



**CHHATTISGARH**  
Congmen stage roadblock protest with slogans Pg 07



# Central Chronicle

## Airports, trains, LSE stuck after outage

Airline operations face disruption after global computer outage.

Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI /MUMBAI:** Indian airlines experienced technical and operational disruptions after a widespread global computer outage created chaos at airports as passenger check-ins were delayed with airlines resorting to issuing manual boarding passes.

Union Civil Aviation Minister Rammohan Naidu assured the passengers that his ministry and Airports Authority of India (AAI) are actively managing the situation using manual methods to ensure minimal disruption. IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said his ministry was in touch with Microsoft and added that NIC network is not affected.

In a post on X, IT Minister Vaishnaw said the reason for this outage has been identified and updates have been released to resolve the issue. CERT is issuing a technical advisory, he wrote. "MEITY is in touch with Microsoft and its associates regarding the global outage... NIC net-



Passengers at a reservation counter at the airport amid Microsoft outage, in Jammu.

### HIGHLIGHT

● Country's leading stock exchanges NSE and BSE on Friday said they are not impacted due to the global outage of Microsoft systems.

work is not affected," the minister said.

Meanwhile, CERT-In has issued an advisory on the Microsoft outage caused by CrowdStrike update, and rated its severity as "critical". "A global outage with the Navitaire Departure Control System (NDCS) has

**It is aware of the issue affecting Windows devices due to an update from a third-party software platform.**

Microsoft

been affecting operations of some airlines across their network, including BLR Airport since 10.40 IST on July 19, 2024," a Bangalore International Airport Ltd spokesperson said in a statement.

Country's leading stock exchanges NSE and BSE

on Friday said they are not impacted due to the global outage of Microsoft systems. Microsoft users globally, several in India, have reported massive outages in services, with outage tracking website Downdetector showing users flagging disruptions across various services.

"NSE (National Stock Exchange) and NCL (NSE Clearing Ltd) are working normal today," NSE's spokesperson said in a statement. Separately, a BSE spokesperson said the bourse is "not impacted due to Microsoft issue. Our operations are running normal."

## ED attaches Rs 300-cr worth land of M3M realty

**NEW DELHI:** The ED on Friday said it has attached land in Gurugram, worth over Rs 300 crore, of real estate group M3M as part of a money laundering probe linked to an alleged land fraud case that also involves Congress leader and former Haryana chief minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda.

A provisional order has been issued by the federal probe agency under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA). The 88.29 acres of land is located in Basharia village of Harsaru tehsil in Haryana's Gurugram district that borders Delhi. The land is valued at Rs 300.11 crore, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) said in a statement.

## Huge crowd joins funeral procession

Press Trust Of India

Sahu, who is survived by his parents, wife, two daughters and a toddler son, as well as five brothers and two sisters was the only member of the family in the force.



Family members mourn during funeral of Special Task Force (STF) constable.

### FACTFILE

● Sahu was among the two jawans of the Special Task Force who died when Naxalites detonated an IED on Wednesday night.

uty Chief Minister Vijay Sharma, senior police officials and people from different walks of

life bid an emotional farewell to the martyr. Police personnel accorded a guard of honour to the fallen jawan in the crematorium.

CM Vishnu Deo Sai and his deputy Sharma also carried Shahu's coffin on their shoulders when it was being put into a police truck earlier.

RTE QUOTA

## HC junks notification giving exemption

Press Trust Of India

**MUMBAI:** The Bombay High Court on Friday quashed the Maharashtra government's notification that exempted private schools within a one-kilometre radius of government or aided schools from Right to Education (RTE) Act quota admis-

sions. A division bench of Chief Justice D K Upadhyaya and Justice Amit Borkar said the notification dated February 9 was "ultra vires" to Article 21 of the Constitution of India and provisions of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009, also known as the RTE. "The notification

### NUMBER

25

● The notification exempted private unaided schools within a one-kilometre radius from reserving 25 per cent of seats.

is held to be null and void," the court said. The court, in its judgment, said the mandate of the law casts a duty not only on the government but also on private unaided schools to provide education to children in the age group of six to 14 years from the disadvantaged section of society.

## SC seeks response from Centre

**NEW DELHI:** New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Friday sought responses from the Centre and others on a plea challenging a decision of the National Medical Commission (NMC) to not conduct NEET-Super Speciality examination in 2024. The National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test-Super Speciality (NEET-SS) can be taken by doctors having post-graduate degrees like MD, MS, and DNB, or an equivalent qualification for admission to super-speciality courses.

A bench comprising Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud and Justices JB Pardiwala and Manoj Misra was told by a lawyer, appearing for 13 aspirants, that the NMC has decided to not hold the exam this year. As per news reports, NEET-SS is likely to be conducted in January 2025.

## UPSC files FIR against Puja Khedkar for forgery

Press Trust Of India

The commission has also issued a show cause notice for cancellation of her candidature of the civil services examination-2022 and debarment from future examinations and selections.

**NEW DELHI:** The Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) on Friday took a series of action, including registration of a police case, against probationary IAS officer Puja Khedkar for fraudulently availing attempts in the civil services examination by faking her identity.

The commission has also issued a show cause notice for cancellation of her candidature of the civil services examination-2022 and debarment from future examinations and selections.

Khedkar, a 2023 batch probationary Indian Administrative Service

(IAS) officer, is accused of misusing power and privileges, by demanding perks and facilities she was not entitled for, during her training in Pune District Collectorate in Maharashtra recently.

She is accused of bullying everyone around and of placing a red-blue beacon (indicating high-ranking official) atop a private Audi (a luxury sedan) car used by her that also had 'Maharashtra government' written on it during her stint.

After the Pune district collector flagged the matter, Khedkar was transferred to Washim District Collectorate in the Vidarbha region.

She was declared qualified in the civil services examination 2022. Based on the results declared last year by the UPSC, Khedkar was allocated the IAS and her home state Maharashtra as a cadre.

### NEWSLINE

#### New Delhi

#### 'Viksit Bharat' theme for 78th I-Day celebrations

The theme for 78th Independence Day celebrations is 'Viksit Bharat', in sync with the government's vision to transform the country into a developed nation by 2047. Ministry of Defence spokesperson A. Bharat Bhushan Babu made the announcement in a post on X.

#### Kochi

#### Suspected Maoist sent to judicial custody by court

A court here on Friday remanded a suspected Maoist, who was arrested a day ago, to judicial custody. The accused was brought to the court amidst tight security, escorted by at least six armed policemen. According to sources, the accused will be produced before the court again on Saturday when it will consider the custody application.



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# Raipur



BJP govt is playing with the sentiments of farmers.  
**Surendra Verma**,  
PCC senior spokesperson.

## Huge crowd offered rich tributes to STF martyrs



People of the area offered condolences to STF martyr killed in IED blast by the people of his community and residents of city in large number.

# 9 flights cancelled at Vivekananda Airport

Passengers said the airport authority were not giving them proper updates.

Central Chronicle News

**RAIPUR:** A widespread global computer outage on Friday led to several Indian airlines facing technical and operational disruptions, which also impacted Swami Vivekananda Airport in Chhattisgarh's Raipur, where nine flights belonging to IndiGo Airlines were cancelled, officials said. These comprise five departures and four arrivals, they said, adding a few flights were also delayed. Officials, how-

ever, did not give details of these delayed flights. "Five flights from Raipur to Bengaluru (at 19:55 hrs), Kolkata (20:45 hrs), Hyderabad (20:55 hrs), Mumbai (21:05 hrs) and Delhi (21:20 hrs) and four arrival flights, all belonging to IndiGo, have been cancelled following the IT outage," an airport official here told PTI. Several passengers said the airport authority and airlines were not giving them proper updates. Talking to reporters, Suruchi Shrivastav from

### HIGHLIGHT

● A widespread global computer outage led to airlines facing operational disruptions.

Raipur said she was scheduled to go to Mumbai for a chemotherapy session of her son, but was now worried how she would reach the western metropolis.

"The chemotherapy is scheduled for Monday. My husband, son and I were scheduled to

reach Mumbai tonight and complete hospital formalities over the next two days. Now I don't know what to do next. The airport authority and IndiGo have not been giving any update, which is more troubling," Shrivastav said.

Another passenger, Aditya, who was scheduled to reach Kolkata, said the airline messaged about the flight delay and subsequent cancellation but no one was talking about alternate arrangements.

## Khubchand Baghel visionary behind State creation: CM

**RAIPUR:** Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai attended the 124th birth anniversary celebrations of Dr. Khubchand Baghel Commercial Complex, Phool Chowk, on July 19. During the event, Sai garlanded the statue of Dr. Khubchand Baghel and paid his respects. The ceremony was also attended by Cabinet Minister Tankaram Verma and former Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel. In his speech, Chief Minister Sai lauded Dr. Khubchand Baghel as a visionary whose efforts were instrumental in the creation of the state of Chhattisgarh. Sai noted Dr. Baghel's multifaceted identity as a skilled doctor and esteemed litterateur. He also acknowledged the role of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee in realizing the dream of an independent Chhattisgarh, expressing gratitude for his pivotal contribution. Chief Minister Sai highlighted the achievements of his government, which has completed seven months in office. He recounted significant initiatives such as providing housing to 18 lakh poor families and purchasing paddy from farmers at Rs 3100 per quintal, with a limit of 21 quintals per acre.

## Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

### UCC IMPLEMENTATION

#### Chhattisgarh to implement Uniform Civil Code: Deputy Chief Minister Sharma

**RAIPUR:** Chhattisgarh Deputy Chief Minister Vijay Sharma announced that the state will implement the Uniform Civil Code (UCC). Speaking at an event during his Delhi tour, Sharma asserted that there are no challenges hindering the implementation of the UCC in Chhattisgarh. This announcement has reignited the debate on the Uniform Civil Code in the state. The previous government had opposed the UCC, leading to significant discussions and disagreements. Former Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel responded to Sharma's statement, urging the government not to mislead the tribal communities and demanding a specific implementation date for the UCC. During their visit to New Delhi, Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai and Deputy CM Vijay Sharma met with Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnav to discuss four major railway projects in Chhattisgarh.

### STABBED

#### Miscrants stabs man for not withdrawing report in Raipur



**RAIPUR:** A stabbing incident occurred in Rawatpura BSUP Colony in the capital city. The assailant, identified as Khirsindhu, attacked a man named Narhari with a knife. The incident falls under the jurisdiction of the Tikrapara police station. According to reports, the assailant had previously been jailed for molesting Narhari's daughter. Upon his release, he began pressuring Narhari to withdraw the report. When Narhari refused, Khirsindhu attacked him. The assault happened while Narhari was on his way to a shop to buy goods.

### Concerns regarding frequent delays of trains

#### Team CAIT urges Raipur Railway Division Manager to address train delays and expand services



**RAIPUR:** The Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT), led by National Senior Vice President Amar Parwani and State President Jitendra Doshi, met with Raipur Railway Division Manager Sanjeev Kumar and Commercial Officer Awadhesh Trivedi to address concerns regarding frequent delays and cancellations of passenger trains. The delegation also handed over a memorandum detailing these issues. Amar Parwani, along with other CAIT leaders including Chairman Magelal Malu, Amar Gidwani, Executive President Vikram Singhdev, Parmanand

Jain, Vashu Makhija, General Secretary Surinder Singh, Executive General Secretary Bharat Jain, and Treasurer Ajay Agarwal, discussed the pressing issues affecting passengers and traders alike.

In their memorandum, Team CAIT highlighted the increasing problems with train delays and cancellations in the Raipur Division of South East Central Railway. They noted that traders frequently travel to other cities for business, and the disruptions are severely impacting their schedules and operations.

## Priyanshi Gupta becomes CA

**RAIPUR:** Priyanshi Gupta, daughter of the late Rajesh Gupta and a resident of Avinash Pride, Hiraipur, Raipur, has made her city proud by successfully clearing the final examination of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) and earning the prestigious title of Chartered Accountant (CA).

A brilliant student, Priyanshi completed her graduation while living in Raipur. Her remarkable achievement is attributed to her dedication, hard work, and unwavering family support. The news of her success has brought immense joy to her family, colony residents, and friends, who have all extended their heartfelt congratulations and best wishes for her bright future.

TRIBUTE PAID

## CM Sai and Dy CM pay tribute to martyred Jawan

Central Chronicle News

**RAIPUR:** Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai and Deputy Chief Minister Vijay Sharma paid their respects to martyred jawan Bharat Lal Sahu, who lost his life in a Naxal attack in Tarrem, Bijapur district. The leaders offered a wreath at the 4th Battalion Mana, where they also shouldered the mortal remains of the jawan and ensured that he was sent with full honors to his residence

## Sand price soars amid illegal storage in Raipur

Central Chronicle News

Sand mafias are capitalizing on rainy season situation, selling the sand at exorbitant rates

**RAIPUR:** In Chhattisgarh's Raipur district, the price of sand has skyrocketed from Rs 1,500 to Rs 18,000, thanks to illegal storage practices. Sand worth approximately Rs 40 crore has been unlawfully stored along the banks of the Mahanadi River, with the Mines department failing to intervene. As the rainy season progresses, sand mafias are capitalizing on the situation, selling the sand at exorbitant rates. Last week, substantial quantities of sand were confiscated in Dhamtari and Mahasamund. Although permission has



Sand storage at Kumhari, 100 km from Mahanadi river.

### FACTFILE

● The price of sand has skyrocketed from Rs 1,500 to Rs 18,000

been granted for sand storage at only 17 sites in Raipur, it is being stored at over 200 locations. According to the rules of the mineral department,

unauthorized storage should be confiscated, and the sand auctioned at government rates for public or government construction use.

Currently, one truck of sand, priced at Rs 9,000 to Rs 10,000, reaches construction sites at a cost of Rs 18,000 to Rs 20,000. The

government-fixed loading price is Rs 150 per cubic meter, translating to Rs 1,500 per truck. However, sand mafias are charging significantly higher rates. Additionally, those storing sand illegally are demanding royalties, with Rs 4,000 being charged for a royalty of Rs 700.

We have intensified our fight against the Maoists, and we are engaged in a decisive battle

Vishnu Deo Sai,  
CM, CG Govt

soldier's supreme sacrifice, stating, "Our brave jawans have made the ultimate sacrifice in the IED blast in Tarrem. Since the formation of our government, we

have intensified our fight against the Maoists, and we are engaged in a decisive battle. The martyrdom of our soldiers will not be in vain." During the visit, Chief Minister Sai met with the family of Bharat Lal Sahu to offer his condolences and support.

Constable Bharat Lal Sahu, a resident of Raipur district and a member of the Special Task Force (STF), was martyred during an anti-Naxal operation on July 17.



in Raipur Saddu. Chief Minister Vishnu

Deo Sai expressed solemn gratitude for the

### ARRESTED

#### Health Department clerk arrested for bribery by ACB in Raipur

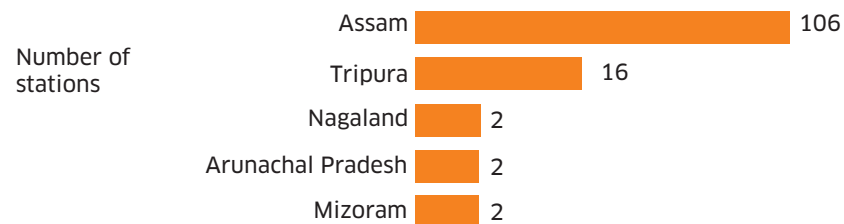


**RAIPUR:** In a significant operation, the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) team in Raipur has arrested Suraj Nag, a clerk in the health department, red-handed while accepting a bribe. The clerk was caught taking a bribe of Rs. 20,000 from a staff nurse in exchange for settling a two-year study leave.

The arrest occurred near Nag's residence at Vijayta Complex in Rajendra Nagar. The ACB's swift action underscores its commitment to combating corruption within government departments.

### The Day's NUMBERS

#### STATE-WISE STATUS OF RAILWAY NETWORK IN NORTH-EASTERN INDIA



Source : Agency

### ASSEMBLY GHERAO

#### Congress plans historic Assembly gherao on July 24: Baij expects massive turnout

**RAIPUR:** Congress leaders and workers gathered at Congress Bhawan to strategize for a major protest set to gherao the state assembly on July 24. State Congress President Deepak Baij has set an ambitious target of mobilizing more than 20,000 people for the demonstration.

During a media discussion, Baij criticized the current state of law and order in Chhattisgarh, asserting that public discontent would drive people to the streets in protest. He outlined the plan for a public meeting at Mandi Gate, from where the demonstrators will march towards the assembly. Baij promised that the Congress's movement would be historic. Baij also expressed disapproval of the recent name change of a scheme previously named after Dr. Khubchand Baghel.

He argued that altering the scheme's name has sparked widespread anger, not only among the specific community but across the state. He accused the BJP government of sowing societal divisions with such actions.

## Earlier circulars over govt land allocation annulled

Cabinet approves draft of 'Ch'garh Appropriation Bill, 2024', for presenting first supplementary estimate for the year 2024-2025 in Assembly.



Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai chairing a Cabinet Meeting at Mantralaya.

Central Chronicle News

### FASTFACTS

**RAIPUR:** In a significant decision the state cabinet has annulled the previously issued directives and circulars related to allocation, management and granting of ownership rights for government land in urban areas of Chhattisgarh. The cabinet meeting was chaired by Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai at Mantralaya here on Friday.

Circular issued by the Revenue and Disaster Management Department on 11 September 2019 regarding the management of encroached

● In order to provide fair value to farmers for their produce, Cabinet has decided to amend 'Chhattisgarh Agricultural Produce Market Act'.

● According to the amendment proposal, the term "market fee and farmer welfare fee" will replace the existing "market fee."

land, allocation of government land, and the process of determining and recovering annual land rent in urban areas;

### Draft of 'Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2024' approved

Cabinet has approved the draft of 'Chhattisgarh Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2024'. This follows the GST Council's decision to rationalize provisions related to the Input Service Distributor and to register machines used in the manufacturing of items such as pan masala and gutkha. Consequently, the Central Goods and Services Tax Amendment Act 2024 was notified on 15 February 2024. Accordingly, similar amendments to the Chhattisgarh Goods and Services Tax Act, 2017, have been proposed.

circular issued on 26 Oct 2019 regarding granting land ownership rights for permanent leases in urban areas; circular issued on 20 May 2020 regarding converting per-

manent leasehold lands into ownership rights in Nazul areas; and circular issued on 24 February 2024 regarding allocation of govt land have been annulled.

## Choudhary gets stuck at Delhi Airport

**RAIPUR:** Finance Minister OP Choudhry got stuck at Delhi airport and as a result he could not attend the cabinet meeting in the state capital. The flight service remained disrupted to the server break down in the Microsoft operating system. Finance Minister had to remain at Delhi airport for a couple of hours and he could not return to Raipur. His flight which was scheduled to take off before 12.00 O'clock noon was rescheduled at 2.00 pm. Entire communication system came to a stand-still, due to a big bug in Microsoft's Windows operating system.

## Mowa Bazar Chowk to be renamed

**RAIPUR:** Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai and his Cabinet decided to rename Mowa Bazar Chowk in Raipur as Shaheed Bharat Lal Sahu Chowk, in honour of the martyred soldier. They paid tribute to Shri Bharat Lal Sahu. Bharat Lal Sahu, a constable of the Special Task Force (STF), lost his life on July 17 after being caught in an IED blast set by Maoists during a search operation in the forests of Mandimarakka in Bijapur district. The late Bharat Lal Sahu was a resident of Mowa Bazar in Raipur.

## Health department gears up to tackle waterborne diseases

Central Chronicle News

### HIGHLIGHT

**RAIPUR:** Dr P Kudeshiya, Chief Medical and Health Officer of Mahasamund district, said that a total of 264 ORT corners were established in the district, which include 227 sub-health centers, 30 primary health centers, 05 community health centers, 01 urban primary health center and 01 hospital affiliated to government medical college.

According to Mahasamund CMHO, 96 thousand packets of ORS and 2 lakh 44 thousand zinc tablets have been made available in the district, ensuring the availability of IV fluid, paracetamol medicines. Drinking water has been arranged in all the centers. He informed that all

● As per the instructions of CM Sai, measures are beint taken in all the districts to prevent vomiting diarrhoea, malaria, jaundice and other infectious diseases during the rainy season.

the medicines like ORS, Zinc, Parametamol and other essential medicines have been made available in sufficient quantity in the medicine box of Mitamins to deal with seasonal diseases.

Dr Kudeshiya has advised necessary precautions to prevent seasonal diseases like keeping food items and water covered, not to eat stale food and rotten fruits and always eat fresh food.

## Preparations for VYAPAM exam discussed

**RAIPUR:** Collector Dr. Gaurav Singh held a meeting regarding the preparations for the Chhattisgarh State Eligibility Test (SET) 2024 organized by Chhattisgarh Professional Examination Board (CGVYAPAM).

Collector Dr Singh said that basic facilities like light, furniture, water, washroom, parking etc. should be ensured in

the center. He instructed the concerned officials to check the attendance of the candidates twice and said that there should not be any mistake of any kind.

Candidates should be allowed to enter the center by the stipulated time. He instructed to receive the distribution of examination material by appearing before 7 am.

### NEWSLINE

#### SPORTS

**RBI clinches title with 3-0 win against ESIC**



**RAIPUR:** Priyanshu Rajawat from Reserve Bank of India (RBI) defeated Viplov Kuveller from Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) with the score of 21-10, 21-8 to provide an early lead to the team in Men's final of the Inter Institutional Badminton Tournament being organized under the aegis of Chhattisgarh Badminton Association (CBA) here on Friday. Similarly, Bhaskar Choekaborty defeated Shubham with the score of 21-17, 21-9 to consolidate the position in Team event. RBI also won the Men's Doubles match with the pair of Anjan Buragohain and Ranjan Buragohain defeating the pair of Anmol Behrani and Viplov Kuveller by 21-16, 17-21, 21-18 to provide them the championship title.

Meanwhile, in the Men's Quarterfinals match, Srijan Nandalori (FCI) defeated Prem Singh Chauhan (LIC) 21-16, 21-11. Bhaskar Choekaborty (RBI) defeated K Murali Krishnan (ESIC) 21-19, 21-16.

## ED, AIIMS (R) awarded highest defence decoration

Central Chronicle News

The award is extremely coveted being the highest award for distinguished service in the Armed Forces.

**RAIPUR:** Lt Gen Ashok Jindal (Retd) Executive Director, AIIMS Raipur has been awarded Param Vishisht Seva Medal by Smt Droupadi Murmu, President of India on 19 July 24 at Rashtrapati Bhavan in recognition of his distinguished service of the most exceptional order. The award is extremely coveted being the highest award for distinguished service in the Armed Forces.

Lt Gen Ashok Jindal who had a distinguished career spanning almost four decades in the Indian Army is among the most decorated military



Lt Gen Ashok Jindal (Retd) ED, AIIMS Raipur has been awarded Param Vishisht Seva Medal by Smt Droupadi Murmu, President of India.

### FASTFACTS

● His perseverance and capability to orchestrate numerous activities resulted in transformational improvement in Northern Command medical support.

doctors in the country. Lt Gen Jindal after taking up

diers, sailors and air warriors came up in the hospital which included the Early Intervention Centre for Special Children and the new Accident and Emergency Centre. This premier institution of the Armed Forces Medical Services thus became the proud recipient of Chief of Army Staff Unit Appreciation in 2023 under his Command. Earlier, as a Major General while serving as Commandant Command Hospital (Northern Command) Udhampur he displayed exemplary foresight and organizational skills to ensure that his hospital not only provided quality health care to Covid patients both soldiers and civilians but also continued to excel in delivering life and limb saving treatment to numerous operational casualties in Jammu & Kashmir during the pandemic.

Command of Army Hospital (Research & Referral) Delhi in Nov 2021 is credited with restarting the liver transplant, heart transplant and pediatric heart valve replacement programmes with excellent results. Due to his leadership and administrative skills a large number of State of the Art infrastructural projects for the welfare of sol-

### ENCROACHMENTS |

## Civic Comm instructs to remove encroachments

Central Chronicle News

**RAIPUR:** Commissioner Abinash Mishra conducted an inspection from Siddharth Chowk Tikrapara to Pachpedi Naka Chowk, instructing the immediate removal of illegal encroachments on both sides of the road and penalizing those who occupy the road, misuse parking rules, spread garbage and encroach on drains.

The Zone 6 Town Planning Department fined 5

● A campaign should be run to remove abandoned vehicles, illegal carts and kiosks from roads.

Abinash Mishra Municipal Commissioner

major firms Rs. 105,000 and the Zone Health

Department fined 8 institutions Rs. 21,500 for spreading garbage.

In accordance with the orders of Raipur District Collector Dr. Gaurav Kumar Singh, the Municipal Commissioner personally walked from Siddharth Chowk Tikrapara to Pachpedi Naka Chowk to get firsthand information about the situation.

The inspection was conducted with the presence of Additional Commissioners Rajendra Prasad Gupta,

US Agrawal, Superintendent Engineer Rajesh Sharma, Health Officer Dr Tripti Panigrahi, Zone 6 Commissioner Ramesh Jaiswal, Executive Engineers Atul Chopra, Rajesh Rathore, Sanjay Verma, Assistant Engineer Nitish Jha, Zone Health Officer Sanjeev Sharma, Sub Engineer Himanshu Chandrakar along with other officials from the Town Planning, Health and Public Works Departments of Zone 6.

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# Bhilai



"82 mentor officers have been appointed to help RTE students"

Richa Prakash Chaudhary  
Collector, Durg

## WCD plants over one lakh saplings in a week

"Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam" campaign conducted from July 12 to 18.



Collector Richa Prakash Chaudhary planted saplings under the campaign.

Central Chronicle News

**BHILAI:** Women and Child Development Department conducted a week long intensive tree plantation campaign and planted over one lakh saplings across the district. Collector Richa Prakash Chaudhary had inaugurated the campaign from village Anjora.

The WCD clubbed the campaign with Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, Jal Shakti se Nari Shakti, SuposhanVatika, etc to make it more effective. To give an emotional touch, "Selfie with Laado" and "Selfie with Maa" events

### FASTFACTS

- Public representatives and officials participate in campaign

- Other departmental schemes promoted along with tree plantation

were organised after tree plantation.

Saplings were planted at Anganwadi centres for SuposhanVatikas. Under the "Jal Shakti Se Nari Shakti" campaign, efforts were made to bring awareness about the environment. Beneficiaries of

### Community involved in tree plantation

7327 saplings were planted in 1506 Anganwadi centres of Durg district. 6485 trees in the houses of malnourished children, 8005 trees in the houses of pregnant mothers, 6633 trees in the houses of mothers of new born babies, 69045 trees in the houses Mahtari Vandan Yojana beneficiaries, 4821 trees in the houses of women of Chhattisgarh Mahila Kosh groups and 5330 trees in the houses of adolescent girls.

Mahtari Vandan Yojana, Mahila Mandals, SHGs and others were included in the programme. The women were made aware about clean drinking water, water conservation, rain water harvesting, etc. Saplings of fruit bearing

trees like mango, guava, amla, munga, papaya, banana, jackfruit, pomegranate etc were planted in Anganwadi centers. Saplings were also planted at the houses of pregnant women and mothers of newborn babies.

### 184.4 mm average rainfall recorded

**BHILAI:** An average rainfall of 184.4 mm has been recorded in the district from 01 June to 19 July. Land Records Branch informed that the highest rainfall of 318.7 mm has been recorded in Patan Tehsil and the lowest 114.5 mm in Bori. Apart from this, 146.2 mm rainfall has been recorded in Durg, 137.5 mm in Dhamdha, 162.4 mm in Bhilai 3 and 225.8 mm in Ahiwara. On 19th July, 1.4 mm rainfall was recorded in Durg.

### Water supply affected today

**BHILAI:** The electricity department is going to take a shut down from 11 am to 4 pm to conduct maintenance work on July 20. Consequently, the water supply in 66 MLD and 77 MLD of Municipal Corporation Bhilai will be affected. Water purification plants will remain closed from 11 am to 4 pm affecting the water supply from Farid Nagar, Mother Teresa Nagar and Khursipar water tanks.

### St Thomas College students excel in MSc Chemistry results

**BHILAI:** Hemchand Yadav University recently announced the results for MSc Chemistry, in which the students of St Thomas College, Ruabandha, showcased their exceptional talent and academic excellence. The overall pass percentage of fourth semester was 94% and second semester was 100%. In the fourth semester, M Chaitanya scored 91.33%, Kshiti Kumar Gupta achieved 89.66%, and Kareena Prasad secured

85.5%. In the second semester, Riya Dutta Sharma secured 87%, Srishiti Tripathi achieved 84.8%, and Namrata Sahu obtained 83%, bringing pride to the college, demonstrating outstanding performance. The Administrator Rev Father DrPSVerghese and Principal Dr MG Roymon congratulated all the students and their parents. Head of the Chemistry Department, Dr James Mathew, Assistant Professors Dr Chanda Verma and Dr Arvind Kumar Sahu.

### Rotary Club of Bhilai Pinnacle- 'Rotary Aahar'

**BHILAI:** The Rotary Club of Bhilai Pinnacle organised the "Rotary Aahar" event, a heartfelt initiative dedicated to supporting and uplifting differently-abled individuals. Held at the Mission Charity Hospital in Shanti Nagar, the event saw the participation of over 80 beneficiaries.

Led by Club President Tanya Agrawal, the event was a resounding success, with the enthusiastic participation of Club Secretary Priyanka Lunia, Program Directors Diksha Agrawal, Vibha



Agrawal, Sapna Lunia, Sangeeta Rajgaria, Shikha Patni, Sangeeta Garg, Anju Rungta, Tanushree Agrawal, Disha Jain & Ambalika dedicated members of the Rotary Club of Bhilai Pinnacle. The collective efforts of these individuals culminated in a day filled with joy, support, and a strong sense of community.

### Investiture Ceremony conducted at Krishna Public School, Durg



Central Chronicle News

**Fine imposed in Professor Colony for blocking drain with sand and gravel.**

**BHILAI:** The Investiture Ceremony of Krishna Public School for the academic session 2024-2025 was held with great pomp and dignity. The event was presided over by Director Mayank Sharma and Principal Iti Sharma.

The newly elected Student-Council members took the pledge to bestow their duties to the best of their abilities. The ceremony was held with lots of zeal and zest. It commenced with the light-

ing of the lamp followed by Saraswati Vandana, which signifies removal of darkness from our lives. The elected leaders were Head boy Pratham Pandey, Head girl Deepshikha Chakraborty, Vice head boy Nauraz Khan, Vice head girl Ananta Chandrakar, Junior Head boy Harshit Chandwani and Junior head girl VaachiBelchandan. Prefects and Vice Prefects of the four houses Narmada, Brahmputra, Godavari and Jhelim, Sports Prefect and vice prefect as well as the Club Incharges.

The students were conferred with badges and sashes. The students council took the pledge to uphold the pride and dignity of the School.

### Three held for robbery

**BHILAI:** Police arrested three persons on charges of robbery. The accused threatened two youths at Power House Overbridge with a knife and looted mobile phones and cash from them. Police rounded up the accused identified as Shamshad Alam, Miraj Alam and Sanjay Pardihi of Sonia Gandhi Nagar, Khursipar and booked them under sections 309(4), 3(5) of BNS.

### Two nabbed for attempt to murder

**BHILAI:** Police arrested two ruffians on charges of attempt to murder. The accused had stabbed a labourer Rahul Rao of Contractor Colony Supela on June 12 after he helped a person lodge an FIR against the accused. Police arrested the accused identified as Ajit Singh alias Gajji (19) and Jasbir Singh Gill (20), both residents of Contractor Colony Supela under section 294, 506, 307, 34 of IPC.

## Plant Garage receives new Rock Breaker, Trucks, etc

Central Chronicle News

**A pivotal step in enhancing the operational efficiency and capability of the Plant.**

**BHILAI:** The Plant Garage of SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant marked a pivotal step in enhancing the operational efficiency and capability of the Plant by adding a fleet of several new vehicles, including one Hyundai Rock Breaker attached Excavator for Blast Furnace, four TATA Utility Vehicles for Plant's Fire Brigade, five Build-up Trucks of Ashok Leyland and thirty Mahindra Bolero SUVs for various departments of Bhilai Steel Plant.

Tapas Dasgupta, CGM I/C (Iron), Asit Saha, CGM I/C (M&U), SK Gajbhiye, CGM (Mechanical), and



The new vehicles being inaugurated.

### FASTFACTS

- Including one Hyundai Rock Breaker attached Excavator for Blast Furnace

- Four TATA Utility Vehicles for Plant's Fire Brigade

Saumya Tokdar CGM (Blast Furnace) led the inauguration ceremony

at Plant Garage Department. Tapas Dasgupta appreciated the sincere efforts of Project manager BD Babu, GM I/C (Plant Garage) and Project coordinator, Pradipta Bhau-mik, GM (Maintenance), along with the MM-IPM team PP&E department and Plant Garage collective for the completion of the procurement process in record time. Asit

Saha emphasized the importance of modernizing equipment to meet the growing demands of the operations in the Plant, and to ensure the highest standards of service and productivity in various departments. SK Gajbhiye, applauded the efforts of the Plant Garage team in maintaining and upgrading the Plant's fleet of vehicles.

| NATIONAL EDUCATION POLICY 2020 |

## 'Need-based changes must in teacher training courses'

Central Chronicle News

**BHILAI:** "In accordance with the objectives of National Education Policy 2020, changes in teacher training courses like BEd, DEEd have now become necessary. Teacher-trainees and teacher-trainers should give suggestions to the University for changes in the curriculum according to the field conditions", said Dr Bansh Gopal Singh, Vice Chancellor of Pt Sundar Lal Sharma (Open) University, Chhattisgarh



Bilaspur. He was addressing the valedictory function of the ten-day workshop of BEd trainees at Mansa Shiksha Mahavidyalaya, Kurud Study Center under Regional Center Durg. Dr Singh graced the

function as chief guest. He further said, teachers should bring out the best in their students and develop their personality accordingly. Regional Coordinator Dr DN Sharma was present as special guest.

**"Make students socially concerned and aware; not knowledge machines"**

Dr DN Sharma  
Regional Coordinator

He emphasized on the promotion of teaching skills in accordance with the National Education Policy. He said that students are

not to be made machines of knowledge; rather they are to be made socially concerned people by making them aware of knowledge and social culture. Dr Smita Saxena, Principal of the coordinating institute of the study center, presided over the programme. She threw light on the usefulness of the workshop. On the occasion, the students presented cultural programs and shared their experiences of the training workshop.

### SBS to felicitate talented girls & boys

Central Chronicle News

**BHILAI:** A meeting of the Saryuparin Brahmin Samaj was organised under the chair of Prabhunath Mishra, President to discuss various activities including the felicitation of talented girls and boys of the community. Ram Lakhan Mishra, General Secretary, said that like every year, this year also, "Pratibha Samman Samaroh" is being organized for all the promising and talented children

of the community to boost their morale and encourage them. The programme will be organised on September 01 at the Saryuparin Samaj building in Smriti Nagar. Nagendra Pandey, Vice President said that students of class 5, 8, 10, 12, who have scored 80% or more marks, have secured a position in proficiency in college, university, have represented the district, state, nation in sports, such talented children will be honoured.

NEWSLINE

TURMERIC PLANTS

**MP Vijay Baghel distributes turmeric plants**



**BHILAI:** MP Vijay Baghel distributed turmeric plants in "Pro Tray" prepared by Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Pahanda (A), Durg to progressive farmers on Friday. These plants have been developed by the Indian Directorate of Arecanut and Spices, Calicut, Kerala under research projects conducted in the Agricultural University. Under this project, turmeric saplings are being prepared by Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Pahanda (A), Durg and distributed to farmers. Senior Scientist Dr Vijay Jain and Subject Expert Dr Kamal Narayan Verma said that in traditional agriculture, more quantity of turmeric seeds are required.

INCENTIVE SCHEME

**Applications invited for incentive**

**BHILAI:** Under the Incentive Scheme of Tribal Development Department, there is a provision of providing Rs 1 lakh incentive to SC / ST candidates for getting success in the Civil Services Examination of Union Public Service Commission. Applications are invited from the eligible candidates of the district till August 06, 2024. Eligibility, conditions and application format are available on the department's website [www.tribal.cg.gov.in](http://www.tribal.cg.gov.in).

PENALTY

**17 buses fined for pressure horn**

**BHILAI:** On Friday, traffic police conducted a campaign against the vehicles fitted with the pressure horns and imposed a fine of Rs 2000 on each violator. DSP Satish Thakur informed that the cops intercepted 17 buses which were using pressure horns. The buses moving on the service lane of National Highway were also fined.

OBITUARY

**CM condoles death of Gurnaam Kaur**



**BHILAI:** Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai has expressed deep grief over the demise of Gurnaam Kaur, daughter of Senior Journalist Komal Dhane-sar. CM prayed for the peace of the departed soul and to provide strength to the bereaved family. Gurnaam Kaur (17) was fatally injured in a road accident which occurred at JP Square on July 10. She breathed last during treatment at a private hospital on July 19. Funeral procession was taken out from her residence located at Street 24, Sector 2 and last rites of the mortal remains were performed at RamnagarMuktidham.

भिलाई ट्रक ट्रेलर ट्रांसपोर्ट एसोसिएशन के अध्यक्ष

# इंद्रजीत सिंह

(छोटू भाई) को

## जन्मदिन



की  
हार्दिक बधाई एवं  
शुभकामनाएं...



मलकीत सिंह (लल्लू)  
महासचिव



यशदीप सिंह



सोम सिंह



यश सिंह



मोनू पाजी



सतबीर सिंह



निर्मल सिंह



पिताम्बर



विकास



अजय



देवेन्द्र



एच.डी. तिवारी



श्याम गोस्वामी



प्रवीण



सूरज



भूषेश



गुरजीत



जफर अली



शिवम



दिग्पाल



दुष्यत हेरी



उमेश



अंजय



अखिलेश



मोन्दू



जयचंद



कुल्दीप



लोकेश



झुमुक



वीरु



जसबीर सिंह



बृजेश



शाहिद



अतुल

विनीत : समस्त एच.टी.सी. परिवार

“Those trying to cause hindrance in govt work will face action and case will be registered”

Anurag Pandey  
Collector- Bijapur



# Chhattisgarh



Process of admitting students on the basis of counseling has now been started in colleges.

## Counseling for vacant college seats begins

There is also a fight for admission in Kamala Devi Mahila Mahavidyalaya.

Central Chronicle News

**RAJNANDGAON:** The process of admitting students on the basis of counseling has now been started in colleges. Professors have been authorized to fill the vacant seats in various faculties. Being the only autonomous college in the district, a huge crowd of students is gathering at Digvijay College for admissions. Now admission is being given on the basis of counseling. There is also a fight for admission in Kamala Devi Mahila Mahavidyalaya and Shivnath Science College. It is known that from

the year 2024-25, the work of study and teaching is to be ensured under the new education policy. Students are being admitted under the new education policy in all the government and private colleges operating in Rajnandgaon as well as KCG and MMC. After taking online applications, admissions are being given in BA, B.Com, B.Sc and other courses on the basis of merit. Now, on the instructions of the university management, the process of filling the remaining vacant seats in the colleges on the basis of counseling has also been started. Despite hav-

### HIGHLIGHT

● After the announcement of admission through counseling, students have gathered in huge numbers outside colleges.

● Students are also involving themselves in fights with each other to secure seats at Kamala and Shivnath Science Colleges.

ing 1900 seats in various faculties, students have to wait for full admission. In many faculties, students are fighting with

each other to secure their seats. Due to hundreds of applications for counseling, the process of giving admission on the basis of first come first serve has been started, due to which a huge crowd of students is being seen in the colleges.

More or less the same situation is being seen from Kamala Mahavidyalaya to Shivnath Science College. The admission process is also being finalized in private colleges. The arrangement for pre-admission till 31st July is being finalized. In such a situation, a huge crowd of students is gathering in the colleges.

## Villagers endure hazardous route to market

**SUKMA:** Villagers are still struggling to make a living in the ravines of Bastar in Chhattisgarh state. Even though the state government makes lakhs of claims of development, but its ground reality is something else. There are many villages in Sukma district which are struggling to make a living. People of Jagargunda village from Chintalnar of Konta block risk their lives to cross the broken culvert on the overflowing drain and come to the weekly market for daily use goods.

## New bank accounts to be opened for SBT

**KORBA:** Collector Ajit Vasant has given instructions to Lead Bank Officer Korba to open bank accounts of people of special backward tribal (SBT) Pahari Korwa and Birhor category under Janpad Panchayat by organizing village wise camps. The Collector has directed the Secretary and Employment Assistant to organize camps in all the villages from 25 July.

## Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

### ZERO TOLERANCE

## Zero tolerance for obstructing government work: Collector

**BIJAPUR:** Collector Mr. Anurag Pandey directed the officers and employees to work with the motto of good governance made by the Chhattisgarh government, so that the general public gets facilities through lawful work. If any person has a complaint in this regard, then he/she can register an objection at the government level. Information is also to be given from time to time while issuing permission.

No person has the right to intimidate in the name of inspection of any work. No person should take the law into his own hands, if any person acts against the law, then strict legal action will be taken against him.

The officers and employees of the government are authorized for the work of the government. A case of obstruction in government work will be registered against those who obstruct government work.

### BMD TEST

## NTPC Lara prioritizes bone health with BMD tests



**BILASPUR:** As an employee welfare measure, a Bone Mineral Density (BMD) test camp was organised by NTPC Lara health department on 18th July 2024.

Anil Kumar, Executive Director (NTPC Lara) inaugurated the camp with lamp lighting. On this occasion Kumar also examined his bone health and consultation from the medical practitioner. Appreciating the effort, Kumar said such camps should be organised in regular intervals to facilitate more and more employees and family members.

### Inter-District Football ch'ship

## NTPC Korba launches inter-district Junior Girls football championship



**KORBA:** NTPC Korba proudly inaugurated the Inter-District Junior Girls Football Championship and Coaching Camp, marking a significant step towards promoting grassroots football talent in Chhattisgarh. The event commenced with an impressive ceremony attended by key dignitaries, including the District Football Association Vice President and Match Commissioner. Organized under the auspices of BUH Korba, Rajeev Khanna, the event was graced by the presence of GM (FM), S.P. Singh, AGM (HR), Shashi Shekhar and President, Sports Council, K.P. Chandravanshi and esteemed CSR members, underscoring NTPC's commitment to fostering

sports development in the region. Over the course of four days, teams from Raipur, Bijapur, Durg, and Bastar districts will compete fervently for the championship title. The victorious team will be awarded a prestigious 21-day coaching camp tailored for 30 players, aimed at further honing their skills and preparing them for higher levels of competition. Highlighting the importance of such initiatives, it was announced that 15 outstanding players will be selected from the coaching camp to represent Chhattisgarh at the national level. This pathway has proven fruitful in the past, as exemplified by Kiran Pidu's journey.

## Awareness camp organized in School

**KHAIRAGARH:** Under the direction of SP Trilok Bansal and guidance of Additional SP Neha Pandey and SDOP Lalchand Mohle, under Samarth Abhiyan, KCG Cyber Cell in Swami Vivekanand School gave detailed information about cyber crime and new law code to Swami Vivekanand's Principal Brijesh Sahu, teachers and more than 500 students present. SP Trilok Bansal appealed to the principal, teachers and students to make other people aware regarding this information and show cooperation with the police. Police campaign is being run which will continue to spread awareness, while in case of any kind of online fraud, instructions have been given to contact the nearest police station or outpost on toll free number 1930.

## Indravati evictees to receive compensation

### COMPENSATION PACKAGE

Central Chronicle News

**Forest and In-charge Minister Kedar Kashyap said necessary action is being taken soon for the pending compensation of these forest dwellers.**



Collector chaired review meeting in Collectorate.

**BIJAPUR:** In the review meeting held on Tuesday under the chairmanship of Minister-in-charge Kedar Kashyap, information about compensation for the villagers displaced from the core area of Indravati Tiger Reserve was given by Deputy Director of Forest Department Indravati Tiger Reserve, Mr. Sandeep Balga IFS. At present, there is Rs 15 lakh per member for adult members of each family. According to prelimi-

### FACTFILE

● Provision of giving Rs 15 lakh per adult member by the Government of India has been announced.

● It is worth mentioning that in the first phase, this work will be completed within the stipulated time limit.

nary information, there are 22 villages in this area

which mainly belong to Bhopalpatnam subdivision. In this regard, Collector Anurag Pandey informed that Indravati National Park was established in 1981 and it was upgraded as Indravati Tiger Reserve in 2009. For such a long period, the forest dwellers of this area remained deprived of their rights due to certain reasons, but due to the good governance of Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai and the instructions

of Forest and In-charge Minister Kedar Kashyap, necessary action is being taken soon for the pending compensation of these forest dwellers. In the first phase, a detailed advertisement will also be published in this regard, so that further action will be taken after the former residents of these villages get their documents etc. attested by the Revenue Officer. It is worth mentioning that in the first phase, this work will be completed within the stipulated time limit. According to the number of about 2000 adult members of about 500 families, an amount of 15 lakhs per adult will be provided by the Government of India, which will be about 300 crores. This scheme will be implemented for the remaining 56 villages in the second phase.

### LARGEST COAL MINE

## Ch'garh on global coal map with 2nd largest mine

Central Chronicle News

**KORBA:** SECL's Gevra and Kusmunda megaprojects in Korba district secure 2nd and 4th spot in the list of world's 10 largest coal mines Chhattisgarh-based Coal India subsidiary South Eastern Coalfields Limited's (SECL) Gevra and Kusmunda coal mines have secured the 2nd and 4th spot in the list of the world's 10 largest coal mines released by WorldAtlas.com. Located in the Korba



district of Chhattisgarh state these two mines produce more 100 million tons of coal annually accounting for about 10% of India's total coal production. The Gevra open-pit mine has an annual production capacity of 70

million tons and produced 59 million tons of coal in FY 23-24. The mine started operations in the year 1981 and it has enough coal reserves to meet the country's energy requirements for the next 10 years. These mines have deployed some

“It is indeed a proud moment for the Chhattisgarh state that 2 of the World's top 5 largest coal mines are now in the state.”

Dr Prem Sagar Mishra  
CMD SECL, Bilaspur

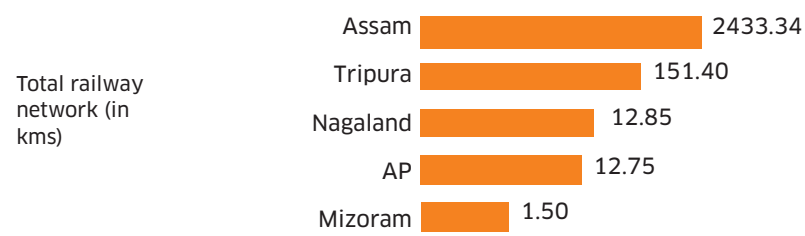
of the world's largest and most advanced mining machines such as the “Sur-

face Miner” that extracts and cuts coal without blasting for eco-friendly mining operations.

For overburden removal (the process of removing layers of soil, stone etc. to expose the coal seam), the mines uses some of the world's largest HEMMs (Heavy Earth Moving Machinery) such as 240-ton dumpers, 42 cubic meters Shovel along with Vertical Rippers for environment-friendly and blast-free OB removal.

### The Day's NUMBERS

### STATE-WISE STATUS OF RAILWAY NETWORK IN NORTH-EASTERN INDIA



Source - Statista

### SHALA PRAVESH

## Collector participates in school entrance festival & Saraswati Cycle

**GAURELA PENDRA:** District Collector Mrs. Leena Kamlesh Mandavi and Additional Collector Namrata Dongre reached as chief guests in the School Entrance Festival and Saraswati Cycle Distribution Program of Parmanand Sanskrit School run by Om Akhand Rashtra Dharma Sansthan Gorakhpur. Special guests Mr. Gopal Agarwal, Jai Prakash Shivdasani, Gyanendra Upadhyay, Ramji Shrivastava were present. First of all, the school family welcomed the guests with chanting of mantras and shower of flowers. The guests worshiped the idol of Dakshin-Mukhi Hanuman. Bicycles were distributed to the girl students of the school. Uniforms and books were presented to the children in the School Entrance Festival program. The welcome speech and the introduction of the school was done by Prakash Namdev. In her address, the Collector gave a lot of blessings to the children of the school. Expressing happiness over the atmosphere and surroundings of the school, she said that children are the creators of the future.

### STRIKE

## Govt agrees to Patwari union demands, strike called off



**KURUD:** Due to their old 8-point demands and the problems being faced by the public due to online Bhuiyan, the revenue Patwaris of Chhattisgarh were on strike for the last 10 days. On the second and eighth day of the strike, Revenue Secretary Avinash Champawat called the representatives of the Revenue Patwari Union to the ministry and discussed for hours. The talks were positive from the beginning, but due to the permission of the departmental minister in some financial matters, the talks remained incomplete. Due to the strike of Patwaris, many cases of the common people including income, caste, residence, transfer, death, Girdawari remained pending.

# Congmen stage roadblock protest with slogans

Congmen and MLA blocked roads after sand laden vehicles were released without taking proper action.

Central Chronicle News

**DONGARGAON:** Congressmen of the region in the presence of the regional MLA blocked roads after sand laden vehicles were released without taking proper action. Prior to it a press conference was held by the Nagar Panchayat President regarding illegal extraction of sand from the city's Bagdai River and then releasing it without any action.

During the press conference, Nagar Panchayat Vice President Lalit Lodha, Councilor Priyank Jain, Vaishali Borkar, Ashok Malekar, former Nagar Panchayat President Sandhya Sahu, MLA representative Saddam Khatri along with Dr. Narendra Sahu, Ravi Shukla, Shashank Khobragade etc. were present.

It is known that 3 days ago, on the complaint of Nagar Panchayat President Hira Nishad, in the case of illegal extraction of sand from the Bagdai River, a Panchnama was done in the presence of the CMO and police who reached the spot and the vehicles were kept in the police station for security. At the same time, after about three days, all the five vehicles caught were released, for which Nagar



Congmen along with regional MLA held a press conference here on Thursday.

## FASTFACTS

● **Congressmen of the region in the presence of the regional MLA blocked roads after sand laden vehicles were released without taking proper action.**

● **The blockade continued for about one and a half hours and their demand was that action should be taken again as per rules**

Panchayat President Hira Nishad held a press conference regarding this matter and he alleged that the administration has released the vehicles under pressure.

The blockade continued for about one and a half hours and their demand was that action

## MLA accuses administration of operating under pressure

Vehicles involved in sand theft have been released without action and the administration is working under pressure. For the first time, we are seeing that after catching vehicles in sand excavation as per rules, the administration releases them without taking action under the Mineral Act or imposing a fine. Any incident will be taken cognizance of, we are with the public and we will not let sand theft happen, says Daleshwar Sahu, MLA Dongargaon.

should be taken again as per rules at the same place where it was done and action should be taken to seize illegal sand and gravel excavation. During the blockade, Congressmen raised slogans against the administration and after discussions with subdivisional officer Manoj Kumar Markam the blockade was called off.

During the blockade, Nagar Panchayat Vice

President Lalit Lodha, Zilla Parishad President Tikes Sahu, Zilla Parishad Vice President Suyash Nahta, Women Congress President Sandhya Sahu, Dr Narendra Sahu, Councilors Vaishali Borkar, Rukmani Sahu and other Congressmen were present. On the part of the administration, SDM, Tehsildar PL Nag, TI Upendra Shah and police team were present at the blockade site.

## Dabang Group presents memo

**RAJNANDGAON:** Dabang Group has opened a front against illegal liquor being sold at various places in the city and the members of the group have submitted a memorandum to the Superintendent of Police today and demanded strict ban on the sale of illegal liquor by ending the Kochia tradition. In the memorandum submitted to the Superintendent of Police, Dabang Group President Deepak Chauhan, Ramraj Yadav, Dhananjay Khapde, Poshan Sahu etc. said that illegal sale of liquor is going on in the city these days and it is being sold by Kochis in all the wards inside the city.

## Anganwadi workers protest

**RAJNANDGAON:** Anganwadi workers and assistants staged a sit-in demonstration here and submitted a memorandum to the Chief Minister regarding seven-point demands. While staging a sit-in demonstration under the banner of Anganwadi Workers and Assistants Union CITU, in the memorandum submitted to the Chief Minister, Anganwadi workers and assistants have demanded that the work of BLO and unauthorised officer should not be given to Anganwadi workers.

## Minister distributes wheelchairs to Divyang players

Central Chronicle News

**KORBA:** Commerce, Industry, Trade and Labor Minister Lakhan Lal Devangan today encouraged the Divyang players of Korba Divyang Wheel Chair Cricket Federation by providing them wheel chairs at the Collectorate premises and wished them a bright future.

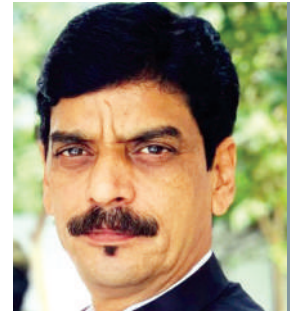
In the program, Korba Lok Sabha MP Smt. Jyotsna Charan Das Mahant was present. In view of the continuous sports practice and sports performance of 15 Divyang players of the district, Collector Ajit Vasant had directed the Sports and Youth Welfare Department to provide wheel chairs to the players to perform best

in the upcoming various sports competitions and the wheel chairs were provided to the players from the District Mineral Trust fund by the Sports and Youth Welfare Department. It is noteworthy that out of these Divyang players, 03 players have participated in national level cricket competition. Lucky Soni Divyang has performed in IPL cricket competition and after getting the wheel chair, the players thanked the public representatives and officials. On this occasion, Rampur MLA Phool Singh Rathia, Katghora MLA Premchand Patel, Pali-Tanakhar MLA Tuleshwar Singh Markam, Collector Ajit Vasant were present.

## NEWSLINE

### APPOINTMENT

**Uttam Singh Thakur appointed Senior VP of DCC**



**KHAIKARAGARH:** As per the instructions of Chhattisgarh Pradesh Congress Committee President Deepak Bajj, District Congress Committee President Gajendra Thackeray has appointed active Congress leader of the district Uttam Singh Thakur as Senior Vice President of District Congress Committee. There is happiness among Congress workers and especially his supporters due to the appointment of Mr. Thakur and it is expected that there will be more tightness in District Congress Committee KCG due to his organizational appointment.

### MEDAL

**Sukhdev Kewat of Fortune Blind School wins gold**



**BAGBAHARA:** Sukhdev Kewat, a student of Fortune Blind Higher Secondary School, Karma Patpar District Mahasamund, won 2 gold medals in 100 meters and 400 meters race in the 13th National Para Athletics Championship 2024. Other than Kewat, Nothanal Patel won 1 bronze medal in 1500 meters race and Udayram of Balod got bronze medal in long jump and Yashoda of Surajpur got silver medal in 100 meter race. The 13th National Sub Junior Para Athletics Championship 2024 was organized by the National Para Athletics Committee of India at Kanteerava Stadium in Bangalore from 15 to 17 July.

### OWNERSHIP

**Lower land ownership in Khamharia handed over to SECL**

**KORBA:** Lordship of land was handed over to SECL Kusmunda in village Khamharia, a village acquired by SECL Kusmunda in the 1980s. As per information, SECL Kusmunda will do development work on about 100 acres of land and the displaced people of village Pali and Khodri of Kusmunda area will be given settlement on the said land. Before settling the displaced people, necessary basic facilities are being developed on the land located in village Khamharia. Additional Superintendent of Police Ms. Neha Verma, City Superintendent of Police Darri Ravindra Meena, SDM Katghora Saroj Mahilange, Tehsildar Darri Rajendra Bharat, SECL Area General Manager Rajiv Singh and SECL officials were present on the occasion.

## Champa Nagar Palika honoured with national award



Central Chronicle News

Collector said that it is a matter of pride for the district that the name of Champa Urban Body has been selected for the Spark-2023-24 Award.

**JANJIR-CHAMPA:** Chhattisgarh has been awarded five national awards under Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana and National Urban Livelihood Mission and in these, Nagar Palika Parishad Champa has been awarded the second prize in the category of best urban bodies

with population up to 50 thousand.

On receiving the Spark Award, Collector Akash Chikkara has congratulated and wished the officers and employees of the Municipal Corporation. He said that it is a matter of pride for the district that the name of Champa Urban Body has been selected for the Spark-2023-24 Award.

It is noteworthy that this award has been given for the best work in empowering urban poor families and increasing their livelihood opportunities.

## MLA Rohit Sahu leads departmental meeting

**RAJIM:** Rajim assembly constituency MLA Rohit Sahu held a meeting of Revenue, PWD, RES and Bridge Construction officers at the local PWD rest house here. In the meeting, the MLA reviewed the ongoing works of the department with all the officers and gave instructions to speed up all the construction works.

## Environmental awareness day at RPS

**MANDIR-HASAUD:** Green Day was celebrated with planting trees in Raipur Public School Tuls Mandir Hasaud, on the theme of 'One Tree in the Name of Mother'. All the children and teachers of the school planted a tree each in their name and took an oath to take care of them regularly and provide them with fertilizers and water.

# Civil Hospital premises overrun by stray animals

STRAY CATTLE INSIDE CIVIL HOSPITAL

Central Chronicle News

The situation here is such that along with the hospital premises, stray animals have fearlessly occupied the wards where patients are treated.



Stray animals mainly cattle are now the serious occupants of the district Civil Hospital.

**KHAIKARAGARH:** Stray animals mainly cattle are now the serious occupants of the district Civil Hospital, as they have made it their home due to the poor administrative system of the hospital. The situation here is such that along with the hospital premises, stray animals have fearlessly occupied the wards where patients are treated and during investigation, a crowd of stray animals were seen inside the hospital from the women's ward to the surgical ward. Not only this, one can see stray animals

ruminating or wagging their tails near the gate of the ward, in the rooms of nurses and doctors.

The same is the condition of cleanliness here as, amidst the rain and increasing infection, only formality is being done in the name of cleanliness in the civil hospital. It should be known that even after the formation of the district, there is a shortage of sanitation workers here and if anyone reaches the civil hos-

pital at any time between 8:00 am to 10:00 pm, stray animals are seen here before doctors and nurses.

Even during the doctor's round, stray animals keep roaming in the ward, mainly dogs and it is also a matter of danger as canines are dangerous in this season.

Though Khairgarh district has been formed, but the civil hospital is still miles away from health facilities and the

## FASTFACTS

● **During investigation, a crowd of stray animals were seen inside the hospital from the women's ward to the surgical ward**

● **So horrible is the condition that one can see stray animals ruminating or wagging their tails near the gate of the ward, in the rooms of nurses and doctors.**

family members of the admitted patients say that the civil hospital of Khairagarh is run on God's mercy, as they are forced to come here for treatment, where on the other hand, the government spends lakhs of rupees on health facilities in banners and posters but the scene on the ground is very different.

## PASSENGERS DEMAND

# Call for direct train between Bilaspur-Gondia

Central Chronicle News

**RAJNANDGAON:** There is an increasing demand for trains to be operated from Bilaspur to Raipur-Durg till Gondia, as there is only one train to Madhya Pradesh and North India through Nandgaon Railway Station, which comes under South East Central Railway. In such a situation, passengers travelling from Nandgaon are forced to go to Durg, Raipur, Gondia and as now in the Union Budget, there is a demand to increase the frequency of

trains running from Raipur, Durg, Bilaspur and Gondia, enlightened citizens of Nandgaon district have conveyed their views to Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnav through MP Santosh Pandey.

According to them by this the passengers here can get a lot of benefit by increasing the frequency of trains including Sarnath Express, Navtanama Express, Garib Express, Bilaspur-Rewa Passenger. It is known that for a long time there is a demand to increase the frequency of trains running from Rai-



pur-Durg and Gondia and Bilaspur, now hope has also started to rise after the BJP government has been formed again at the Center. After the approval of many railway lines and modernization of railway

**By extending these trains to Nandgaon and Gondia, the passengers here will definitely get a lot of relief in travelling.**

**Suresh Panjwani**  
Passenger Rajnandgaon

stations, there is a demand to increase the frequency of trains as running many trains

from Sarnath to Nandgaon and Dongargarh railway stations will provide relief to hundreds of people here in travelling to major cities of North India. Enlightened citizen Suresh Panjwani says that hundreds of passengers now travel from Nandgaon railway station as well and there are many such trains which are still being operated from Durg, Raipur, Bilaspur and by extending these trains to Nandgaon and Gondia, the passengers here will definitely get a lot of relief in travelling.

## Health testing camp organized in schools

Central Chronicle News

**JAGDALPUR:** As per the cognizance of MLA Kiran Dev and instructions of Collector Vijay Dayaram, a health testing camp was organized in the schools around Nagarnar area on Thursday. In which total 302 in Government Higher Secondary School Nagarnar, total 116 in Government Pre-Secondary School Nagarnar, total 35 in Government Pre-Secondary School Upanpal, total 46 in Government

Primary School Upanpal, total 57 in Government Primary School Nagarnar, total in Government Pre-Secondary School Kasturi. 19 children were tested. In this way, health checkup of a total of 575 children was done.

According to the information received from the Health Department, common cold, cough, fever, teeth, eyes, ears, sickle cell and other tests were done in the children. District Immunization Officer Dr. CR in the camp.



The Congress party had caused much more damage to the nation than the Britishers.

**Rajeev Bindal**  
Himachal BJP President

## Check-in system affected at airports



Check-in systems at airports across India airports were down causing commotion for passengers.

# BRS tops income, AITC expenditure chart

ADR has disclosed detailed income and expenditure reports for 39 out of 57 regional parties for the fiscal year 2022-23.

Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI:** The Bharat Rashtra Samithi has topped the income chart among regional parties for the financial year 2022-23 with Rs 737.67 crore, 42.38 per cent of the total, according to poll rights body ADR.

The top five parties with the highest expenditure are All India Trinamool Congress which spent Rs 181.18 crore or 37.66 per cent, followed by YSR-Congress which spent Rs 79.32 crore or 16.49 per cent, BRS, which spent Rs 57.47 crore or 11.94 per cent, DMK, which spent Rs 52.62 crore or 10.94 per

cent, and the Samajwadi Party, which spent Rs 31.41 crore or 6.53 per cent of the total expenditure, ADR said.

In a revealing analysis of the financial health of India's regional political parties, the Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) has disclosed detailed income and expenditure reports for 39 out of 57 regional parties for the fiscal year 2022-23.

After BRS, the TMS had the highest income of Rs 333.45 crore or 19.16 per cent, while the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) reported an income of Rs 214.35 crore or 12.32 per cent of the

### HIGHLIGHT

• Twenty-three parties submitted their reports late, with delays ranging from three to 150 days.

• A total of 19 regional parties declared unspent income for the fiscal year.

total income of the 39 regional parties analysed in the ADR report.

Collectively, the top five parties accounted for Rs 1,541.32 crore, or 88.56 per cent of the total income of the parties analysed while the total declared income

of the 39 regional parties stood at Rs 1,740.48 crore, according to the analysis.

The ECI had set October 31, 2023, as the deadline for submission of annual audited accounts of political parties, however, only 16 of them adhered to the time limit.

The audit reports for 18 regional parties, including prominent ones like Shiv Sena (SHS), Bodoland People's Front (BPF), Jammu & Kashmir National Conference, Nationalist Congress Party, and Shiv Sena (UBT), were not available on the ECI website at the time of the report's preparation, the ADR said.

### VOTER SECRECY

# SC dismisses plea for review on PIL alleging violation

Press Trust Of India

A bench of Justices Sanjiv Khanna and Dipankar Datta said no case for review of the order is made out.

**NEW DELHI:** The Supreme Court has dismissed a plea seeking review of its order which turned down a PIL alleging violation of voter secrecy in the existing electoral system.

A bench of Justices Sanjiv Khanna and Dipankar Datta said no case for review of the order is made out. It also rejected a request for open court hearing of the review petition. "We have carefully perused the review petition, as also the grounds in support thereof. In our opinion,



File Photo.

### FACTFILE

• The top court was hearing a plea filed by Agnostos Theos, the Managing Director of the Sikh Chamber of Commerce, seeking review of the May 17 order.

no case for review of the order dated May 17, 2024 is made out. The review petition is, accordingly, dismissed," the bench said. The top court was hearing a plea filed by Agnostos Theos, the Managing Director of the Sikh

Chamber of Commerce, seeking review of the May 17 order. Theos had asserted in his PIL that a polling officer can see the VVPAT slips and the data stored in the polling device, thereby violating voter secrecy.

"From the VVPAT slips and data in EVMs, the (presiding) officer can identify which voter cast his vote for which party," he had claimed.

On April 26, terming the suspicion over manipulation of the EVMs as "unfounded", the top court had rejected the demand for reverting to the old paper ballot system. It had held that the polling devices were "secure" and eliminate booth capturing and bogus voting.

## 'Rahul 'blackmailed' voters with fake narrative'

Press Trust Of India

**AHMEDABAD:** Union Minister Ramdas Athawale on Friday said Congress leader Rahul Gandhi "blackmailed" voters by creating a fake narrative that the BJP would change the Constitution if it won 400 Lok Sabha seats, leading to losses to the ruling party in several states.

The Union minister of state for social justice and empowerment also said despite such moves Prime Minister Narendra

Modi emerged victorious and the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance got a clear majority with 292 seats.

"In the 2019 general elections the BJP got 303 seats and the NDA got 353 seats. On the basis of work done in the last five years, PM Modi gave the slogan of 'abki baar 400 paar'.

However, the opposition united just for the sake of defeating the PM and spread fake narratives. Rahul Gandhi blackmailed voters but he failed," he told reporters.

## OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR, UNLAWFUL ACTIVITIES (PREVENTION) TRIBUNAL IN THE MATTER OF LIBERATION TIGERS OF TAMIL EELAM (LTTE), ROOM NO. 504A, FIFTH FLOOR, 'S' BLOCK, DELHI HIGH COURT, SHER SHAH ROAD, NEW DELHI-110 003

\*\*\*\*\*

**RE:** Notification No.S.O.1983(E) dated 14th May, 2024 issued by the Central Government under Section 3(1) of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 declaring the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) as 'Unlawful Association'.

To

**LIBERATION TIGERS OF TAMIL EELAM (LTTE)**

WHEREAS the Central Government in exercise of the powers conferred by Sub-section (1) of Section 3 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 (hereinafter referred to as "the Act") has declared the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam as unlawful vide Notification No.S.O.1983(E) dated 14th May, 2024 [published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary Part II Section 3, Sub-section (ii)];

AND WHEREAS vide Gazette Notification No. S.O.2196(E) dated 5th June, 2024 [published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 3, Sub-Section(ii)] in exercise of powers under Section 5(1) of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 the Central Government has constituted the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Tribunal comprising Hon'ble Ms. Justice Manmeet Pritam Singh Arora, Judge, Delhi High Court, for adjudicating whether or not there is sufficient cause for declaring the said Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) as an unlawful association as required by sub-section (1) of Section 4 of the Act.

NOW THEREFORE, Notice is hereby given to you under sub-section (2) of Section 4 of the Act to show cause in writing within 30 days from the date of service of this Notice why your association should not be declared as unlawful and why order should not be made confirming the declaration made in the above-mentioned Notification.

The objections/reply/written statement may be filed/delivered within the statutory period of 30 days from the date of service to the undersigned at this office in Room No.504A, Fifth Floor, 'S' Block, Delhi High Court, Sher Shah Road, New Delhi, in addition can be sent through email at [tribunalupa2024@gmail.com](mailto:tribunalupa2024@gmail.com). In case objections/reply/written statements are in regional language, their true English Translation be also attached.

You are required to appear before the Tribunal on 23rd July, 2024 at 4.30 PM in Delhi High Court, Shersah Road, New Delhi. Appearance can also be caused through a duly authorized and instructed Counsel/Advocate.

GIVEN under my hand and the seal of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Tribunal, High Court of Delhi, Sher Shah Road, New Delhi, this 14th Day of June, 2024.

(VINAL KAPOOR)

रजिस्ट्री सं. डी.एल.-33004/99

REGD No. D.L.-33004/99



# भारत का राजपत्र The Gazette of India

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असाधारण  
EXTRAORDINARY  
भाग II—खण्ड 3—उप-खण्ड (ii)  
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NEW DELHI, TUESDAY, MAY 14, 2024/VAISAKHA 24, 1946

## MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS NOTIFICATION

New Delhi, the 14th May, 2024

**S.O. 1983(E).**— WHEREAS the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (hereinafter referred to as the LTTE), is an association based in Sri Lanka but having its supporters, sympathisers and agents in the territory of India;

AND WHEREAS the LTTE's objective for a separate homeland (Tamil Eelam) for all Tamils threatens the sovereignty and territorial integrity of India, and amounts to cession and secession of a part of the territory of India from the Union and thus falls within the ambit of unlawful activities;

AND WHEREAS, in exercise of the powers conferred by sub-sections (1) and (3) of section 3 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 (37 of 1967), the Central Government declared the LTTE as an unlawful association, vide notification number S.O. 1730(E), dated the 14th May, 2019.

AND WHEREAS the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Tribunal, constituted under section 5 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act 1967 for the purpose of adjudicating whether or not, after finding that there was sufficient cause for declaring the LTTE as an unlawful association, by its order published, vide notification No. S.O.4233 (E), dated the 21st November, 2019 had confirmed the declaration, so made;

AND WHEREAS the declaration of ban under sub-section (1) of section 6 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 (37 of 1967) ceases on the 13th May, 2024

AND WHEREAS the Central Government is of the opinion that LTTE is still indulging in the activities which are prejudicial to the integrity and security of the country, inter-alia, on the following grounds, namely: -

- even after its military defeat in May, 2009 in Sri Lanka, LTTE has not abandoned the concept of 'Eelam' and has been clandestinely working towards the 'Eelam' cause by undertaking fund raising and propaganda activities and the remnant LTTE leaders or cadres have also initiated efforts to regroup the scattered activists and resurrect the outfit locally and internationally;
- the pro-LTTE groups/elements continue to foster a separatist tendency amongst the masses and enhance the support base for LTTE in India and particularly in Tamil Nadu, which will ultimately have a strong disintegrating influence over the territorial integrity of India;
- the LTTE sympathizers living abroad continue to spread anti-India propaganda among Tamils holding the Government of India responsible for the defeat of the LTTE, which, if not checked, is likely to develop a sense of hate among Tamil Populace towards the Central Government and the Indian Constitution;
- despite the ban in force, the activities of pro-LTTE organisations and individuals have come to notice and, attempts have been made by these forces to extend their support to the LTTE;
- the LTTE leaders, operatives and supporters have been inimically opposed to India's policy on their organisation and action of the State machinery in curbing their activities;
- cases have been registered under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act 1967, against LTTE, pro-LTTE groups or elements since the last notification published vide number S.O. 1730 (E), dated the 14th May, 2019 which indicate that LTTE and its remnant cadres, followers and supporters are involved in various criminal activities, including smuggling of illegal drugs, arms for furtherance of objective of the LTTE;

AND WHEREAS the Central Government is of the opinion that the aforesaid activities of the LTTE continue to pose a threat to, and are detrimental to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of India as also to the public order and, therefore, it should be declared as an unlawful association;

AND WHEREAS the Central Government is further of the opinion that since LTTE continues —

- with its disruptive, separatist and secessionist activities, which are prejudicial to the integrity and sovereignty of India; and
- its strong anti-India posture thereby posing a grave threat to the security of Indian nationals,

it is necessary to declare LTTE as an unlawful association with immediate effect;

NOW, THEREFORE, in exercise of the powers conferred by sub-sections (1) and (3) of section 3 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 (37 of 1967), the Central Government hereby declares the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (the LTTE) as an unlawful association and directs that this notification shall, subject to any order that may be made under section 4 of the said Act, have effect for a period of five years from the date of its publication in the Official Gazette.

[F.No.11034/2024-CT-II]  
ABHIJIT SINHA, Jt. Secy.

cbc 191011/11/0013/2425

**Central Chronicle Classifieds**

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सुपरवाइजर, क्लर्क  
(महिला), कम्प्यूटर  
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## QUOTE FROM THE QUOTABLE

Success is not final; failure is not fatal:  
It is the courage to continue that counts.

[ Winston S. Churchill ]

## OUR VIEW |

## Balancing local preferences with economic realities

In a move that has ignited widespread debate, the Karnataka Government has temporarily shelved its proposed reservation Bill for Kannadigas in private firms following intense backlash from business and industry leaders. The Karnataka State Employment of Local Candidates in the Industries, Factories and Other Establishments Bill, 2024, which aimed to mandate significant local hiring quotas, has faced criticism for its potential economic repercussions. The Bill, initially approved by the state cabinet, sought to ensure that 50 percent of management roles and 70 percent of non-management roles in private establishments were filled by local candidates. This proposal, while well-intentioned in promoting local employment, has been met with considerable opposition. Prominent organizations, including NASSCOM, have warned that such restrictions could drive businesses to relocate, exacerbating the scarcity of skilled local talent. Karnataka, renowned as India's technological hub and a beacon of economic progress, risks undermining its business-friendly reputation with such regressive legislation. The state's attempt to follow in the footsteps of Haryana, which faced judicial rejection of a similar law, highlights a recurring issue across various states. Andhra Pradesh and Jharkhand have also experienced setbacks with comparable mandates, illustrating the broader challenge of balancing local employment goals with the realities of a globalized economy. While the notion of promoting local employment has gained traction, especially under the 'vocal for local' campaign, the potential adverse effects on merit and skill-based hiring cannot be ignored. In the fiercely competitive landscape of state-level economic development, policies perceived as protectionist may deter investment and innovation. The swift response from Andhra Pradesh, inviting businesses to relocate to Vizag, underscores the high stakes involved. For Karnataka, a prudent approach would be to reconsider the Bill and engage in more comprehensive discussions with all stakeholders. Ensuring that local aspirations are met without compromising the state's economic dynamism is crucial.

## GUEST VIEW |

## AP and Telangana Chiefs address bifurcation issues

An exoplanet, LHS-1140b, located 50 light years from Earth, could be habitable, rich in potential liquid water. The James Webb Space Telescope discovered this planet has a sea of solid ice resembling an eye's pupil. First identified in 2017, LHS-1140b was thought to be a "mini-Nep-tune" with water, methane, and ammonia, but new findings suggest it's icier and wetter than previously believed, potentially supporting life. Charles Cadieu from the University of Montreal claims LHS-1140b offers a prime opportunity to confirm liquid water beyond our solar system. Using the James Webb Telescope's Near-Infrared Imager and Slitless Spectrograph, researchers detected nitrogen, a key atmospheric component, indicating the planet is not dense or rocky but mostly ice-covered. Surface temperatures in some areas can reach 20 degrees Celsius, creating habitable conditions for marine life. Confirming an Earth-like atmosphere will take extensive observations, requiring at least another year to validate the nitrogen presence and potentially two to three years for carbon dioxide detection.



Vijay Garg

# Comment

## Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme: India Wants More

Launched by the Government of India in 2020, the Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme aims to enhance the country's manufacturing capabilities and boost exports by offering financial incentives to companies based on incremental sales of goods manufactured in India. Integral to India's Atmanirbhar Bharat mission, the scheme focuses on reducing import dependence and strengthening domestic production capabilities. With an incentive outlay of Rs 1.97 lakh crore, the scheme covers 14 key sectors, including electronics, pharmaceuticals, food processing, and telecom products.

By November 2023, the PLI scheme had attracted investments exceeding Rs 1.03 lakh crore, resulting in production and sales worth Rs 8.61 lakh crore and generating employment for over 6.78 lakh individuals. Exports under the PLI scheme reached Rs 3.2 lakh crore, significantly impacting India's trade balance. Notable growth was observed in sectors such as electronics, phar-

maceuticals, telecom, and food processing. For example, local manufacturing of smartphones increased by 5%, and imports of plastic parts and camera lenses declined by 33% in FY24. Pharmaceuticals saw exports rise by 9.67% YoY to USD 27.9 billion in FY24, along with a 4.54% reduction in imports of bulk drugs. The telecom sector achieved a 60% import substitution, with a 370% increase in sales of telecom products by PLI beneficiaries. The food processing sector boosted organic product exports, creating 2.37 lakh jobs by September 2023.

Despite its successes, the PLI scheme faces several challenges. Operational glitches, such as land acquisition issues and procedural delays, have hindered smooth implementation. Ensuring companies meet production and investment targets while maintaining transparency and accountability remains a challenge. Infrastructure development in some regions is slow, and integrating into global supply chains poses hurdles due to quality-related rejec-



Dr. Sanjeev Prashar, IIM, Raipur



Divyam Aggarwal, IIM, Raipur

tions in international markets. A shortage of skilled labor in several sectors also impacts production quality and efficiency.

To address these issues and build on the PLI scheme's successes, the Budget 2024 should focus on:

- \* Expansion of the PLI scheme to labor-intensive sectors like apparel, toys, and footwear, stimulating job creation and boosting export earnings.

- \* Increased funding allocation to Rs 3 trillion over the next five years, covering up to 20 sectors, broadening India's manufacturing base, and facilitating deeper integration into global supply chains.

- \* Incentives for setting up industrial units in eastern states to promote balanced regional industrialization, preventing concentration of industrial growth in certain areas.

- \* Linking eligibility criteria for PLI benefits to skilling initiatives and hiring targets, ensuring inclusive job creation and improving employment quality.

- \* Improving operational processes for foreign investors by streamlining procedures for land acquisition, utility connections, and clarifying qualification criteria, attracting more foreign direct investment.

- \* Enhanced focus on R&D and sustainable practices, with increased incentives and support for research and development, particularly in sectors like battery manufacturing and recycling, supporting startups and innovations in sustainable mobility and recycling.

Robust monitoring mechanisms and continuous enhancements in infrastructure and workforce skills are crucial for the scheme's sustained success. Addressing these demands will help achieve broader national goals of enhancing India's manufacturing capabilities, reducing import dependency, and elevating India's position in the global manufacturing sector. The continued success of the PLI scheme will be vital in driving India's economic transformation and positioning it as a key player in the global market.

## Revolutionizing cobra bite treatment with old drug

Snakebites cause significant harm worldwide. Research reveals century-old blood-thinners may revolutionize treatment, especially for cobra venom injuries. *by Tian Du and Greg Neely*



The image showcasing both the cobra and the scientific efforts involved. Photo: PTI

Each year, approximately 1.8 million people worldwide are bitten by snakes, resulting in up to 138,000 deaths and 400,000 cases of permanent scarring and disability. Many cobras possess tissue-damaging venoms that current antivenoms cannot effectively treat. However, recent research suggests that inexpensive, widely available blood-thinning medications could be repurposed as antidotes for these venoms.

Utilizing CRISPR gene-editing technology, researchers have gained new insights into how these venoms attack cells. They discovered that a class of drugs called heparinoids can protect tissue from venom damage. This groundbreaking research, published in Science Translational Medicine, has the potential to revolutionize the treatment of cobra bites.

Snake venoms consist of various compounds that generally target the heart, nervous system, or local tissue at the site of exposure. While most research focuses on the deadliest venoms, less lethal but still harmful venoms, such as those from cobras, have received less attention. In regions where cobras are prevalent, serious snakebites can lead to life-altering injuries, including amputations, which can devastate individuals' livelihoods. The World Health Organization has recognized snakebite as a "Cat-

egory A" neglected tropical disease and aims to halve the burden of snakebites by 2030.

Currently, the only treatment for snakebites is antivenoms. These are produced by exposing non-human animals to small amounts of venom and harvesting the antibodies they produce. Although antivenoms can save lives, they have significant limitations. Each antivenom is specific to one or more snake species, making them prohibitively expensive and often unavailable. They require cold storage and must be administered via injection in a hospital. Additionally, antivenoms cannot prevent local tissue damage because

the antibodies are too large to reach peripheral tissues, such as limbs.

A research team from the University of Sydney, the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, and Instituto Clodomiro Picado in Costa Rica sought alternative treatments for snakebites. They began by studying cobra venoms, specifically those from the African spitting cobra, known for causing tissue damage. Using a whole genome CRISPR screen, they disabled different genes in human cells and exposed these cells to the venom to identify which genes were necessary for the venom to inflict damage. The researchers discovered that certain enzymes required by cobra

venoms to kill human cells are responsible for producing long sugar molecules called heparan and heparin sulfate. These molecules, found on the surface of human and animal cells, play a crucial role in the immune response. Snake venoms have evolved to exploit these molecules, causing tissue damage.

Heparin, a blood-thinning medication used for nearly 100 years, was tested on human cells to see if it could act as a decoy target for the venom. Remarkably, the venom no longer caused cell death when heparin was added, even after the venom had been introduced. This protective effect was also observed with venoms from distantly related

Asian cobras. Further testing showed that injecting a smaller synthetic version of heparin, called tinzaparin, reduced tissue damage in mice with an artificial "snakebite."

The research team identified that heparin inhibits "cytotoxic three-finger toxins," which are a major cause of tissue injury. Until now, no drugs were known to counteract these toxins. The next step is to test heparin's effects in humans. The ultimate goal is to develop a snakebite treatment device containing heparinoid drugs, similar to the EpiPen adrenaline injectors used for severe allergic reactions. These devices could be distributed to individuals at high risk of cobra bites. Heparinoids are already approved by the US Food and Drug Administration and are stable at room temperature, making them more accessible in remote regions.

Other studies have confirmed the potential of repurposing drugs for snakebite treatment, signaling a new era where treatments do not solely rely on costly antivenoms. The researchers' technique, which has previously been used to investigate other venoms such as those from box jellyfish, is uncovering valuable information that could lead to the development of universal and broad-acting venom antidotes.

## YOUR LETTERS

## BJP faces tough bypolls

The BJP has found itself in a precarious position in Uttar Pradesh, the most crucial state in political and electoral terms. Internal conflicts and overconfidence have significantly damaged the party's prospects. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's failure to unite the party has been a major setback, leading to a drastic reduction in seats—from 62 in 2019 to just 33. Meanwhile, the Samajwadi Party-Congress alliance gained 43 seats. With 10 Assembly seats up for bypolls in the coming months, the BJP must urgently address its issues to prevent further losses.

Rajkumar Kialam, Kannur

## Middle class deserves better

The Full Budget must prioritize sustainable and inclusive development while addressing critical issues like unemployment and inflation. Millions compete for limited job opportunities, highlighting the need for increased investment in industry and infrastructure to create jobs. Education reform is crucial to align student skills with industry needs. Additionally, the middle class, which has long faced challenges, requires relief. Controlling inflation would provide much-needed support to this vital segment of society.

MKN Raipur

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

# Business



Union Budget should focus on taming inflation.  
**Yashwant Sinha,**  
Former finance minister.

## Check-ins affected at airports due to tech. issues



Passengers wait at entry gates at the NSCI Airport as check-in system was affected amid the Microsoft outage, in Kolkata.

# Actively managing situation triggered by outage: Naidu

The civil aviation ministry in collaboration with AAI has implemented manual backup systems to maintain operational continuity.

Press Trust Of India

**MUMBAI:** Union Minister for Civil Aviation Ram Mohan Naidu on Friday said his ministry and Airports Authority of India (AAI) are actively managing the situation arising out of a global Microsoft outage, which severely impacted airport and airline operations in the country. The civil aviation ministry in collaboration with AAI has implemented

manual backup systems to maintain operational continuity, Naidu said in a statement. The global Microsoft outage led to flight cancellations and long queues of people outside airports and at check-in counters across the country. Services like bookings, check-in and boarding process including issuance of boarding passes, are being carried out manually, thereby taking longer than expected

### HIGHLIGHT

- Microsoft outage led to flight cancellations and long queues outside airports.
- Instructed airport authorities to keep passengers informed about their flight status.

time and leading to long queues at airports. Advising passengers

to cooperate with airport staff during this period of disruption, the ministry said it is "committed" to minimising inconvenience and ensuring well-being of all travellers.

"I have directed airport authorities and airlines to be compassionate and provide extra seating, water, and food for passengers affected by delays," he said.

The ministry, Naidu said, understands passen-

gers' concerns and it is working to ensure a safe and swift travel of people. "We have instructed all airlines and airport authorities to keep passengers informed about their flight status and provide necessary assistance," Naidu said, adding that additional measures include regular updates on flight status and deployment of extra staff to assist passengers and address their concerns.

## Reliance Ind reports a net profit of Rs 15,138 crore

**NEW DELHI:** Reliance Industries Ltd on Friday reported a 5 per cent drop in its June quarter net profit, hurt by weak refining margins and fuel cracks as well as higher depreciation cost. The consolidated net profit of Rs 15,138 crore, or Rs 22.37 per share, in April-June was compared to Rs 16,011 crore, or Rs 23.66 a share, in the year-ago period, according to a stock exchange filing by the company.

Sequentially, profit fell 20 per cent when compared to Rs 18,951 crore earnings in the January-March quarter. Revenue from operation was up at Rs 2.36 lakh crore from Rs 2.10 lakh crore in April-June 2023.

Meanwhile Telecom operator Reliance Jio Infocomm on Friday posted a 12 per cent year-on-year jump in standalone net profit for the June quarter at Rs 5,445 crore.

# No plans to allow business houses to promote banks: Das

Press Trust Of India

Allowing corporate houses to promote banks exposes one to conflict of interest risks and related -party transactions

**MUMBAI:** Governor Shaktikanta Das on Friday said the Reserve Bank does not have any plan to allow business houses to promote banks at present. Allowing corporate houses to promote banks exposes one to conflict of interest risks and related -party transactions, Das said, speaking at an event organized by the Financial Express here. "At this point, there is no thinking in that direction," Das said, replying to a specific query on whether there is any consideration to allow business houses. The RBI had disqual-



RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das.

### FACTFILE

- India also had business houses engaged in banking fray.

ified a long list of conglomerates from floating a lender in the last round of licensing around a decade ago. The issue was revived again in 2020, with a Reserve Bank of India (RBI) working group supporting it,

given the potential to get the capital for helping meet the country's growth aspirations. Underlining that banks are different from other businesses, he said experience worldover has shown potential conflicts of interest and issues relating to related-party transactions, if business houses are allowed.

India also had business houses engaged in banking fray, Das said,

speaking about the time before bank nationalization in the late 1960s. "Experience world over has shown that it will be very difficult to monitor or to regulate and prevent related-party transactions. The risks involved are very high," Das said. He said, while the economy needs the resources to grow, we do not necessarily require more banks to achieve the aspirations. "What India needs is not proliferation in the number of banks, India needs sound banks, healthy banks, well governed banks which we feel will be able to mobilize savings throughout the country through technology and meet the credit requirements," he said. Das said that licensing of universal banks has been made on tap and added that applications are welcome.

### MICROSOFT OUTAGE |

## 'Microsoft outage caused minor disruptions in 10 banks'

Press Trust Of India

**MUMBAI:** The RBI on Friday said the outage in Microsoft Services impacted 10 banks and NBFCs with minor disruptions which have either been resolved or are being resolved.

A widespread Microsoft outage disrupted flights, banks, media outlets and companies around the world on Friday. Escalat-

ing disruptions continued hours after the technology company said it was gradually fixing an issue affecting access to Microsoft 365 apps and services.

The large-scale outage in Microsoft Services is impacting IT systems globally leading to disruptions in various sectors. The Reserve Bank said it has made an assessment of the impact of this outage on its



regulated entities. "Critical systems of most banks are not in cloud and further, only a few banks are using

the CrowdStrike tool. Our assessment shows that only 10 banks and NBFCs had minor disruptions which

have either been resolved or are being resolved," RBI said in a statement. Overall, it said the Indian financial sector in the Reserve Bank's domain remains insulated from the global outage. The Reserve Bank has also issued an advisory to its regulated entities for taking necessary steps to remain alert and ensure operational resilience and continuity.

## BizBriefs

BEST OF THE REST

### Q1 RESULTS

## Indian Hotels Company Q1 net profit grows 10.25 pc to Rs 260 cr

**NEW DELHI:** Indian Hotels Company Ltd on Friday reported a 10.25 per cent growth in consolidated net profit to Rs 260.19 crore in the June 2024 quarter, on higher revenue from operations. Indian Hotels Company Limited (IHCL), the country's largest hospitality company, which owns the 'Taj' brand of luxury hotels, had a profit of Rs 236.01 crore in the year-ago period, according to a regulatory filing. Its total income during the April-June quarter under review rose to Rs 1,596.27 crore, from Rs 1,515.70 crore in the corresponding period of the last financial year. However, the company's total expenses also increased to Rs 1,267.78 crore against Rs 1,221.76 crore a year ago, the filing showed. In a separate filing, IHCL informed regarding the transfer of the restaurant business of its wholly owned overseas subsidiary -- Taj International Hotels Ltd -- to St James Court Hotels Ltd, another subsidiary of the company.

### INDICATORS

#### Share MARKETS

Market	Close	%chg
Sensex	80,604.65	-0.91
Nifty	24,530.90	-1.09
Nifty, MidCap	55,908.30	-2.11
Nifty SmallCap	18,397.75	-2.29
Nifty Bank	52,265.60	-0.67

Closing rates as on July 19, 2024 at 5:30p.m. (IST)

#### Forex RATES

##### Foreign currency Vs Rupee

US Dollar	83.71 (+)	↗
Euro	91.14 (+)	↗
Chinese Yuan	11.51 (+)	↗
UAE Dirham	22.79 (+)	↗
Pakistan Rupee	0.29 (-)	↘
Sri Lanka Rupee	0.27 (+)	↗

On July 19, 2024

#### World INDICES

Stock	Value	% chg
Dow Jones (US)	40,474.71	-0.47%
FTSE 100 Index	8,161.28	-0.53%
Nikkei 225 (JPN)	40,023.79	-0.16%
CSI 300 (CHN)300:	3,539.02	+0.51%

Index at 05:30 p.m. (IST, July 19, 2024)

### How the markets behave today?

## Markets tumble after four days of record rally amid profit-taking, global sell-off



**MUMBAI:** Equity benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty tumbled on Friday as investors rushed to book profits after four days of record-breaking rally and the global sell-off triggered by an IT outage that caused devices to crash globally. Fall in blue-chip Reliance Industries also dragged the benchmarks lower.

The 30-share BSE Sensex hit its new all-time high of 81,587.76 in the initial trade but failed to carry forward the winning momentum and tanked 738.81 points or 0.91 per cent to settle below the 81,000-mark at 80,604.65. The NSE Nifty tumbled 269.95 points or 1.09 per cent and ended at 24,530.90 after hitting its fresh record peak of 24,854.80 dur-

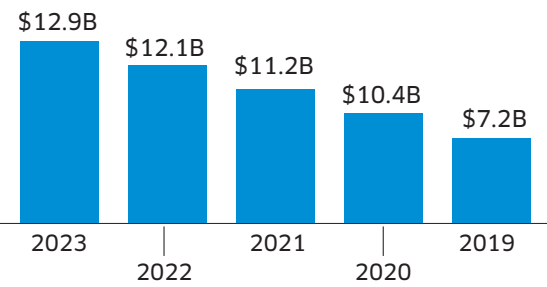
ing the opening bell. During the day, it declined 292.7 points or 1.18 per cent to 24,508.15.

"The domestic market closed today with a downturn due to the global sell-off, triggered by operating system issues that caused devices to crash worldwide. The global IT outage has led to disruptions in various Indian industries. The overvalued market is also experiencing profit booking ahead of the budget next week," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services. Microsoft users globally reported massive outages in services on Friday, with outage tracking website Downtidetector showing users flagging disruptions across various services.

### The Day's NUMBERS

Estimated gross merchandise volume on Amazon during Prime Day.

### AMAZON PRIME DAY: GROWTH HAS SLOWED



Source: Statista

### MONSOON CAMP

## Isuzu Motors India to roll-out 'Isuzu I-Care Monsoon Camp' across India

**CHENNAI:** In a constant endeavour to reaffirm Isuzu's commitment to provide best service and ownership experience, Isuzu Motors India will be conducting a nation-wide 'Isuzu I-Care Monsoon Camp' for its range of Isuzu D-MAX Pick-ups and SUVs. This service camp is aimed at offering customers exciting benefits and preventive maintenance checks for a hassle-free driving experience during the season across the country. An initiative of 'Isuzu Care', the Monsoon camp will be organised across all Isuzu authorised dealer service outlets, between July 22nd to 28th (both days inclusive). During this period, customers can also avail special offers & benefits for their vehicles. The Monsoon Camp will be organised at all authorised service facilities of Isuzu located in Ahmedabad, Baramulla, Bengaluru, Bhandup (Mum), Bhimavaram, Bhub, Calicut, Chennai, Coimbatore, Dimapur, Durgapur, Gandhidham, Gorakhpur, Gurugram, Guwahati and Hubballi.

### BULLION MARKET

## Gold snaps six-day rally; declines Rs 750 on muted demand



**NEW DELHI:** Gold prices tumbled by Rs 750 to Rs 75,650 per 10 grams, snapping a six-day winning streak in the local market on Friday, tracking a weak trend globally amid subdued demand by jewellers. According to All India Sarafa Association, the precious metal rates had closed at Rs 76,400 per 10 grams in the previous session. Meanwhile, gold of 99.5 per cent purity also declined by Rs 800 to Rs 75,300 per 10 grams. It had settled at Rs 76,100 per 10 grams on Thursday.

"I realised people didn't often borrow clothes, so I started borrowing them. It didn't make sense to buy everything all the time. I did buy a lot, but borrowing was more practical."

Sonam Kapoor  
Actress



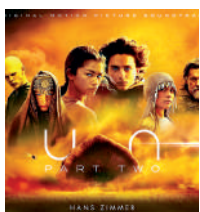
# & Glitters

## O.T.T Watch



**Charlize discusses delay of "The Old Guard 2"**

Charlize Theron reveals Netflix's post-production delay on "The Old Guard 2" postponed its release, citing changes at the streaming giant. Despite setbacks, Theron assures fans the sequel, led by director Victoria Mahoney, will arrive soon.



**"Dune: Part Two" streaming on JioCinema**

"Dune: Part Two," directed by Denis Villeneuve, streams on JioCinema Premium from August 1. Starring Timothée Chalamet, it follows Paul Atreides' epic journey and will be available in seven languages.



**Nagendran's comic misadventures**

Nagendran's Honey-moons: Directed by Nithin Renji Panicker, the Malayalam comedy web series stars Suraj Venjaramoodu as a scheming man. Streaming on Disney+ Hotstar from July 19, it features a stellar cast and hilarious escapades.



**I.S.S.: astronauts at war**

"I.S.S." is a thrilling space drama where American and Russian astronauts clash aboard the International Space Station as nuclear war erupts on Earth. Catch the suspense-filled series on Jio Cinema, releasing July 19.



**Kamthaan: Fun Gujarati capers**

"Kamthaan" is a Gujarati crime comedy starring Hitu Kanodia and Darshan Jariwala. It follows a witty thief and a new police officer in a chaotic chase after a robbery. Premieres July 18 on ShemarooMe.

## CLOSE UP

# Ayushmann Khurrana: From acting ace to musical maverick

Ayushmann Khurrana had proved his mettle in both, singing and acting space. A couple of days ago, he released his new single musical track Reh Ja.

### Central Chronicle News

**"It is my life. I can't operate without music. I can live without films, but I can't live without music."**

Ayushmann Khurrana, celebrated for his versatile talents in acting and music, recently emphasized his profound connection with music, declaring it indispensable to his life. Known for breakout performances since his debut in "Vicky Donor," Khurrana's journey in Bollywood has been marked by critical acclaim and popular success. Beyond acting, he has carved a niche as a singer, contributing to numerous film songs and releasing independent tracks. His latest single, "Reh Ja," showcases his multifaceted skills as a songwriter, composer, and vocalist. In a recent 'Behind The Geet' video, Khurrana shared insights into his creative process and affirmed his passion for music. He candidly expressed, "It is my life. I can't operate without music. I can live without films, but I can't live without music." This sentiment underscores his deep-rooted commitment to music as an integral part of his identity and artistic expression.



Apart from singing and acting, Ayushmann also knows how to play musical instruments.



**Ayushmann Khurrana's musical journey**

The most popular song, written, sung, and composed by Ayushmann, is Pani Da Rang from his debut movie, Vicky Donor. He then sang Saadi Galli Aaja and Tu Hi Tu in Rohan Sipky's Nautanki Saala. Some of his other popular movie tracks are Khaamakhaan, the reprise version of Dil-E-Nadaan and

Moh Moh Ke Dhage, Haareya, Mere Liye Tum Kaafi Ho, and Arey Pyaar Kar Le from the 2020 movie Shubh Mangal Zyada Saavdhan, among many more. His musical singles like O Heeriye, Mitti Di Khushboo, Yahin Hoon Main, Ik Vaari, Orrey Mon, Chan Kitthan, Ab Teri Baari, and Rataan Kaaliyan also became a rage among young music lovers.

## | BOLLYWOOD |

# Sakshi Tanwar: Balancing stardom and motherhood with grace

### Central Chronicle News

Sakshi Tanwar, revered for her unforgettable portrayals in television, notably as Parvati in "Kahaani Ghar Ghar Kii," has gracefully embraced the dual roles of a celebrated actress and dedicated single mother. Her journey took a transformative turn in 2018 when she joyously adopted Dityaa, a nine-month-old baby girl, filling her life with newfound purpose and unconditional love. Sakshi delved into the intricate balance required between her demanding career and the responsibilities of mother-

### HIGHLIGHT

● Sakshi Tanwar says that even though striking the 'balance' between work and her child can be a task, she is blessed with a supportive family that helps her.

hood. She acknowledged the universal challenge faced by working mothers to juggle societal expectations and personal aspirations while nurturing their children's needs. Sakshi values the flexibility her career affords, allowing her to meticulously plan her shoots



Sakshi Tanwar was last seen in Sharmajee Ki Beti.

and prioritize quality time with Dityaa. Despite working only 50 to 65 days annually, she credits her family's steadfast support as crucial in managing her responsibilities

as a single parent. Their unwavering assistance ensures Dityaa receives the care and attention she deserves during Sakshi's absences due to work commitments.

Reflecting on the unpredictability of parenting, Sakshi shared insights into the daily joys and challenges of raising a child. She emphasized the absence of a definitive manual, relying instead on intuition and familial support to navigate the intricacies of single parenthood. Through her experiences, Sakshi Tanwar embodies resilience, compassion, and unwavering dedication, inspiring others with her ability to excel professionally while cherishing the profound moments of motherhood.

## CineBriefs

BEST OF THE REST

### Web Series

**Netflix unveils first look poster for "Phir Aayi Haseen Dillruba"**

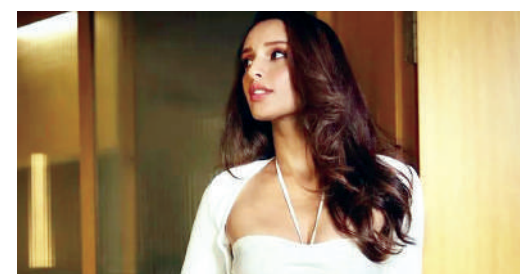
Netflix India has unveiled the first look poster for "Phir Aayi Haseen Dillruba," the highly anticipated sequel to the romantic thriller "Haseen Dillruba." Promising a blend of passion and mystery, the poster sets the stage for another gripping narrative filled with love, intrigue, and suspense. Starring Taapsee Pannu, Vikrant Massey, and Sunny Kaushal, and directed by Jayprad Desai, the film continues the saga under the creative vision of writer Kanika Dhillon and producers Aanand L Rai and Himanshu Sharma.

### Dreams Take Flight

**Jade Thirlwall teases debut solo single "Angel of My Dreams"**



Jade Thirlwall of Little Mix is set to unveil her debut solo single, "Angel of My Dreams," on July 19, 2024, marking a significant milestone in her musical journey since the group's hiatus in 2022. The singer-songwriter has been teasing the release on social media, offering glimpses of the upcoming music video, which promises stunning visuals and captivating beats. Known simply as "JADE" in her solo career, Thirlwall has already generated buzz with the teaser shared on X (formerly Twitter), featuring intriguing snippets that hint at a compelling narrative and dynamic sound. Fans eagerly await her solo debut, expecting a fresh chapter in Thirlwall's evolving artistry.



### Fashion

**Triptii Dimri dazzles in versatile white dress for Bad Newz promotions**

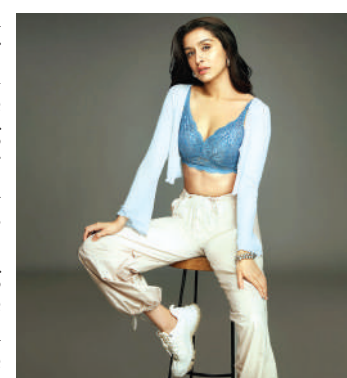
Triptii Dimri shines in a white bandage dress from Self Centrd during promotions for her film, Bad Newz. The midi dress, made of stretch bandage fabric, elegantly contours her figure with a stylish neckline layered over a white bralette. She accessorizes minimally with a golden bracelet and matching earrings, complementing her natural makeup and side-parted curls. The ensemble exudes sophistication and versatility, perfect for any occasion from brunches to evening events. Triptii's fashion choices continue to impress, showcasing her flair for blending elegance with contemporary chic on and off-screen.

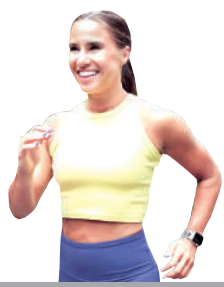
## Trending on Insta

### @shraddhakapoor

**Shraddha Kapoor savors heartfelt home-cooked meal after weeks**

Shraddha Kapoor delighted in homemade food, sharing a photo of her daal rice and vegetables with pickles. Captioning it, "2 hafte baad ghar ka khaana (face holding back tears and a red-heart emoji) kitna miss kiya ye samjhaau ki chup chaap khaau ???"





# Lifestyle

DAILY LIFE HABITS

## Balancing work and fitness: The power of walking in today's professional world

Explore the benefits of integrating walking into your busy professional life for enhanced fitness and mental clarity.



Cervical cancer ranks as the second most prevalent cancer in India despite being largely preventable.

phins, which elevate mood and contribute to a sense of well-being. This mental refreshment can lead to enhanced focus and creativity when returning to work tasks. Moreover, walking provides opportunities for social interaction and team building.

Incorporating walking into daily routines not only supports physical and mental health but also promotes a healthier work-life balance. It encourages breaks during the workday, allowing professionals to recharge and return to tasks with renewed energy and focus. By prioritizing regular walks, professionals can effectively manage stress, boost productivity, and improve overall quality of life. It's a sustainable practice that aligns with the demands of a busy work environment while ensuring personal well-being remains a priority.

### HIGHLIGHT

Discover how this simple exercise promotes work-life balance and boosts productivity..

Beyond physical health, walking also enhances mental clarity and reduces stress. It promotes the release of endor-

### HEALTH



### IVF Eligibility: Finding the Right Fit

In vitro fertilization (IVF) has revolutionized fertility treatment, offering hope to couples struggling to conceive. Ideal candidates include those with blocked fallopian tubes, male infertility issues, ovulation disorders, endometriosis, or unexplained infertility. Factors like age, reproductive health, emotional readiness, finances, and support systems play crucial roles in deciding if IVF is suitable. Consulting with fertility specialists for evaluations and discussions is essential for making informed decisions about this complex and emotionally challenging journey. IVF presents a promising option for individuals seeking to overcome infertility and achieve their dream of starting or expanding a family through advanced reproductive technology.

### TRAVEL

## Discovering Wayanad: Kerala's enchanting gateway to nature



Nestled in the lush Western Ghats of Kerala, Wayanad is a serene escape brimming with natural beauty and cultural heritage. Home to misty mountains, sprawling spice plantations, and cascading waterfalls like Meenmutty and Soodhipara, it offers a picturesque retreat for nature enthusiasts. Explore the ancient Edakkal Caves adorned with prehistoric petroglyphs, or trek through the verdant landscapes of Chembra Peak. Discover the rich biodiversity of wildlife sanctuaries like Tholpetty and Muthanga, where elephants roam freely. Indulge in the local cuisine, infused with flavors of Kerala spices, and immerse yourself in the tranquil beauty that makes Wayanad a captivating destination in God's Own Country.

### LIFESTYLE

## From pixels to posh: How AI is reshaping Indian fashion trends

Central Chronicle News

Urbanic, an international fashion brand with a digital presence in India has also infused AI into its functioning ways.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is revolutionizing Indian fashion by becoming the ultimate personal stylist, transforming how individuals discover and embrace their unique style. Imagine having a virtual assistant that not only understands your fashion preferences but also suggests outfits tailored to your body type, skin tone, and cultural influences. AI-powered platforms

are changing the game by offering curated fashion recommendations for every occasion, whether it's a traditional wedding or a casual day out.

These platforms analyze vast amounts of data to predict trends and provide personalized style advice, making fashion more accessible and exciting. What sets AI apart is its ability to learn from user interactions, continually refining its suggestions based on feedback. It's like having a fashion guru at your fingertips, always ready with the latest trends and timeless classics that suit your individual taste.

Moreover, AI enhances the shopping experience by offering virtual try-ons



Fashion e-commerce platform Myntra introduced several AI features to their platform including 'MyFashionGPT' and 'Maya'.



and suggesting complete looks with accessories, ensuring you always step out in style. It's not just about convenience; it's about empowering you to explore new trends and express yourself confidently through clothing.

In a diverse country like India, where fashion preferences vary across regions and cultures, AI bridges the gap, celebrating diversity and inclusivity. It brings global fashion trends to your doorstep while respecting and embracing local traditions.

### GadgetPick

TRENDING PERSONAL-TECH

#### Dyson OnTrac Headphone

**About:** Dyson introduces OnTrac, an advanced wireless headphone blending style with performance. Featuring customizable earcups and cushions, OnTrac is designed for immersive audio experiences with precision engineering.

**Key Features:** Custom ANC algorithm with eight microphones, 40mm drivers for rich sound, 6Hz-21,000Hz frequency range, dual lithium-ion batteries lasting 55 hours, ANC control via cup tap. Available in CNC Aluminum, Copper, Nickel, and Ceramic Cinnabar finishes, customizable caps and cushions. Connects via MyDyson app for EQ modes, real-time soundtracking. Launch details for India pending.



#### Apple HomePod mini

**About:** Apple HomePod mini delivers unexpectedly big sound and integrates seamlessly into your home. Use multiple speakers for Intercom communication and a connected sound system. Siri, your intelligent assistant, handles everyday tasks and smart home control securely.

**Key Features:** Surprising sound for its size, Fivecolors available. Create stereo pairs with two HomePod mini speakers for immersive listening. Use Intercom for quick family communication. Seamlessly works with Apple devices; hand off audio by holding iPhone close. Pair two HomePod mini speakers for stereo sound with Apple TV 4K.



#### SwitchBot Hub Mini Smart Remote

**About:** SwitchBot Hub Mini Smart Remote is easy to set up via the SwitchBot App, featuring "Smart learning" mode to mimic existing remotes in seconds.

**Key Features:** Easy setup with SwitchBot App, "Smart learning" mode mimics remotes in 5 seconds. USB-powered, portable design. Control air conditioners, TVs, and more with one app. Integrates with SwitchBot ecosystem for smart home connectivity. Compatible with Alexa, Google Assistant, Siri, and IFTTT for voice control.



#### BISSELL Portable Carpet Cleaner

**About:** BISSELL Portable Carpet Cleaner is ideal for smaller pet messes, offering powerful suction to tackle dirt, stains, and muddy paw prints on carpets, stairs, and car interiors.

**Key Features:** Powerful suction removes tough spots and stains. Compact and portable for versatile cleaning. Large 48 oz. tank minimizes refills. Includes specialized tools: 3" Tough Stain Tool, HydroRinse™ Self-Cleaning Hose Tool, Spraying Crevice Tool, and Trial Size 8 oz. Spot & Stain with Febreze Freshness formula. Supports BISSELL Pet Foundation® with every purchase, helping save homeless pets.



#### The GABB Watch 3

**About:** The GABB Watch 3 provides reliable GPS tracking and customizable Safe Zones to monitor your child's location. It combines style with functionality as a kids' watch.

**Key Features:** Unlimited talk and text on a dependable network, with a full text keyboard, speech-to-text, and 20 customizable message presets. Parent-managed contact list for up to 100 contacts and an SOS button for emergencies. Focus and Silent modes controlled by parents ensure undisturbed times while maintaining communication with trusted contacts.



#### Blink Outdoor 4

**About:** Blink Outdoor 4 is a fourth-generation wire-free smart security camera, enabling remote home protection from your smartphone.

**Key Features:** 1080p HD live view with infrared night vision and two-way audio. Up to two-year battery life with AA lithium batteries. Enhanced motion detection for quicker alerts via dual-zone technology. Optional person detection with embedded computer vision (CV) via Blink Subscription Plan. Store clips in the cloud with a free 30-day trial of Blink Subscription Plan or locally with Sync Module 2 and USB drive.



# Sports



Plans to make India global sporting superpower in place since COVID crisis.  
**Mansukh Mandaviya**  
 Sports Minister

## ‘Panghal’s resilience key to Olympic success’

Former Commonwealth Games champion Akhil Kumar believes boxer Amit Panghal’s resilience, after setbacks, makes him one of India’s strongest athletes for the Paris Olympics.

Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI:** Former Commonwealth Games champion boxer Akhil Kumar believes a battle-hardened Amit Panghal, who persevered through the setback of being dropped from the national team before roaring back to qualify for the Olympics, will be among the most mentally strong Indian athletes competing in the Paris Games.

After the first-round exit from Tokyo Olympics, Panghal lost his spot in the team on the basis of Boxing Federation of India’s evaluation system, which was drafted by then High Performance Director Bernard Dunne.

“Amit is in a strong place now because he has made a comeback and seen the tough times in the past few years,” Akhil told PTI on the sidelines of a panel discussion on India’s Olympic prospects hosted by the Delhi Sports Journalists Association in collaboration with the Sports Authority of India.

The snubs severely dented Panghal’s confidence and made him question his abilities.

However, when the opportunity came, India’s lone men’s world champion silver-medallist grabbed



Amit Panghal, who persevered through the setback of being dropped from the national team before roaring back to qualify for the Olympics | Photo: PTI

it with both hands to secure an Olympic quota in the 51kg category. The Games begin on July 26.

“When he was not in the team he must have had sleepless nights, he trained hard. He must have felt things that he cannot put into words. He has walked out of all that stronger and should take it as a motivation,” Akhil added.

A former world number one, Panghal has medals in the all-big-ticket events barring the Olympics

He once stood at the pinnacle of his sport with

### HIGHLIGHT

● Amit Panghal secured an Olympic quota in the 51kg category, overcoming past setbacks and boosting expectations for a medal at the Paris Games.

● Akhil believes Panghal’s experience of beating some of the best in the world makes him a force to reckon with at the Paris Games.

gold medals at the Asian

Games and Asian Championships and a historic silver at the World Championships.

Akhil believes Panghal’s experience of beating some of the best in the world makes him a force to reckon with at the Paris Games.

“Amit has a medal in every tournament apart from Olympics and I hope he gets that (missing medal). He has defeated so many talented boxers over the years so hopes and expectations from him increase.”

Akhil, who won the

gold at the 2006 Commonwealth Games, feels all the boxers in India’s six-member Paris squad are capable of winning medals as most of them have proved themselves in marquee tournaments.

The trio of Nishant Dev, Nikhat Zareen and Lovlina Borgohain head to the Games after clinching world championship medals in 2023, while Jaismine Lamboria and Preeti Pawar snared bronze medals at the 2022 Commonwealth Games and Asian Games respectively.

## Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

### BITTERSWEET

#### Hardik Pandya and wife Natasa Stankovic officially part ways

**NEW DELHI:** Star India all-rounder Hardik Pandya, on Thursday, announced his separation with wife Natasa Stankovic after a relationship of four years. The couple disclosed the decision in a joint statement on their official Instagram accounts. Pandya and Stankovic got married on May 31, 2020, and welcomed their first child, son Agastya on July 30 of the same year. They renewed their wedding vows in the presence of close friends and family on February 14, 2023 in Udaipur in a grand celebration. “After 4 years of being together, Natasa and I have decided to mutually part ways. We tried our best together and gave it our all, and we believe this is in the best interest for both of us. This was a tough decision for us to make, given the joy, mutual respect and companionship we enjoyed together and as we grew a family,” the couple said. **PTI**

### TENNIS

#### Sumit Nagal exits Nordea Open, misses chance for clash with Nadal



**BASTAD:** India’s No.1 singles player Sumit Nagal lost his pre quarter-final match against fourth seeded Argentine Mariano Navone in straight sets 4-6 2-6 here on Thursday. Had Nagal won this round, he could have had a possible face-off with the legendary Spaniard Rafael Nadal in the quarter-finals but the world No. 36 was too good for the Indian, who recently gained five places in the ATP rankings to move to No. 68. **PTI**

### Olympic Hurdles Ahead

#### Bopanna and Balaji’s Olympic preparations start with Hamburg Open loss



**HAMBURG:** Getting ready to represent India at the Paris Olympics, veteran Rohan Bopanna and N Sriram Balaji began their partnership with a tough loss in the opening round of the Hamburg Open on Thursday. Bopanna and Balaji have never played together on the ATP Tour before. The sixth-seeded Indian team lost 1-6 4-6 to unseeded German team of Jakob Schnaitter and Mark Wallner in the ATP 500

tournament. Surprisingly, the Indians, who are very solid servers, did not win many points on first serves. They dropped their serve thrice in the match and could not convert any of the three break point chances that they got. Now Bopanna and Balaji have one more tournament to compete together before the Olympics. They will head to Umag to play Croatia Open, which is an ATP 250 event. **PTI**

## India makes winning start in Squash

**HOUSTON:** India made a winning start in the World Junior Squash Championships with both the boys’ and girls’ teams winning their respective fixtures comprehensively. While the boys eased past Kuwait 3-0 in their Group F encounter, the girls team, led by national champion Anahat Singh, defeated Chinese Taipei by an identical margin in Group D on Thursday. The boys will next take on Brazil on Friday. The girls team, on the other hand, has two matches scheduled - against Brazil and Australia. In their dominant performances, the Indian teams showcased their skill and determination, setting a strong tone for the tournament. With a blend of experienced players and promising young talent, India looks poised to make a significant impact in the championship.

### | NADAL’S IMPRESSIVE COMEBACK |

## Rafael Nadal rallies to reach Nordea Open quarterfinals

Press Trust Of India

Rafael Nadal advances to Nordea Open quarterfinals after defeating Cameron Norrie.

**BASTAD (SWEDEN):** Rafael Nadal recovered from a tumble and a 4-1 deficit in the second set to beat fifth-seeded Cameron Norrie 6-4, 6-4 in the second round of the Nordea Open. Nadal fell over in the first game of the second set after attempting to slide on the clay, and needed treatment on a couple of bleeding scrapes.

He then went a break down before winning the last five games of the match to reach his first quarterfinal since January.

“Great feelings, it’s been a while without playing



### FACTFILE

● Nadal overcomes 4-1 deficit in the second set to secure victory.

● Nadal reaches his first quarterfinal since January, preparing for the Olympic tournament.

I need to improve on because I haven’t played enough.”

Nadal is playing at the tournament in Sweden for the first time since he won the title as a 19-year-old in 2005 as he prepares for the Olympic tournament on clay at Roland Garros in Paris.

He beat Leo Borg, the son of Swedish tennis legend Bjorn Borg, in the first round on Tuesday. That was his first singles match since he lost in the first round of the French Open to Alexander Zverev. He teamed up with Casper Ruud on Monday to win a first-round doubles match.

The 38-year-old Nadal skipped Wimbledon as he didn’t want to switch surface to grass and then back to clay and risk injury.

on the tour since Roland Garros and I had a chance to compete against a great player like Cameron,” Nadal said.

“It’s part of the journey today. I haven’t been competing very often so matches like today help and holding the pressure on the opponent for the whole game is something

### | CRICKET |

## Gautam bhai transformed my mindset: Harshit Rana

Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI:** Harshit Rana, a promising young pacer, always believed in hard work, but his journey was not without emotional hurdles. Whenever he was overlooked by age-group teams, he found himself retreating to his room, overcome with tears of disappointment. This

Despite working hard, I would sob in my room when overlooked by age-group teams.

Harshit Rana  
 Indian cricketer



pattern of heartbreak was a recurring theme in his early career, where his skills were evident, but recognition was elusive.

It was Gautam Gambhir’s mentorship at Kolkata Knight Riders that brought a transformative change in Rana’s outlook. Gambhir, known for his straightforward and inspiring approach,

instilled confidence in Rana, urging him to face his fears head-on. He emphasized that skills alone weren’t enough at the elite level; mental strength and the ability to handle pressure were crucial. Gambhir’s trust and encouragement helped Rana develop a resilient mindset, preparing him to excel under pressure.

### The Day’s NUMBERS

#### MOST RUNS IN A CALENDAR YEAR IN T20 INTERNATIONAL CRICKET

Mohammad Rizwan	1,326 (2021)
Virat Kohli	1,321 (2016)
Babar Azam	939 (2021)
Paul Stirling	748 (2019)
Kevin O’Brien	729 (2019)

Source: ICC

### PARIS GAMES

#### TOPS to finance Prannoy’s trainer during Paris Olympics

**NEW DELHI:** The Sports Ministry’s Mission Olympic Cell (MOC) has approved Olympic-bound shuttler HS Prannoy’s proposal for financial assistance towards his trainer Rohan George Mathews during his stay at Paris. The ministry’s Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS) will finance Mathews’ airfare, boarding and lodging, daily fees, visa fee, expenditure for miscellaneous expenses such as local transportation and medical expenditure and will also provide him an OPA for the duration. Prannoy and Lakshya Sen are only the two shuttlers to represent India in men’s singles badminton event at the Paris Games. Besides Prannoy, the MOC also approved proposals of athletes Vikash Singh, Suraj Panwar, Ankita Dhyani, Sarvesh Kushare and shooter Anantjeet Singh Naruka for assistance towards various equipment for training and competition. **PTI**

### GOLF

#### Tvesa Malik leads Indian challenge at Dutch Ladies Open



**HILVERSUM:** Tvesa Malik will lead the Indian challenge at this week’s Dutch Ladies Open, which is taking place at Hilversumsche Golf Club. Tvesa will have Vani Kapoor and Ridhima Dilawari for company as India’s top star on the LET, Diksha Dagar, has taken a break ahead of the Olympic Games in Paris. The 300,000 Euro event is the last LET event before the Olympics, where India will be represented by Aditi Ashok and Diksha. **PTI**

## Sports News

# India triumphs over Pak in Asia Cup T20 opener

India kicked off their Women's T20 Asia Cup campaign with a dominant seven-wicket victory over Pakistan, thanks to Deepti Sharma's stellar bowling and a strong opening partnership.

Press Trust Of India

India secured a decisive seven-wicket victory over Pakistan in their Women's T20 Asia Cup opener.

**DAMBULLA:** Title contenders India saw off Pakistan by seven wickets in their Women's T20 Asia Cup opener here on Friday. Opting to bat first, Pakistan were bowled out for 108 with experienced spinner Deepti Sharma (3/20) emerging as the most successful bowler. Renuka Singh (2/14) and Pooja Vastrakar (2/31) also chipped in with wickets at crucial juncture to keep Pakistan on a tight leash through their innings.

In reply, India completed the chase in 14.1 overs with the opening duo of Smriti Mandhana (45) and Shafali Verma (40) putting on 85 runs in 9.1 overs.

India, after being asked to bowl first, tasted their first success in the second over itself when pacer Pooja Vastrakar (2/31) dismissed Gull Feroza, caught by skipper Harmanpreet Kaur at mid-on.

Vastrakar again struck soon, dismissing the other Pakistan opener Muneeba Ali with a short-pitched delivery, caught by Jimimah Rodrigues at cover, reducing Paki-



Pooja Vastrakar finished with figures of 2 for 31.

## HIGHLIGHT

● **Deepti Sharma's 3/20 helped India restrict Pakistan to 108.**

● **Smriti Mandhana and Shafali Verma's 85-run partnership led India to a comfortable chase.**

stan to 26 for 2 after the fourth over.

The Indians didn't allow Pakistani batters to

settle down as off-spinner Shreyanka Patil (2/14) packed off Aliya Riaz, caught by Rodrigues at mid-wicket.

The Pakistani batters struggled to score runs, let alone building partnerships as Indian bowlers continued to pick up wickets at regular intervals to derail their opponents.

The next to depart was Pakistan skipper Nida Dar who was holed out to Dayalan Hemalatha at long-on off the bowling of Deepti as the batter went for her

customary huge heave over the straight boundary.

It was raining wickets for India as pacer Renuka Singh (2/14) struck twice in the last two deliveries of her spell.

Renuka first accounted for Sidra Amin (25) and then trapped Iram Javed leg before in the next ball to reduce Pakistan to 61 for 6 in 13 overs.

Thereafter Tuba Hassan (22) and Fatima Sana (22 not out) stitched together a valuable 31-run stand for

the seventh wicket to take Pakistan forward.

But their partnership finally came to an end in the 18th over when Hassan was caught by Radha Yadav at backward point off Deepti.

The 18th over bowled by Deepti saw three dismissals -- Hassan, Syeda Aroob Shah and Nashra Sandhu.

While Hassan and Sandhu fell to Deepti, Shah was run out, denying the India spinner a hat-trick chance.

# Khadka, Barma sparkle as Nepal beat UAE

Press Trust Of India

**DAMBULLA:** In an impressive display of cricket, Nepal defeated the UAE by six wickets to begin their campaign in the Women's T20 Asia Cup on a high note. The match took place in Dambulla, where Nepal's opener, Samjhana Khadka, delivered a stellar performance with the bat, scoring an unbeaten 71 off just 45 balls, including 11 boundaries. Her aggressive and confident batting helped Nepal chase down the target of 116 in just 16.1 overs.

The UAE, batting first, struggled against the disciplined bowling attack of Nepal. Despite a fighting 36 from Khushi Sharma and a supportive 22 from Kavisha Egodage, the UAE could only manage 115 for eight in their 20 overs. Indu Barma was the stand-out bowler for Nepal, taking three crucial wickets for just 19 runs, putting the UAE on the back foot early in the innings.

UAE's innings started poorly, losing three wickets within the Power Play, leaving them at 38 for three. Khushi Sharma and Kavisha Egodage tried to stabilize the innings but consumed too many deliveries in the process, hindering the team's momentum. None of the other UAE batters could capitalize on their starts, and they kept losing wickets at regular intervals due to some accurate and disciplined bowling from the Nepalese bowlers.

Chasing a modest target, Nepal faced a few



Indu Barma was the pick of the Nepal bowlers with three wickets

## HIGHLIGHT

● **Samjhana Khadka's unbeaten 71 led Nepal to victory, chasing 116 in 16.1 overs against UAE.**

● **Indu Barma's 3/19 restricted UAE to 115/8, setting up Nepal's six-wicket win in the Women's T20 Asia Cup.**

hiccups when Kavisha Egodage, who was also effective with the ball, took

three wickets for 12 runs, causing a temporary halt in their progress. However, Khadka's composed and powerful innings ensured that Nepal did not face any major setbacks. She played shots all around the park, guiding her team to victory with ease.

This comprehensive win marks a strong start for Nepal in the Women's T20 Asia Cup, showcasing their potential and determination to perform on bigger stages.

| CRICKET |

## Hardik Pandya's future with Mumbai Indians uncertain

Press Trust Of India

Pandya faces competition from Suryakumar Yadav and Rohit Sharma for MI's top leadership role.

**NEW DELHI:** He left the Caribbean basking in the glory of his success in India's triumphant march to their first ICC tournament title in 11 years. However, in a mere three weeks, Hardik Pandya's world has turned upside down.

Elite sport can be ruthless and Pandya found that out when he was pipped by Suryakumar Yadav for the post of captain of the Indian T20 side for the upcoming tour of Sri Lanka while battling problems on personal front.



The vote of 'no confidence' in his leadership ability was so emphatic and in your face that it has left the flamboyant all-rounder facing another big question thanks to one of the most dramatic twists in Indian cricket.

Will Mumbai Indians, the franchise with the deepest pocket and biggest say in the IPL Universe, be ready to give one more year to their

current preferred leader Pandya, who replaced their most popular captain (Rohit Sharma) in acrimonious circumstances last year?

By leading the team to the T20 World Cup title, Rohit has elevated himself to a position which is second only to Mahendra Singh Dhoni in Indian cricket, barely five months after being dumped by his IPL franchise.

## Play fearlessly: Ashok Dhyanchand

**NEW DELHI:** The Indian hockey team has been handed an unenviable draw at the Paris Olympics and the legendary Ashok Dhyanchand reckons that the players will have to play "fearlessly" and "without pre-conceived notions" to negotiate the challenge.

India had clinched a bronze medal at the Tokyo Olympics in 2021 under Manpreet Singh to break a nearly four-decade-long jinx. There are huge expectations from Harmanpreet and Co. to achieve success in Paris. But India's performance over the last few months, especially against Australia and in the Pro League, has become the talking point as the team heads into the Games, commencing in less than a week's time.

| OLYMPIC DREAM |

## Raj Kumar's inspiring journey to Paris Olympics

Press Trust Of India

Raj Kumar Pal aims to fulfill his village's Olympic dreams in Paris.

**NEW DELHI:** Raj Kumar Pal, affectionately known as 'Ghazipur ke Raj Kumar,' is on a mission to realize his village's long-held dream of Olympic glory in hockey. The midfielder, who overcame numerous hardships, is determined to excel at the Paris Olympics, aiming to bring joy to his family and inspire the young athletes in his village of Karampur, near Varanasi.

Despite being the youngest of three brothers, Raj Kumar is the first from Karampur to represent India at the senior level, debuting in



2020 against Belgium in the Pro League. His journey began at the Meghbaran Stadium, established in 1983 by coach Tej Bahadur Singh, who significantly influenced Raj Kumar's career. The passing of his father in 2011 posed a significant

challenge, but with the unwavering support of his family and mentor, Raj Kumar persevered.

He has played 53 international matches and was part of the Indian team that won bronze medals at the Asia Cup (2022) and Asian Champions Trophy

## HIGHLIGHT

● **Raj Kumar's journey from Karampur village to Paris Olympics is inspirational.**

● **He draws motivation from his late father and mentor, Tej Bahadur Singh.**

(2021). Raj Kumar's dedication is evident as he prepares rigorously for the Olympics, working closely with coaches and senior players to refine his skills and strategies.

As Raj Kumar steps onto the field in Paris, he carries the hopes and dreams of his village, striving to change the color of the medal and make Karampur an Olympic medal winner's village.

| RANA'S ICC ASPIRATIONS |

## Sneh Rana: India Women's will win ICC trophy soon

Press Trust Of India

**MUMBAI:** Sneh Rana, Indian women's cricket team's spin-bowling all-rounder, believes Rohit Sharma and Co's T20 World Cup triumph has bolstered the team's confidence in winning their first ICC trophy. As favorites in the Women's Asia Cup starting in Sri Lanka, Rana emphasizes the team's readiness for the T20 World Cup in October and the ODI World Cup next year.

Reflecting on the Indian women's team's progress over the past 2-3 years, Rana highlights their hard work and determination. She acknowledges fielding as an area needing improvement but assures the team's commitment to excel.

Rana, who made her debut in 2014, notes the positive shift in Indian women's Test cricket, emphasizing fitness and endurance as key factors. Rana credits the Wom-



en's Premier League for increasing exposure and competition. Despite

being dropped from the Asia Cup squad, she remains motivated

**To achieve something big, it will not happen overnight. It will take time. It will take a lot of sacrifices, a lot of struggle, a lot of things in between. But eventually, we will get there.**

**Sneh Rana**  
Indian women cricketer

to rejoin the team and contribute in white-ball cricket, driven by her desire to bring glory to Indian women's cricket.

Rana also appreciates the stability brought by head coach Amol Muzumdar, noting his deep understanding of each player's strengths and the team's dynamics. She remains optimistic about India's chances in upcoming global competitions, fueled by collective resilience and individual aspirations.

Press Trust Of India

**KARACHI:** Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) is unlikely to allow senior players Babar Azam, Muhammad Rizwan and Shaheen Shah Afridi to play in the upcoming Global T20 Canadian League, citing a busy international calendar. The PCB chairman Mohsin Naqvi held discussions with coaches Jason Gillespie and Gary Kirsten, who were also not in favour of allowing these players to participate in

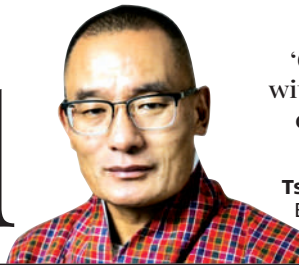
the GT20, informed a reliable source in the board.

That these three cricketers play in all formats of the sport too influenced the board's decision, said the source.

"The board has allowed NOCs to some of those players who are not all format players like Shadab Khan to play in some leagues.

"But since Babar, Shaheen and Rizwan play in all formats the case is different for them," the source said.

# World



'Close' bond with India must continue to flourish  
Tshering Tobgay  
Bhutan Prime Minister

## Passengers line up for check in at Don Mueang International Airport in Bangkok



Travelers in Thailand, as in other parts of the world, were inconvenienced by a major internet outage that disrupted flights, in addition to affecting banks, media outlets and other businesses.

## Five people survive after a helicopter crashes in Bali

**DENPASAR:** Two Australian and three Indonesian nationals survived after a tourist helicopter crashed in Bali, due to being entangled in a kite string, officials said Friday. The Bell 505 Jet Ranger X helicopter, owned by PT.

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## Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

**TRIAL**  
**Russia seeks 18-year sentence for US reporter on trial for spying**

**YEKATERINBURG:** Russian prosecutors sought a prison sentence of 18 years on Friday for Wall Street Journal reporter Evan Gershkovich, who is on trial on espionage charges that his employer and the US have denounced as fabricated. Gershkovich, 32, was arrested March 29, 2023, while on a reporting trip to the Ural Mountains city of Yekaterinburg. Authorities claimed, without offering any evidence, that he was gathering secret information for the US. He pleaded not guilty, according to the court, and The Wall Street Journal and the US government have called the trial a sham. Gershkovich appeared in court for a second straight day Friday as the closed-door proceedings in Russia's highly politicized legal system picked up speed. A verdict is expected later in the day, according to court officials.

**UK OUTAGE**  
**UK airports, trains, Stock Exchange, NHS impacted by global IT outage**



**LONDON:** The UK's airports and trains experienced delays, with the London Stock Exchange and the National Health Service among the other organisations in the country dealing with the fallout of a global IT outage on Friday that has grounded planes and caused chaos around the world. The outage, believed to be related to an issue at US-headquartered prolific cybersecurity firm CrowdStrike and Microsoft, seems to be affecting Windows PCs globally and has also forced 'Sky News' off the air.

# Bangladesh security forces fire bullets, sound grenades

The latest clashes follow the bloodiest day of the protests to date, with local media reporting 22 people killed.

Press Trust Of India

**DHAKA:** Police and security officials in Bangladesh fired bullets and tear gas at protesters and banned all gatherings in the capital on Friday, as internet and mobile services were cut off after days of deadly clashes over the allocation of government jobs. The protests, which began weeks ago but escalated sharply on Monday, represent the biggest challenge to Prime Minister

Sheikh Hasina since she was won a fourth consecutive term in a January election that was boycotted by the main opposition parties. The latest clashes follow the bloodiest day of the protests to date, with local media reporting 22 people killed as protesting students attempted to impose a "complete shutdown" on the country. Somoy TV reported that more four people were killed on Friday.

### HIGHLIGHT

- The chaos has highlighted cracks in Bangladesh's governance and economy and the frustration of young graduates.
- The border guards shot at the right crowd with rifles and sound grenades, while police officers fired tear gas and rubber bullets.

Authorities could not be reached to immediately confirm figures for the deaths. The chaos has highlighted cracks in Bangladesh's governance and economy and the frustration of young graduates who face a lack of good jobs. The government has deployed police and paramilitary forces across the capital to lock down campuses and break up protests. On Wednesday, universities including the country's largest

suspended classes and closed dormitories, and on Friday Dhaka police said they were banning all gatherings and demonstrations in the capital. An Associated Press reporter saw border guard officials fire at a crowd of more than 1,000 protesters who had gathered outside the head office of state-run Bangladesh Television, which was attacked and set on fire by protesters the previous day.

## Policeman killed in attack by militants in northwest Pakistan

**PESHAWAR:** A policeman was killed on Friday and several others were injured as militants attacked a police check post in Pakistan's restive Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. The attack took place at a police post in the Takhtbhai tehsil of the province's Mardan district. One policeman died, and several others were injured in the attack. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur condemned the attack and sought a report from police into the attack. "Police sacrifices to eliminate terrorism can not be deterred through such cowardly acts," he said. In a separate incident earlier in the day, one person was killed when a remote-controlled bomb exploded in the province.

# Zelensky seeks UK help to strike deeper inside Russia

Press Trust Of India

**UKRAINIAN PRESIDENT** Volodymyr Zelensky urged Britain's new government to help Ukrainian forces attack deeper inside Russia to stop deadly missile strikes on his country.

**LONDON:** Zelensky said at UK Cabinet that "long-range capability" to destroy sites where Russian weapons are concentrated is key to Ukraine's defence. "I ask you to show your leadership" in lifting restrictions on Ukraine's use of Western weapons, Zelensky told UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer. Russia has deployed devastating firepower as it pursues a summer offensive in

| UK ZELENSKY |



Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky with Britain's PM Sir Keir Starmer prior in UK Cabinet Room.

### FASTFACTS

- Russia has deployed devastating firepower as it pursues a summer offensive in eastern Ukraine.
- We need a decision about long-distance weapons, long range, to use it," Zelensky said.

eastern Ukraine, reducing villages to rubble and pushing back Ukrainian troops in places. It has also launched missile and drone attacks across Ukraine, killing dozens and hitting targets including a Kyiv children's hospital. Some of Kyiv's allies are reluctant to let Ukraine use their weapons to strike Russian territory because of

concerns that the West could be drawn into direct conflict with Russia. The British government has said it's up to Ukraine how to use missiles supplied by the UK, as long as international law is upheld. In an interview with the BBC, Zelensky said he was seeking clarification about Ukraine's ability to use Storm Shadow missiles supplied by Britain against targets in Russia. The Storm Shadow is an air-launched cruise missile with a range of more than 250 kilometres. "We need a decision about long-distance weapons, long range, to use it," Zelensky said. "We need it very much. They're targeting our hospitals, schools.

## AIRPORT Maldives' new airport being constructed with Indian assistance nearing completion



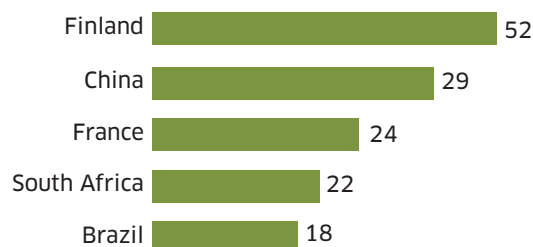
**MALE:** Maldives has said that almost 68 per cent of the Hanimadhoo International Airport, being built under Indian assistance, is now complete, a project that India said will have a transformative impact on the entire northern region of the archipelagic nation. The Ministry of Infrastructure announced that 67.5 per cent of the construction on Hanimaadhoo International Airport - funded with an MVR 800 million Line of Credit by the Indian government - is complete and the project is progressing steadily. "Awarded to India's GMC in September, the airport expansion

includes a 2.7-kilometre runway, a 1.3 million-passenger terminal, and a jet fuel storage facility. According to the Infrastructure Ministry, 97 per cent of the 2,400-meter runway and apron is now finished, with the completed section already in use. The entire project is expected to be completed by November," news portal TruthMV.com said on Thursday. Hanimaadhoo is about 290 km north of Male, the capital of the archipelago. "Hanimaadhoo International Airport, being built under Indian LoC assistance, will have a transformative impact on northern region of Maldives.

### The Day's NUMBERS

Share of respondents who follow track and field competitions (in percent)

### WHERE WATCHING ATHLETICS IS MORE (& LESS) POPULAR



Source: Statista

| MIDEAST TENSIONS |

## Drone strike hits Tel Aviv, killing 1, injured 10

Press Trust Of India

**TEL AVIV:** A large explosion rumbled through the streets of central Tel Aviv early Friday morning after an apparent drone strike caused shards of shrapnel to rain down, injuring at least 10 people and leaving one dead, authorities said. Yemen's Houthi rebels claimed responsibility for the attack. The Houthis



have launched drones and missiles toward Israel throughout the Israel-Hamas war, in solidarity with the Palestinian people and against Israel. But until Friday, all were inter-cepted by either Israel or

Western allies with forces stationed in the region. The Houthis claimed their newest drones can bypass Israel's aerial defense systems. However, an Israeli military official on Friday that the explosive-laden drone had been identified on Thursday and attributed the hit to "human error." The strike came a day after Israel's far-right

national security minister, Itamar Ben-Gvir, visited Jerusalem's most sensitive holy site on Thursday, a move that threatened negotiations to end the 9-month-old war in Gaza. Hamas' October 7 attack sparked the war when militants stormed into southern Israel, killing some 1,200 people - mostly civilians - and abducting about 250.

## POPULATION Hindus largest minority community in Pakistan with 3.8 million population

**ISLAMABAD:** The population of Hindus in Pakistan increased from 3.5 million in 2017 to 3.8 million in 2023 to make it the largest minority community in the Islamic nation, according to the official data of last year's census. The Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) released results of the 7th Popu-

lation and Housing Census 2023 on Thursday, the Dawn newspaper reported. The country's total population in 2023 stood at 240,458,089. It showed that the share of Muslims in the total population decreased slightly from 96.47 per cent in 2017 to 96.35 per cent in 2023.

**कालड़ा बर्न एवं प्लास्टिक कॉस्मेटिक सर्जरी सेंटर**

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