belgium's royal family, King Kev sealed the win. Belgium shook off the shock of losing to Slovakia in its opening game of the European Championship by beating Romania 2-0 on Saturday.

Kevin De Bruyne's second-half goal completed the win after Youri Tielemans scored in the second minute at Cologne Stadium. Watching on were Belgium's King Philippe and Queen Mathilde. "We knew what we needed to do. We needed to win otherwise we were going home," De Bruyne said. "I will do everything I can to keep the lads on track." This was just what Belgium needed after the Slovakia stunner, which raised the prospect of another early exit from a major tournament after being eliminated at the group stage



Romania's forward #20 Dennis Man (L) fights for the ball with Belgium's goalkeeper #01 Koen Casteels (R).

## HIGHLIGHT

● **Belgium's victory, crucial after a shocking loss, sets up a decisive final group match.**

● **Coach Tedesco emphasizes the crucial three points as Belgium prepares for decisive match against Ukraine.**

of the 2022 World Cup.

Tielemans gave the No. 3-ranked team in the world a flying start with

a goal from the edge of the area. De Bruyne converted direct from Belgium goalkeeper Koen Casteels' long kick in the 80th.

While Belgium won, there was more frustration for Romelu Lukaku, who had a third goal ruled out by VAR at these Euros. Still, he was at the center of his team's great start when laying the ball off for Tielemans to drive in low from the edge of the box.

## Belgium overcomes criticism with win

Belgium, often criticized for not meeting expectations, overcame its opening defeat with a 2-0 victory over Romania. Tielemans' early goal lifted the team's spirits, dominating possession with 67%. Lukaku's goal was disallowed by VAR, increasing tension as the match progressed. Romania's Dennis Man nearly equalized but was thwarted by goalkeeper Casteels, who later assisted De Bruyne's decisive goal. Coach Tedesco noted the missed opportunities to score more but was relieved with the crucial win. This victory has revived Belgium's Euro 2024 campaign, restoring confidence among players and fans ahead of their next match.

# Portugal score chaotic 3-0 win over Turkey

Press Trust Of India

**LEIPZIG:** Dortmund: There were no goals, one assist and no less than four self-pursuing field invaders for Cristiano Ronaldo in Portugal's 3-0 win over Turkey that secured a spot in the European Championship round of 16 on Saturday. Ronaldo was the center of attention as always at Westfalenstadion but not how he might have expected.

The five-time world player of the year set up the third goal by Bruno Fernandes with an unselfish pass when he could easily have attempted a shot after being played clean through.

Then there was chaos as three fans got on the field at different times in the second half and attempted selfies with Ronaldo. He accepted the first but looked unhappy at the other two.

Another phone-waving supporter, wearing a Portugal jersey, got to Ronaldo moments after the final whistle and security had to hold back another person attempting to confront one of the most famous sports stars in the world as he walked off the field with his teammates.

Ronaldo might be more unhappy at failing to score against a Turkey team that was its own worst enemy



Portugal's Cristiano Ronaldo jumps for the ball.

## HIGHLIGHT

● **Portugal's 3-0 win over Turkey ensures qualification from Group F with a game to spare.**

● **Multiple field invaders disrupt Portugal's victory, but Ronaldo remains the center of attention.**

at times. Not least in the 28th minute when, trailing 1-0 to Bernardo Silva's strike seven minutes earlier, Turkey center back Samet Akaydin delivered a back-pass that rolled to the side of his goalkeeper and straight into the net.

Portugal backed up its opening 2-1 victory over the Czech Republic and has qualified with a match to spare from Group F.

| DOPING SUSPENSION |

# NADA suspends Bajrang Punia again

Press Trust Of India

Bajrang Punia faces suspension again as NADA issues formal notice of charge.

**NEW DELHI:** The National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) has suspended wrestler Bajrang Punia for the second time, issuing a formal notice of charge. This comes three weeks after NADA's Anti-Disciplinary Doping Panel revoked his initial suspension due to the absence of a formal notice. The suspension stems from Punia's refusal to provide a urine sample during selection trials in Sonapat on March 10.

Despite Punia's appeal, which temporarily lifted the suspension, NADA has now officially charged him with vio-



## HIGHLIGHT

● **Bajrang had appealed against the provisional suspension and the ADDP had revoked it on May 31 till NADA issues the notice of charge.**

lating Article 2.3 of the National Anti-Doping Rules, 2021. Bajrang has until July 11 to request a hearing or accept the

charge. He maintains that he did not refuse to provide a sample but sought clarification from NADA regarding expired kits used in a previous test.

NADA stated that Punia's refusal persisted despite multiple requests and explanations of the consequences. If the violation is upheld, it could lead to disqualification of results, forfeiture of medals, and potential financial penalties.

# Indian recurve mixed team wins bronze medal

**ANTALYA:** Indian recurve mixed team of Dhiraj Bommadevara and Bhajan Kaur produced an excellent performance to rally past Mexico and clinch a bronze medal in the Archery World Cup Stage 3 here on Sunday. Trailing 0-2 after conceding the opening set, the Indian team produced a flawless round to bring it level and seal a stunning 5-3 (35-38, 40-39, 38-37, 38-38) win over their Mexican opponents Alejandra Valencia and Matias Grande. This was India's third medal from the meet and the archers will be in the hunt for two more medals when Dhiraj and Ankita Bhakat compete in their respective individual semifinals later in the day. Indian women's compound team of Jyothi Surekha Vennam, Aditi Swami and Parneet Kaur bagged a gold medal.

# Venezuela secures 2-1 comeback victory over 10-man Ecuador

| COPA AMERICA |

Press Trust Of India

**SANTA CLARA:** Jhonder Cádiz and Eduard Bello scored second-half goals after subbing on at halftime and Venezuela rallied for a 2-1 win over short-handed Ecuador in the opening round of group play at the Copa America.

Enner Valencia, who went into the tournament expected to lead Ecuador's attack, was shown a straight red card in the 22nd minute and Ecuador played a man down the rest of the way.

Ecuador, however, took a 1-0 lead in the 40th minute when Jeremy Sarmiento took advantage of a failed clearance of a free kick into the area by Kendry Páez.

Cádiz played a one-touch shot from 15-yards out to make it 1-1 in



Jhonder Cadiz of Venezuela celebrates with teammates | Photo: AFP

the 64th minute. Bello scored on a putback from point-blank range to give Venezuela a 2-1 lead in the 74th minute.

Alexander González played an arcing entry from the right side to the center of the area and Salomón Rondón's div-

## HIGHLIGHT

● **Claudio Bravo, at 41, made four crucial saves, helping Chile secure a draw.**

● **Physical match featured 37 fouls and four yellow cards, with Peru and Chile drawing.**

ing header was parried by goalkeeper Alexander Domínguez and Bello took advantage. Rondón returned to the starting lineup after scoring as a substitute in the team's last friendly match. Ecuador, which entered the tournament ranked 30th in the FIFA rankings, plays Wednesday against Jamaica at Allegiant Stadium in Las Vegas. Venezuela, ranked 54th, plays Mexico on Wednesday at SoFi Stadium in Inglewood, California.

| CRICKET |

# India sweeps women's ODI series 3-0

Press Trust Of India

**BENGALURU:** Smriti Mandhana's elegant 90 formed the cornerstone of India's six-wicket victory over South Africa in the third and final women's ODI, completing a 3-0 series sweep on Sunday.

Mandhana, scoring 90 off 83 balls with 11 boundaries, received solid support from Shafali Verma (25), Priya Punia (28), and Harmanpreet Kaur (42 off 48 balls). India comfortably chased down the target of 216, finishing at 220 for four in 40.4 overs. South Africa managed 215 for eight, with skipper Laura Wolvaardt contributing a solid 61 off 57 balls.

Mandhana's dominant



performance throughout the series was evident as she amassed 343 runs at an impressive average of 114.33. Her composed and graceful shots captivated the crowd, though she narrowly missed a third consecutive century, dismissed by Nonku

Mlaba while attempting a sweep.

India's chase was aided by efficient partnerships, with Shafali and Mandhana adding 61 runs for the opening wicket and Priya helping to add another 62 for the second wicket. Harman-

preet's fluent contribution secured the win.

South Africa's innings began promisingly with Wolvaardt and Tazmin Brits (38) putting up 102 runs in 19.5 overs. However, their progress stalled as India's bowlers, led by Arundhati Reddy (2/36) and Deepti Sharma (2/27), tightened their grip. Arundhati's brilliant return catch dismissed Wolvaardt, initiating a collapse where South Africa lost eight wickets for 113 runs.

South Africa's self-inflicted wounds, including two critical run-outs, compounded their struggles. Ultimately, India's disciplined bowling and Mandhana's superb batting ensured a decisive series victory.

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# World



“Modern air defence systems for Ukraine — such as Patriots, accelerated training of our pilots for F-16s are truly necessary.”

**Volodymyr Zelenskyy**  
Ukrainian President

## Kupala Night, in Warsaw, Poland



A Ukrainian woman jumps over fire during a traditional Ukrainian celebration of Kupala Night, in Warsaw, Poland. | Photo: PTI

## Frontier force in PoK gets the nod

**ISLAMABAD:** Pakistan's federal government on Sunday approved the deployment of the paramilitary force Frontier Constabulary in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) which was rocked by protests last month, during which several people were killed.



## Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

### ILLEGAL FISHING

#### 18 Indian fishermen arrested by Sri Lankan nav, vessels were seized

**COLOMBO:** As many as 18 Indian fishermen were arrested for alleged illegal fishing in the island nation's waters by the Sri Lankan Navy and three fishing vessels were seized, a media report said on Sunday. The fishermen were arrested from the North Sea near Delft Islands during a search operation conducted Saturday night, news portal The News First reported. Navy spokesperson Capt Gayan Wickramasuriya said the arrested fishermen would be taken to Kankasanturai fishing harbour for further legal proceedings. Last week, four Indian fishermen were arrested and their trawler seized by the Sri Lankan Navy for allegedly poaching in the island nation's waters. Before the latest incident, more than 180 Indian fishermen had been arrested and 25 of their trawlers seized in 2024 for alleged illegal fishing in the Sri Lankan waters, Sri Lankan officials said. **PTI**

### POLL RIGGING

#### Ex-Pak PM Imran Khan's party reiterates demand for CEC's resignation

**ISLAMABAD:** Jailed former Pakistan prime minister Imran Khan's party on Sunday reiterated its demand for Chief Election Commissioner Sikandar Sultan Raja's immediate resignation for failing to hold "free and fair" elections and protested against the "injustices" being committed against the party, according to media reports. **PTI**



# USA is withholding arms shipments, claims Netanyahu

The war in Gaza, which was sparked by Hamas' October 7 attack on southern Israel, has tested the US-Israel relationship like never before., as USA is feeling pressure from within.

Press Trust Of India

**TEL AVIV:** Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu told his Cabinet on Sunday that there had been a "dramatic drop" in US weapons deliveries for Israel's war effort in Gaza, doubling down on a claim that the Biden administration has denied and underscoring the growing strains between the two allies. Netanyahu told his Cabinet that the drop had occurred four months ago, without specifying

which weapons, saying only that "certain items arrived sporadically but the munitions at large remained behind." The spat highlights how high tensions have surged between Israel and Washington over the war in Gaza, particularly surrounding the Israeli military's conduct in the beleaguered territory and the harm to civilian life there. President Joe Biden has delayed delivering certain heavy bombs since May over those concerns, but his

### HIGHLIGHT

● Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu told his Cabinet that there had been a "dramatic drop" in US weapons deliveries for Israel's war effort in Gaza

administration fought back last week against Netanyahu's charges that other shipments had also been affected. Netanyahu told the Cabinet that he was driven to release a video in English last week after

weeks of unsuccessful pleas with American officials to speed up deliveries. He said a resolution appeared close. "In light of what I have heard over the past day, I hope and believe that this matter will be solved soon," he said, without elaborating. Netanyahu's video last week sparked an uproar among critics in Israel and was met with denial and confusion from White House officials. White House national security spokesman John Kirby said the U.S. was

"perplexed" by Netanyahu's claims. White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said, "We generally do not know what he's talking about." His remarks came hours after Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Gallant traveled to Washington for meetings with senior officials. A statement from Gallant's office said he would discuss "maintaining Israel's qualitative edge in the region" but made no mention of the weapons issue.

## 23 people arrested for lynching in Pakistan's Swat town

**ISLAMABAD:** Pakistan police have arrested more than 20 people for alleged involvement in the lynching of a tourist in the picturesque town of Swat for allegedly desecrating the Quran, media reports said here on Sunday. Muhammad Ismail, a 40-year-old resident of Sialkot in Punjab province, was gunned down by an enraged mob which dragged him through the town and later hanged him in full public view in Madyan tehsil of Swat district in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province on Thursday. The mob had also set the Madyan police station ablaze. Ismail was accused of having burnt the pages of Islam's holy book. Five police personnel and 11 locals were injured in the incident.

# UK PM Rishi Sunak hit with official's betting allegation

Press Trust Of India

It comes as a fresh blow for the Sunak-led Tories, already trailing behind the Opposition Labour Party in the pre-election opinion polls.

**LONDON:** British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak is dealing with yet another senior party official being involved in placing bets on the date of the general election before July 4 was confirmed, as the scandal engulfing his top aides continues to be investigated by the country's gambling watchdog. The British Indian leader, who has said he was "incredibly angry" on learning about the allegations that emerged earlier this month, now



### FAST FACTS

● While betting is legal in the UK, any bets placed with the advantage of insider information could fall within the purview of illegality.

finds the Conservative Party's chief data officer also being investigated by the Gambling Commission for allegedly betting on

the timing of the election before the date had been announced. Following the revelations first reported in "The Sunday Times", Nick Mason is said to have taken a leave of absence but denies wrongdoing. It comes as a fresh blow for the Sunak-led Tories, already trailing far behind the Opposition Labour Party in all pre-election opinion polls, after his director of campaigns,

Tony Lee, and his Tory MP candidate wife, Laura Saunders, were named earlier in the election date betting investigations. It followed reports of Sunak's close protection officer being arrested by the Metropolitan Police on suspicion of misconduct over placing an election date bet and Sunak's parliamentary aide, Tory MP candidate Craig Williams, also under investigation. While betting is legal in the UK, any bets placed with the advantage of insider information could fall within the purview of illegality. "There are multiple investigations happening. It's right they're allowed to proceed. They're independent and necessarily confidential," Sunak told reporters earlier this week.

## RUSSIA-UKRAINE-WAR

### Ukraine sends over 30 drones into Russia after bombing leaves 3 dead, dozens injured

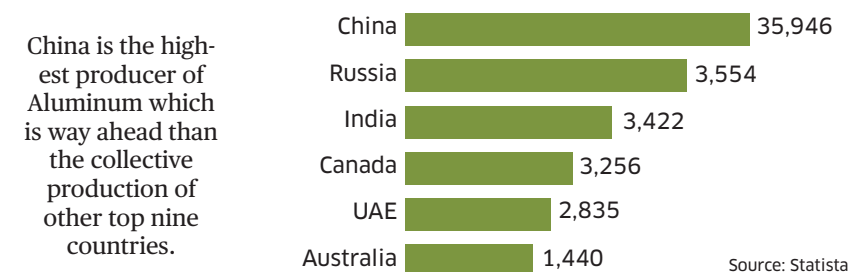


**KYIV:** Russian authorities said more than 30 drones were shot down over the country's western regions overnight into Sunday, just hours after a Russian bomb attack on Ukraine's second largest city of Kharkiv killed three people and left dozens in hospitals. One of the four aerial bombs hit a five-story residential building on Saturday afternoon, officials said. Regional Gov. Oleh Syniehubov said 41 people were still being treated for injuries. In a video address following the attack, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy urged Ukraine's partners to bolster its air defences.

"Modern air defence systems for Ukraine — such as Patriots, accelerated training of our pilots for F-16s, and most importantly, sufficient range for our weapons — are truly necessary," he said. Two people were wounded by falling debris when two Russian missiles were shot down over the Kyiv region overnight, Ukraine's air force commander Mykola Oleschuk said. In Russia, air defence forces shot down 33 Ukrainian drones over the country's western Bryansk, Smolensk, Lipetsk and Tula regions, the Russian Ministry of Defence said. No casualties or damage were reported. **PTI**

### The Day's NUMBERS

### WORLD'S LARGEST ALUMINUM PRODUCING COUNTRIES (MILLION TONNES)



### PROSCRIBED LIST

## Sri Lankan minister hails UK's decision on LTTE

Press Trust Of India

**COLOMBO:** Sri Lankan Foreign Minister Ali Sabry has hailed the decision of the UK government to continue to maintain the LTTE under the proscribed list, saying that the move will thwart every plan of the former armed group to revive itself in the island

nation. In a post on the social media platform X, Sabry said that the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam's (LTTE) international network's approach and strategy is to get foreign governments to deproscribe it so that they could revive the group once again. The decision by the UK authorities to carry on with Sri



Lanka's LTTE under the proscribed list has thwarted the group's plans to revive them in Sri Lanka, Sabry said in his post on X. "The LTTE's international network's approach and strategy is to get foreign governments to deproscribe the LTTE so that they could revive the LTTE," he added.

## US ELECTION

### Former first lady Melania Trump stays out of the public eye as Donald Trump runs for president

**WEST PALM BEACH:** After Melania Trump missed key events in her husband's presidential bid earlier this year — from the kickoff of the 2024 election in Iowa to Donald Trump's Super Tuesday victory party — reporters asked the former first lady whether she planned to hit the campaign trail. Her response: "Stay tuned." But since making that comment in March, after she and Donald Trump voted in Florida's primary, Melania Trump has largely refrained from public appearances. **PTI**

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