

## ECI Press Note States 75 Candidates from West Bengal will be Contesting in Phase 4 of Lok Sabha Elections 2024 in 8 PCs



Kolkata, May 3, 2024 :The International Press : Election Commission of India (ECI) in a Press Note issued today stated 75 candidates from West Bengal will be contesting in the Phase 4 of Lok Sabha Elections. a total of 138 nomination forms were received for the phase 4 of General Election in West Bengal, stated the Press Note. After withdrawal, 75 candidates will be contesting. A total of 4624 nominations were filed for 96 Parliamentary Constituencies (PCs) across 10 States/ UTs. The last date for filing of

nominations for Phase 4 for all these States was April 25, 2024. Across the country 1970 nominations were found to be valid. After withdrawal, the number of final contesting candidates is 1717. In West Bengal, 75 candidates were found to be valid after scrutiny. In the fourth phase of the General Election, eight PCs will go for polling. They are Baharampur, Krishnanagar, Ranaghat (SC), Bardhaman Purba (SC), Bardhaman-Durgapur, Asansol, Bolpur (SC) and Birbhum.



## India election: Rahul to contest from Rae Bareilly, a Gandhi family bastion

The International Press : Ending days of suspense, India's opposition party Congress today announced that Rahul Gandhi will contest from Rae Bareilly Lok Sabha constituency in the most populous state of Uttar Pradesh. Rae Bareilly, a Gandhi family bastion, will be the second seat where Rahul Gandhi will be in the fray. He is the party's candidate in Wayanad constituency in Kerala where voting took place on April 26 in the second phase of the seven-phased polling which ends on June 1, reports our New Delhi correspondent. The formal announcement by Congress of Rahul's candidature from Rae Bareilly came hours before the deadline for filing nominations in the constituency ends. Rae Bareilly will vote in the

Ending days of suspense, India's opposition party Congress today announced that Rahul Gandhi will contest from Rae Bareilly Lok Sabha constituency in the most populous state of Uttar Pradesh. Rae Bareilly, a Gandhi family bastion, will be the second seat where Rahul Gandhi will be in the fray.

fifth phase on May 20 and today (May 3) is the last date of filing nomination papers. Bharatiya Janata Party on Thursday declared Dinesh Pratap Singh as its candidate from the Rae Bareilly. A minister of state in the BJP government in Uttar Pradesh headed by saffron-robed chief minister Yogi Adityanath, Dinesh Pratap Singh lost to Sonia Gandhi in the previous Lok Sabha election in 2019. Rae Bareilly was the only Lok Sabha seat which Congress had won in Uttar Pradesh in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections. The seat has been with the Gandhi family since 1952 with Feroz Gandhi, husband of Indira Gandhi, emerging triumphant from there. Rae Bareilly Lok Sabha seat had been represented by Sonia Gandhi for a long time before she opted out of electoral politics this year and has become a member of Rajya Sabha, the upper house of

parliament. In an emotional note to voters of Rae Bareilly, Sonia had hinted at the possibility of a family member contesting from the seat. In another decision, Congress also announced that Kishori Lal Sharma will be its nominee for Amethi where Rahul was defeated by BJP leader Smriti Irani in the previous parliamentary poll five years ago. Rahul had then shifted to Wayanad where he won by more than four lakh votes. Congress is contesting 17 Lok Sabha seats in Uttar Pradesh under a seat-sharing deal with Samajwadi Party. The state is electorally crucial as it sends the highest number of Lok Sabha members (80). Since Independence, Congress has lost Amethi and Rae Bareilly only thrice. The party suffered defeat for the first time in Rae Bareilly in 1977 when Indira Gandhi lost to Raj Narain in the elections post-Emergency (1975-1976). The party lost the seat again in 1996 and in 1998 but has not been defeated there since then. In Amethi, Congress lost in 1977, 1998 and 2019.

## Tata Memorial Centre Publishes first-of-its-kind Study on the Economic Loss due to Premature Death from Oral Cancer in India



Mumbai, 3 May 2024 :The International Press : According to the World Health Organization (WHO), cancer is the second leading cause of death globally, with approximately 70% occurring in Low- and Middle-Income Countries (LMIC). India's cancer scenario is burdened with oral cavity cancer being the most common among men. In fact, India accounts for almost a third of the global incidence and mortality related to oral cancer. While significant advances have been made in diagnosing and managing oral cancers, the increasing treatment costs have created a financial strain on healthcare providers and patients alike. The direct and indirect expenditures not only affect individuals but also their families and supporters, pushing the economically disadvantaged further into a debt-cycle and poverty. Moreover, these cancers are becoming increasingly common among the younger age groups, in contrast to the western world, which can put a significant strain on the productivity of the economy. Tata Memorial Centre's efforts can now provide in-depth information on the productivity loss resulting from premature mortality of oral cancer that can assist policy makers in planning disbursements more effectively. In a country where the affordability gap is wide, these results are important to deliver a disease-driven, objective strategy for oral cancer care. To tackle these issues, Dr. Pankaj Chaturvedi, Director, ACTREC, and his team set out to conduct research that determine the economic loss due to premature mortality related to oral cancer in India based on a long follow up. This is the first study in India and among a handful globally, whose estimates were calculated utilizing real time patient data that was collected prospectively for up to 3 years. This enormous data collection has resulted in determining the total lost productivity due to premature mortality related to oral cancer, i.e., per patient loss to society due to non-participation directly attributable to oral cancer. Dr. Arjun Singh, Assistant Professor at Tata Memorial Hospital and the lead author of the study said that the 671 years were lost to early (29.8%) and advanced cancers (70.2%). Considering the retirement age in India being 62 years, 91% of the deaths or incurable recurrence of cancers were in the premature age groups, with a median age of 41.5 years. Both early (70%) and advanced (86%) stage cancers, were from a middle-class socioeconomic status, with 53% requiring some form of insurance schemes or financial support in order to complete treatment. The productivity lost due to premature mortality was calculated using a method known as human capital approach. In most economic studies, assumptions are considered for market wages and other indicators during calculations. This is one of the few studies where individual patient data (including market and non-market contribution, socioeconomic status, education level, etc.) was gathered prospectively and over a long time period. Their results were in line with the national labor force participation (48%) and unemployment rates (7%) as reported by the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO), India. Productivity lost due to premature mortality among females and males was \$7,22,803 INR and \$1,83,917 INR, respectively per death. The loss of productivity to society was \$1,29,092 INR/per early-stage and \$1,72,566 INR/per advanced-stage cancer. Based on the death rates in the population, these results show that the total cost of lost productivity due to premature oral cancer mortality in India in 2022 was \$5.6 billion, representing 0.18% of the combined gross domestic product. These results underestimate the impact of variability in treatments and its access that exists across the country. While population data has been derived from an internationally validated registry, the GLOBOCAN, the true burden might be much more as the population coverage in low- and middle-income countries is estimated to

represent less than ten percent of the actual population. Due to the younger age of initiation of tobacco and areca nut usage in India, oral cancers tend to develop in younger individuals as well. This leads to devastating consequences for individuals, families, society and the economy. Tailored prevention policies that target this young age group are needed to be implemented. Screening and early detection strategies among high-risk groups need to be prioritized. Such programs have been difficult to implement in many countries due to a lack of infrastructure and resources, including the availability of treatment for those identified with any suspicious lesions. These differences in access to treatment result in productivity losses. Dr. Sudeep Gupta, Director, Tata Memorial Centre said "As per the latest GLOBOCAN statistics, the proportion of deaths from oral cancer were 55% of the oral cancers diagnosed, making it a real public health crisis. The gross lack of awareness, fear, and misconceptions surrounding oral cancer lead to a large number of cases being diagnosed at a late-stage, contributing to high mortality rates. Even those who receive timely treatment in these advanced stages often face complex surgeries and reduced quality of life, impacting their ability to contribute to society." With oral cancer being the most common cancer among males in the country, accounting for one-third of the global burden, the impact on individuals, families, and the economy is staggering. Dr. R. A. Badwe, senior author and Ex-Director, Tata Memorial Centre, added that "Very few studies have focused on productivity losses of cancer in low resource settings and in particular in India to understand the broader economic impact. In order to inform policy-makers decisions around resource allocation we undertook at study and extrapolation to estimate the overall economic costs of oral cancer in India due to premature mortality."

## 7th India-Indonesia Joint Defence Cooperation Committee meeting held in New Delhi

The International Press : Defence Secretary Shri Giridhar Aramane and Secretary General of the Ministry of Defence, Indonesia, Air Marshal Donny Ermawan Taufanto, M.D.S. co-chaired the 7th India-Indonesia Joint Defence Cooperation Committee (JDCC) meeting in New Delhi on May 03, 2024. During the meeting, both sides expressed satisfaction at the expanding scope of defence cooperation between the two countries. The progress made on various bilateral defence cooperation initiatives deliberated in meetings of Working Groups on Defence Cooperation and Defence Industries Cooperation was also reviewed by the co-chairs. In addition, the dignitaries identified means to enhance existing areas of collaboration especially in the field of defence industry ties, maritime security and multilateral cooperation. During the visit, the Secretary General visited the DRDO headquarters in New Delhi as well as TATA Advanced Systems and L&T Defence facilities in Pune. He also held deliberations with other Indian defence industry partners like Bharat Forge, Mahindra Defence & Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited and discussed ways to enhance defence industrial capabilities by cooperation in research & joint production. He also called on the Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan during the visit. The Secretary General is on a visit to India from May 02-04, 2024. He laid a wreath and paid homage to the fallen heroes at National War Memorial, New Delhi. India and Indonesia have a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership and have arrived at a shared vision of the Indo-Pacific. In current times, this partnership is characterised by closed cooperation in bilateral and multilateral arena, including frequent high-level interactions. Indonesia is an important partner in India's Act East Policy and the Indo-Pacific region.

## CBI arrests an Income Tax officer of Mumbai while accepting a bribe of four lakh rupees from the complainant



Mumbai, 3 May 2024 :The International Press : The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has today arrested an Income Tax Officer, Mumbai while accepting bribe of Rs. 4.00 lakh from the complainant. A case was registered by CBI against the accused Income Tax Officer, Ward-(2) (1) (1), Air India Building, Nariman Point,

Mumbai on allegations that accused demanded an undue advantage of Rs. 5.04 lakh from complainant for issuing lower TDS certificate in respect of sale of a property of complainant's maternal uncle, who is an NRI. The accused initially demanded undue advantage of 2% of the total deal value of the property worth Rs. 5.04 crore and

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**Both sides to finalise Local Currency Settlement System Agreement soon**

A seven-member delegation from India led by Additional Secretary, Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Shri Amardeep Singh Bhatia, accompanied by High Commissioner of India to Federal Republic of



**EASTERN RAILWAY'S BIO-TOILETS TO MINIMISE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT**

Eastern Railway's bio-toilets across its fleet, marking a significant milestone in the commitment to environmental sustainability and passenger comfort. The adoption of bio-toilets, conceptualised in collaboration with DRDE



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**Editorial**

**Nominations for Padma Awards-2025 begins**

Online nominations/recommendations for the Padma Awards 2025 to be announced on the occasion of Republic Day, 2025 have begun from today. The last date for nominations for Padma Awards is 15th September, 2024. The nominations/recommendations for Padma Awards will be received online on the Rashtriya Puraskar Portal (<https://awards.gov.in>). The Padma Awards, namely, Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan and Padma Shri, are amongst the highest civilian awards of the country. Instituted in 1954, these Awards are announced on the occasion of the Republic Day every year. The award seeks to recognize 'work of distinction' and is given for distinguished and exceptional achievements/service in all fields/disciplines, such as, Art, Literature and Education, Sports, Medicine, Social Work, Science and Engineering, Public Affairs, Civil Service, Trade and Industry etc. All persons without distinction of race, occupation, position or sex are eligible for these Awards. Government servants including those working with PSUs, except Doctors and Scientists, are not eligible for Padma Awards. The Government is committed to transform Padma Awards into "People's Padma". All citizens are, therefore, requested to make nominations/recommendations, including self-nomination. Concerted efforts may be made to identify talented persons whose excellence and achievements really deserve to be recognized from amongst women, weaker sections of the society, SCs & STs, divyang persons and who are doing selfless service to the society. The nominations/recommendations should contain all relevant details specified in the format available on the above said Portal, including a citation in narrative form (maximum 800 words), clearly bringing out the distinguished and exceptional achievements/service of the person recommended in her/his respective field/discipline. Details in this regard are also available under the heading 'Awards and Medals' on the website of Ministry of Home Affairs (<https://mha.gov.in>) and on the Padma Awards Portal (<https://padmaawards.gov.in>). The statutes and rules relating to these awards are available on the website with the link <https://padmaawards.gov.in/AboutAwards.aspx>.

developments in bilateral trade and investment ties and acknowledged the vast untapped potential for further expansion. To this effect, both sides identified several areas of focus for enhancing both bilateral trade as well as mutually beneficial investments. These include resolving of market access issues of both sides, and cooperation in key sectors such as Crude oil and Natural Gas, Pharmaceuticals, Unified Payments Interface (UPI), Local Currency Settlement System, Power Sector and Renewable Energy, Agriculture & Food Processing, Education, Transport, Railway, Aviation, MSMEs, Development etc. Both sides agreed to early conclusion of Local Currency Settlement System Agreement to further strengthen bilateral economic ties.



**Both sides to finalise Local Currency Settlement System Agreement soon**

**The International Press :** A seven-member delegation from India led by Additional Secretary, Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Shri Amardeep Singh Bhatia, accompanied by High Commissioner of India to Federal Republic of Nigeria, Shri G Balasubramanian and Economic Adviser, Department of Commerce, Ms. Priya P. Nair held a Joint Trade Committee (JTC) meeting with their Nigerian counterparts in Abuja from 29.04.2024 to 30.04.2024. The JTC was co-chaired by Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Industry Trade and Investment, Nigeria, Ambassador Nura Abba Rimi; and Additional Secretary, Department of Commerce. In a comprehensive dialogue, both sides undertook a detailed review of recent

Official delegation from India consisted of officials from Reserve Bank of India (RBI), EXIM Bank of India and National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI). The officials of both sides actively engaged in the proceedings of the JTC. The discussions were held in a cordial and friendly atmosphere and were fruitful. There was enthusiastic response towards greater cooperation, addressing pending issues, boosting trade and investment, greater people to people contacts. In a concerted effort to bolster bilateral trade, both sides committed to expeditiously address all issues impeding bilateral trade and facilitate trade promotion between the two nations. A business delegation led by CII also accompanied the official

delegation comprising representatives from various sectors like power, fintech, telecommunications, electrical machinery, pharmaceuticals, etc. The deliberations of the 2nd Session of India-Nigeria JTC were cordial and forward-looking, indicative of the amicable and special relations between the two countries. Nigeria is a major partner- the 2nd largest trading partner of India in Africa region. Bilateral trade between India and Nigeria stood at USD 11.8 billion in 2022-23. In the year 2023-24, the bilateral trade stands at 7.89 billion showing a declining trend. With a total investment of USD 27 Billion, approximately 135 Indian companies are actively engaged in Nigeria's vibrant market. These investments traverse diverse sectors,

such as the transition from P-trap to S-trap systems and the introduction of Venturi type toilet ventilation, has been undertaken to eliminate foul odours. In ongoing efforts to enhance passenger comfort, Eastern Railway has developed and implemented Bio-Vacuum toilet systems, further reducing odour and facilitating efficient waste management onboard. Presently, Eastern Railway has bio toilets in 116 Mail/Express trains and 86 Passenger trains with 14360 Bio banks in 3990 Coaches. To ensure cleanliness and functionality en route, the dedicated On Board Housekeeping Staff (OBHS) have been sensitized to maintain hygiene standards and promptly address any issues encountered by passengers. With bio- toilets now operational across Eastern Railway, the pledge is reaffirmed to provide safe, clean & environmentally responsible travel experiences for all passengers.

**EASTERN RAILWAY'S BIO-TOILETS TO MINIMISE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT**



**Kolkata, May 3, 2024 :** The International Press : Eastern Railway's bio-toilets across its fleet, marking a significant milestone in the commitment to environmental sustainability and passenger comfort. The adoption of bio-toilets, conceptualised in collaboration with DRDE (Defence Research Development Establishment) since 2006, reflects Eastern Railway's dedication to modernizing its facilities while minimizing environmental impact. Recognising the initial challenges of choking and foul odours due to improper waste disposal, proactive measures were taken to address passenger awareness. Instructions displayed prominently in coaches, informative stickers on lavatory doors, and regular announcements have all contributed to educating passengers on the proper use of bio-toilets. Moreover, the continuous evolution of bio-toilet design, incorporating innovations

such as the transition from P-trap to S-trap systems and the introduction of Venturi type toilet ventilation, has been undertaken to eliminate foul odours. In ongoing efforts to enhance passenger comfort, Eastern Railway has developed and implemented Bio-Vacuum toilet systems, further reducing odour and facilitating efficient waste management onboard. Presently, Eastern Railway has bio toilets in 116 Mail/Express trains and 86 Passenger trains with 14360 Bio banks in 3990 Coaches. To ensure cleanliness and functionality en route, the dedicated On Board Housekeeping Staff (OBHS) have been sensitized to maintain hygiene standards and promptly address any issues encountered by passengers. With bio- toilets now operational across Eastern Railway, the pledge is reaffirmed to provide safe, clean & environmentally responsible travel experiences for all passengers.

**Turtle Limited unveils its latest store in Bagnan**



**Bagnan, India – May 3, 2024 – The International Press :** Turtle Limited, a distinguished menswear brand with a rich legacy spanning three decades, proudly announces the grand opening of its latest retail outlet in

Bagnan. Recognized for its unmatched quality, striking designs, and steadfast commitment to excellence, Turtle Limited continues to establish itself as a leader in men's fashion across India. Nestled at Bagnan

Station Road (North), Near Vivekananda Statue, Bagnan, Howrah, 711 303, the new Turtle store is poised to offer the discerning gentlemen of Bagnan and surrounding areas an exceptional shopping experience. With an

emphasis on quality craftsmanship, innovative designs, and contemporary style, Turtle is poised to cater to the diverse fashion preferences prevalent in the region. The inauguration of Turtle's latest store in Bagnan underlines Turtle's unwavering commitment to expanding its reach and providing exceptional service to valued customers. Turtle is dedicated to creating a distinctive menswear collection that seamlessly blends classical textures with modern sensibilities. As Turtle continues to evolve and innovate, the core mission

remains unchanged – to redefine men's fashion landscape in India. Our foray into Bagnan represents a strategic endeavor to engage with patrons who appreciate timeless elegance and superior quality. The new Turtle store in Bagnan promises to emerge as a premier destination for fashion-conscious men seeking premium attire that exudes sophistication and style. With its strategic location and unwavering dedication to excellence, Turtle eagerly anticipates becoming an integral part of the local community while catering to the sartorial needs of Bagnan and beyond.



**News Continue**

Contd. from P/1

**CBI arrests an Income Tax officer of Mumbai while accepting a bribe of four lakh rupees from the complainant**

after negotiation, reduced it to 1% of the deal value of the property. Later, accused agreed to accept bribe of Rs. 4.00 lakh from the complainant. CBI laid a trap and caught the accused red handed while accepting the undue advantage of Rs. 4.00 lakh in his office at Mumbai from complainant. Subsequently, the accused was arrested by the CBI on 02.05.2024. Searches were conducted at the office and residential premises of accused in Mumbai which led to recovery of Rs. 15.00 lakh cash, gold ornaments, papers related to investments in immovable and movable properties and the same are under scrutiny. Investigation is continuing.

**কলকাতার বৃক্কে নিউ ব্যারাকপুরে তৈরি হচ্ছে সম্পূর্ণ পাথরের আশ্চর্য মন্দির**

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**ঠাকুর শ্রীসমীরেশ্বরের আরাধ্যা দেবী বিশ্বমাতা দক্ষিণা কালীর বিশ্বমাতা মন্দির তৈরি হচ্ছে**

**ঠাকুর শ্রীশ্রী সমীর ব্রহ্মচারী বিশ্ব সেবাশ্রম সঙ্ঘ**

১৯৯ বিশ্ব সেবাশ্রম সঙ্ঘ রোড, তালপুকুর, ১৮ নং ওয়ার্ড নিউ ব্যারাকপুর, কলকাতা-৭০০ ১৩১১

মেঘত হলে ট্রেনে বিশ্বমাতা, বাসে মাইকেনবসের নামুন।

**নতুন মুখ অভিনেতা-অভিনেত্রী চাই**

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বাংলার মানুষের সাথে, মানুষের পাশে

**কালচক্র**

**নতুন মুখদের জন্য স্বর্ণ সুযোগ রয়েছে**

অডিশন না দিয়ে অভিনয় সুযোগ পেতে হলে যোগাযোগ করুন পরিচালক মৃত্যুঞ্জয় সরদার-এর সাথে

**যোগাযোগ নম্বর : ৯৫৬৪৩৮২০৩১**

All-India Intra-School Solar Art Competition Solart to be held

The Government of India joined the global community in commemorating International Sun Day today, 3rd May, 2024, as an annual reminder of the significant benefits of solar energy in fostering a



Preity Zinta begins filming for 'Lahore 1947'

Preity Zinta may have recently captivated netizens' attention with her appearances during the Punjab Kings matches in the ongoing Indian Premier League. However, she has now returned to her forte, gracing the silver screen



All-India Intra-School Solar Art Competition Solart to be held



**The International Press :** The Government of India joined the global community in commemorating International Sun Day today, 3rd May, 2024, as an annual reminder of the significant benefits of solar energy in fostering a greener and healthier planet. On this day, the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), Government of India, organized a 'Run for Sun' Marathon at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, New Delhi. The 'Run for Sun' Marathon, featuring 3 km and 5 km races, was designed to raise awareness about the pivotal role of solar power in mitigating climate change and promoting a cleaner and healthier future for all. The Marathon expressed the nation's steadfast commitment to solar energy and environmental sustainability. On the occasion, Secretary, Ministry of New & Renewable Energy, Shri Bhupinder S. Bhalla said: "This event underscores our dedication to advancing sustainable energy solutions and highlights the importance of solar power in our journey towards environmental stewardship. The Marathon aligns perfectly with the Government's vision to promote physical fitness and well-being, wherein we encouraged citizens to embrace an active lifestyle while championing the cause of renewable energy. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all participants whose

enthusiasm and support made this event a resounding success. We look forward to building upon this momentum and establishing it as an annual tradition." **Solar Stops in six cities to educate citizens on significance of solar energy** Another highlight of the International Sun Day celebrations was Solar Stops — kiosks boasting a diverse array of elements that bring out the significance of solar energy. The 12 captivating installations have been set up at prominent malls in six Indian cities, namely Delhi NCR, Bengaluru, Vadodara, Guwahati, Varanasi and Chennai. Serving as focal points, Solar Stops highlight the innovative and eco-friendly aspects of solar energy, inviting attendees to learn and engage with the displays.

**Solar: All-India Intra-School Solar Art Competition** On the occasion, the Ministry has also announced Solart, an All-India Intra-School Solar Art Competition, which would be an engaging and educational way to celebrate solar energy through artistic expressions, in recognition of International Sun Day. The competition seeks to spark creativity and promote awareness of solar energy among school students across India. Winners, as adjudged by schools, will receive commendation certificates from the Ministry of New & Renewable Energy.



Atal Incubation Centre-BARC (AIC-BARC) organizes Start-up Entrepreneur Workshop on 'Food Processing Technologies for Incubation'



**Mumbai, 3 May 2024 :The International Press :** A Start-up Entrepreneurship Workshop was organized by Atal Incubation Centre (AIC-BARC) at DAE Convention Centre in Anushaktinagar, Mumbai on Thursday (May 2, 2024). This is the third such workshop taken by AIC-BARC. Students pursuing final year of under graduation and those who completed the UG courses in Sciences/Engineering/Commerce were invited for the event by advertising in social media. Overwhelming response was received and about 87 aspiring entrepreneurs have attended the workshop. In the workshop, technologies like Banana Health Drink, De-bittered Karela Juice, Jamun/ Strawberry/ Chikkoo/ IM Cube and Sea-food processing technologies, were introduced by BARC scientists. Business models of the same were presented by the AIC-BARC team. In the poster session, different food

processing technologies and the related regulatory process were also displayed. Different tasting stations were arranged for the participants. Radiation processed Alphonso mangoes were served during lunch to the participants and it was very much liked and relished by them with a very positive feedback. Mango is being subjected to radiation processing as a phytosanitary treatment

to overcome the quarantine barrier of trade as per the approval of USDA, NPPO and FSSAI. In the morning session, a signing ceremony for technology transfer agreements for handing over licenses for knowhow to commercialise DAE technologies to five industries was also conducted. During the concluding feedback session, licensees spoke about their success story based on BARC's technologies and hand holding facility. It is expected that many aspiring entrepreneurs will come forward to join hands with AIC-BARC to start commercialising these well proven DAE spin off technologies of societal importance.

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CINEMA

'Why not me?': Sonali Bendre on her battle with cancer

**The International Press :** It has been six years since actor Sonali Bendre first broke the news of being diagnosed with cancer, and in all these years, the 49-year-old has candidly spoken about her illness and the road to recovery, inspiring many and instilling hope in fellow survivors. The actor, who is set to return to the silver screen in the highly anticipated ZEE5 series "The Broken News 2", premiering on May 3, recently opened up about her cancer diagnosis and journey in a podcast for Humans of Bombay, sharing insights on how she dealt with the life-changing event, reports Indian Express. In the interview, Sonali revealed her initial reaction to her cancer

diagnosis. "When I received my cancer diagnosis, my first thought was, 'Why me?' I'd wake up thinking it was all a nightmare; I couldn't believe that this could happen to me. That's when I started to change the way I thought. Instead of 'why me?' I started asking, 'Why not me?' I started to feel grateful this wasn't happening to my sister or my son. I realised I had the strength to deal with this, I had the resources to go to the best hospitals, and the support system to help me through this. Starting to ask 'why not me?' helped me start the healing process." Diagnosed with stage four metastatic cancer in 2018, Sonali underwent treatment in a

New York City hospital, ultimately triumphing over the disease in 2021. Since her recovery, she has been a vocal advocate for cancer awareness and support, including a heartfelt Instagram post commemorating Cancer Survivors Day in 2021. With "The Broken News 2" on the horizon, Sonali, known for her work in films like "Sarfari", "Hum Saath Saath Hain", and "Duplicate", amongst others, is not only continuing her successful acting career but also demonstrating resilience and strength in the face of adversity. Alongside Shriya Pilgaonkar and Jaideep Ahlawat, the show promises a thrilling exploration of the competitive news industry.



Sonam Kapoor reclaims her title as Bollywood fashionista: Here's the PROOF!

**The International Press :** Renowned for her impeccable fashion sense, actress and style icon Sonam Kapoor delighted her 35.2 million Instagram followers on Thursday with a captivating series of pictures from her latest photoshoot, showcasing a diverse array of stunning outfits. Sonam Kapoor reclaims her title as Bollywood fashionista: Here's the PROOF! In the first image, Sonam exudes elegance in a resplendent golden ensemble accentuated by a vibrant, multi-colored long cape, exuding an aura of regal charm. Transitioning seamlessly, the second snapshot captures her allure in a figure-hugging black gown adorned with long sleeves, epitomizing sophistication and grace. Continuing the visual journey, the third picture presents Sonam adorned in a striking bright blue attire, radiating vibrancy and exuberance. Concluding the photo reel, the final snap portrays her draped in a sleek black satin coat paired with matching stockings, exuding an air of timeless glamour and sophistication. Sonam Kapoor reclaims her title



as Bollywood fashionista: Here's the PROOF! Accompanying the captivating visuals is a simple yet impactful caption: "Brightening up the world, one outfit at a time." The post immediately garnered a flood of adulation from fans, with

one user dubbing her a "fashion icon for a cause," while another exclaimed, "Slayyyyy." Others chimed in with expressions of admiration, labeling her look as "fabulous." Sonam Kapoor reclaims her title as Bollywood fashionista: Here's

the PROOF! Turning to her professional endeavors, Sonam was last seen gracing the screen in the 2023 crime thriller film "Blind," directed by Shome Makhija, showcasing her versatility and talent beyond the realm of fashion.

Preity Zinta begins filming for 'Lahore 1947'



**The International Press :** Preity Zinta may have recently captivated netizens' attention with her appearances during the Punjab Kings matches in the ongoing Indian Premier League. However, she has now returned to her forte, gracing the silver screen once again. The actress has commenced shooting for Rajkumar Santoshi's period drama "Lahore 1947", where she stars opposite Sunny Deol. The actor treated fans to a delightful glimpse behind the scenes of the film's production, sharing a series of captivating photos on social media. Preity expressed her excitement by posting snapshots from the film set, providing fans with an intriguing peek into the world of "Lahore 1947". Preity shared a photo of the film's clapperboard, captioning it, "On set for Lahore 1947." Another image captured a candid

moment between the actor and director Rajkumar Santoshi, hinting at the camaraderie behind the scenes. Fans expressed their excitement about Preity's return to acting. One Instagram user responded, "Wow!! Can't wait to see you on the big screen (heart eyes emojis)." Another person wrote, "Yesss the prettiest woman @realpz is back." A fan asked, "Preity Zinta comeback?" "Lahore 1947", produced by Aamir Khan Productions, stars Sunny Deol in the lead role. The film was officially announced in October last year, attracting attention for its impressive cast and promising storyline. Adding to the anticipation, veteran actors Shabana Azmi and Ali Fazal have also joined the cast in important roles. Additionally, the movie will feature Sunny appearing on screen with his eldest son Karan Deol, who debuted in Sunny's 2019 directorial, "Pal Pal Dil Ke Paas". It's worth noting that Preity's previous film, "Bhaaiji Superhit", also starred Sunny in 2018. The two have previously appeared together in films like "Faz" (2001), "The Hero: Love Story of a Spy" (2003), and "Heroes" (2008).

### ICC Champions Trophy 2025: PCB proposes Three Venues for Tournament

Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has proposed three venues for the upcoming ICC Champions Trophy which is scheduled to be held there next year. Pakistan is set to host the Champions Trophy in 2025, marking the



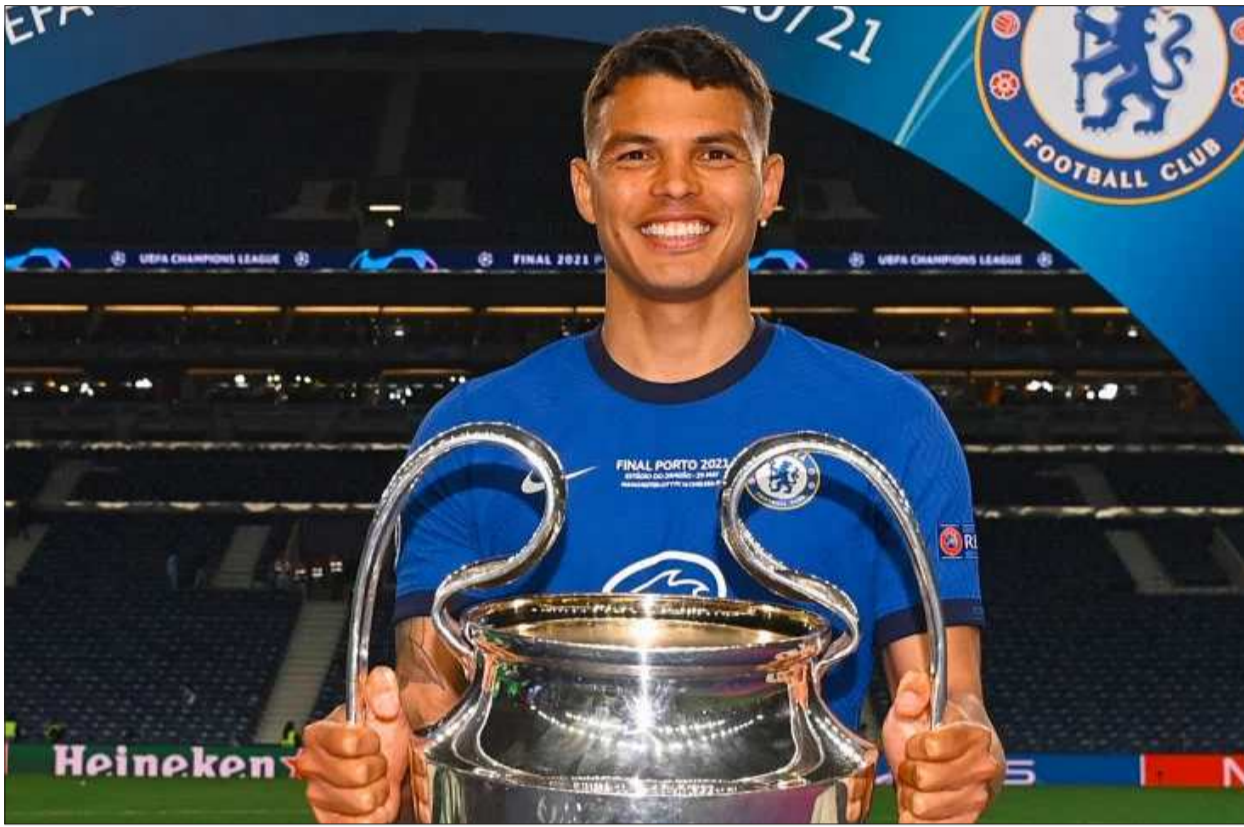
### T20 World Cup 2024: Should Yuzvendra Chahal be a part of the India Squad?

India's upcoming ICC venture is the T20 World Cup and the rehearsal is in full mode as the IPL enters its second half. With many top-notch performances across the tournament already, the battle for the 15-man squad is also heating up.



## Tearful Thiago Silva to leave Chelsea at end of season

**The International Press :** Brazilian defender Thiago Silva will leave Chelsea at the end of the season after a "dream" four-year spell at Stamford Bridge. Silva announced his farewell on Monday in an emotional video message on Chelsea's website. The 39-year-old centre-back arrived at the Premier League club on a free transfer in August 2020 after leaving Paris Saint-Germain. He has made 151 appearances in all competitions for the Blues, winning the Champions League, FIFA Club World Cup and the UEFA Super Cup. "Chelsea means a lot to me. I came here with the intention of only staying for a year and it ended up being four years. Not just for me but for my family, too," Silva said during a tearful goodbye speech. "My sons play for Chelsea so it's a source of great pride to be a part of the Chelsea family. I hope they can continue their careers here at this victorious club that



many players wish to be part of. "I think in everything I did here over the four years, I always gave my all. But unfortunately, everything has a start, a middle and an end." Silva was a popular figure among Chelsea fans after making an immediate impact in their 2020-21 Champions League-winning campaign, which climaxed with victory over Manchester City in the final in Porto.

The fond feelings are clearly mutual as Silva saluted the fanbase and revealed his intention to return to Chelsea in a different capacity in the future. "It's an indescribable love. I can only say thank you," he said. "Definitely a dream. Not even in my wildest dreams did I imagine that I could achieve such great things and win one of the best professional titles, the Champions League, at one of the biggest clubs in the world.

"Goodbyes are for those that leave and don't come back. I intend on coming back one day. I hope to leave the door open so that in the near future I can return, albeit in another role here." Capped 113 times by Brazil, Silva has made 34 appearances in all competitions for Chelsea this season. But the former AC Milan star suffered a groin problem in Chelsea's 2-2 draw at Aston Villa on Saturday, raising the

possibility that he has made his last appearance in the blue shirt. Mauricio Pochettino's side have five games left this season as they look to salvage a disappointing season by securing European qualification. Chelsea, languishing in ninth place in the Premier League, lost in the FA Cup semi-finals to Manchester City recently and were beaten by Liverpool in the League Cup final in February.

## ICC Champions Trophy 2025: PCB proposes Three Venues for Tournament



**The International Press :** Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has proposed three venues for the upcoming ICC Champions Trophy which is scheduled to be held there next year. Pakistan is set to host the Champions Trophy in 2025, marking the first ICC event in the country in nearly three decades, since they hosted the World Cup back in 1996. ICC Champions Trophy 2025 Lahore, Karachi, and Rawalpindi have been proposed as venues in the initial draft schedule sent to the ICC. The tournament is scheduled to be held in mid-February next year and it will be an eight-team competition stretched for about two weeks. "We've sent the schedule for the matches in Pakistan for the ICC Champions Trophy," PCB chairman Mohsin Naqvi said at a press conference in Lahore. "The ICC's security team came and we had a very good meeting. They looked at arrangements here and we'll also share stadium upgrade plans with them. We're continuously in touch with the ICC. We are trying to ensure we host a very good tournament in Pakistan," he added. PCB chairman Mohsin Naqvi expressed optimism about hosting the event, highlighting ongoing discussions with the ICC, particularly regarding

venue upgrades and security arrangements. The PCB's proactive approach reflects their commitment to delivering a successful tournament. "We're continuously in touch with the ICC. We are trying to ensure we host a very good tournament in Pakistan," Naqvi further said. However, the participation of the Indian team in Pakistan given the strained political relations between the two nations remains uncertain. India has not toured Pakistan since the 2008 Asia Cup due to diplomatic tensions. BCCI was not allowed NOC by the Indian government last year during the Asia Cup which prompted the tournament to be hosted in a hybrid way as India played all of the matches including the final in Sri Lanka. The Champions Trophy will be part of a busy home season for Pakistan, including hosting South Africa and New Zealand for an ODI tri-series. Improving the stadiums in Lahore, Karachi, and Rawalpindi for the Champions Trophy is a priority for the PCB, acknowledging the need for significant updates. The focus is on ensuring that the venues meet international standards to host the tournament successfully.

## T20 World Cup 2024: Should Yuzvendra Chahal be a part of the India Squad?



**The International Press :** India's upcoming ICC venture is the T20 World Cup and the rehearsal is in full mode as the IPL enters its second half. With many top-notch performances across the tournament already, the battle for the 15-man squad is also heating up. The BCCI is likely to announce the squad soon and there will be a lot of debate as many contenders may not find a place in the team. In the spin department, India may travel with two frontline spinners and the race for those positions is in full throttle. Yuzvendra Chahal has shown his mettle in the IPL 2024 for Rajasthan Royals. The leg-spinner has weaved his magic and has 13 wickets in the season so far. The 33-year-old became the first bowler to claim 200 IPL wickets and has made a strong case to join the Indian team for the upcoming T20 World Cup. But is his place in the India squad already cemented? If we take a look at the dynamics of the Indian team in the past year or so, Chahal is way down the pecking order. As a leg-spinner, Ravi Bishnoi and Rahul Chahar have played regularly for India. But Chahal's stellar form in the IPL has boosted his cause. Former India player Irfan Pathan recently said he would rather have Ravi Bishnoi and Kuldeep Yadav as spinners. Given Chahal's not-so-good fielding quality, which is essential in the T20 format, the Haryana-born can be axed. "I would rather have two proper wrist spinners playing, Bishnoi and Kuldeep, in my playing 11. If you look at Bishnoi's numbers, you know, when he played as well, he was pretty good. Yes, we're talking about Chahal right now, because of the IPL performances and everything, but don't forget the fielding part of it as well. If you have to balance the fielding, you have to balance the, you know, where a bowler can bowl at the particular area," Pathan said on a Star Sports show. But soon after that, Pathan had to go contradictory to his own statement. Chahal has been a match winner for India and his IPL teams over the years. The experience and the skill propel him forward in the race and someone like the leg-spinner can be the difference maker for India, as Pathan echoed. "I reckon the last time he was playing in the World Cup, and I was doing the pre show, before the semi-final. And everyone had a say, and they were talking about a variety of things, and I said just get Yuzi Chahal in the playing eleven and you will go to the final. And I believed that at that particular time. You need that wrist spinner, and you have to find him in the playing eleven. It wasn't the case and we saw what happened in the semi-final," he added. T20 WC 2024: Should Yuzvendra Chahal be picked in India Squad? Yuzvendra Chahal's enigma is something that needs to be resolved. Although the player may not be the fittest while fielding, his skills with the ball in hand can't be denied. He has risen from many adversities and possesses the qualities any elite bowler needs to be successful at the highest stage. India will be playing in USA and West Indies, where the pitch conditions can help the spinners. A player like Chahal brings the skills, as well as the experience with him, which a Ravi Bishnoi or a Rahul Chahar may not have. That's why, we reckon Yuzvendra Chahal must be 100 per cent in the flight for the T20 World Cup.

## After Ligue 1 triumph, Mbappe and PSG have sights set on treble



**The International Press :** Paris Saint-Germain are hoping their latest Ligue 1 title, secured on Sunday with three games to spare, will be just the first leg of a historic treble with a Champions League semi-final to come and the French Cup final to look forward to as well. It is PSG's 12th French title, at least two more than any other team, and it is also their 10th in 12 seasons, which goes to show how the footballing landscape in the country has been transformed since the Qatari takeover of the club in 2011. The extent of PSG's financial advantage over the rest of French football is crushing and means ending each season as champions is effectively a minimum requirement. When analysts Deloitte published their list of the top-earning football clubs in the world for last year, PSG were third with revenue of just over 800 million euros (\$855m). The only other French team in the top 20 was Marseille, with 258 million euros. UEFA's own European Club Finance report, published in February, revealed PSG as having the second highest wage bill on the continent behind only Barcelona, at over 600 million euros. Those wage costs will have changed significantly this season, following the departures of Lionel Messi and Neymar, but a recent study by sports daily L'Equipe claimed that the 10 highest-paid players in Ligue 1 just now all play in Paris. In that context, it is almost impossible for anyone to compete with Luis Enrique's

team domestically, but the Spanish coach still deserves credit. "Given our history and our squad, we are the favourites, although not everybody manages to do it, especially with so many games still to play," he said last week. "But I have said since the very first day that we are the favourites, that we have the best squad and the biggest budget. It is almost an obligation." He took over a team set for a period of transition in the post-Messi and Neymar era. PSG did not convince in winning the league last season, losing seven games and only pipping Lens by a point. This campaign has, to borrow a French expression, not always been like a long, peaceful river. Luis Enrique had to incorporate a raft of new signings and has had to deal with the awkward situation surrounding Kylian Mbappe's future. Mbappe was frozen out at the start of the campaign with the club putting pressure on him to sign a new deal or agree to be sold rather than simply run down the last year of his contract. That partly explains why PSG won just three of their first seven Ligue 1 games. However, they have since picked up the pace and their only league loss so far remains a 3-2 home defeat against Nice in September. Ousmane Dembele has been excellent since arriving from Barcelona, playing mainly on the right wing, and Bradley Barcola has starred on the other side. Teenager Warren Zaire-Emery has been a fixture in midfield

and earned a call-up to the full France squad, while Portuguese creator Vitinha has arguably been PSG's best player. But then there is Mbappe, who has 43 goals in all competitions, and that despite being used sparingly in the league over the last two months since informing the club of his decision to leave on a free at the end of the season. Mbappe has completed 90 minutes just twice in PSG's last 11 league games. Luis Enrique has justified that by saying he needs to prepare for a future without his star player and try alternatives. But in the meantime, PSG must make the most of having the France captain in their ranks. That they are now a better, more balanced team without having to accommodate Messi and Neymar is no surprise. Although they wobbled in the Champions League group stage, they qualified for the knockout phase and took four points against Borussia Dortmund along the way. They must now be favourites to beat the Germans in the upcoming semi-final. That would allow them to finish the Mbappe era with a French Cup final against Lyon on May 25 and the Champions League final a week later, with the prospect of a clean sweep of trophies in sight. "Of course that's something we are talking about. It's a source of motivation for us," Luis Enrique said. "It will be a long, winding road to get there. We will need to stay fully focused until the end of the season."

## Alcaraz passes 'test of fire', Sabalenka survives in Madrid Open



**The International Press :** Carlos Alcaraz passed a "test of fire" to breeze into the Madrid Open last 16 with a straight sets victory over Thiago Seyboth Wild on Sunday, while Aryna Sabalenka staved off teenager Robin Montgomery to progress in three sets. Double defending champion Alcaraz came through 6-3, 6-3 and will face last year's runner-up Jan-Lennard Struff in the next round after another impressive showing before adoring fans on home soil. World number three Alcaraz, 20, missed a month prior to Madrid with a forearm issue but returned to crush Alexander Shevchenko in the second round and looks in fine shape ahead of the French Open, the second Grand Slam event of the season. Still wearing a protective sleeve on his right arm, he had far too much for Seyboth Wild, who had ousted 28th seed Lorenzo Musetti. "Maybe today I was a bit nervous about how it would be, Thiago hits the ball so hard, I didn't know how the forearm would hold up," said Alcaraz on court. "Today was the test of fire, no

discomfort, feeling spectacular... from here, we'll be getting better." After taking two breaks in a solid first set, Alcaraz stepped up a gear in the second, breaking in the second and fourth games as he raced into a 5-0 lead. Seyboth Wild battled to a hold and a break to salvage some pride but Alcaraz triumphed on serve when the Brazilian went long. "I was very comfortable on the court, moving, hitting the ball, as I always say finishing the game isn't easy, it's nerves," added Alcaraz. German fourth seed Alexander Zverev, the 2018 and 2021 Madrid champion, made the last 16 with a 6-4, 7-5 win over Canada's Denis Shapovalov. Andrey Rublev came back from 5-0 down in a first set tie-break to beat Alejandro Davidovich Fokina 7-6 (12/10), 6-4 in a tense affair. The world number eight saved five set points to stun his opponent, before a similarly hard-fought second set. Rublev broke for a 5-4 lead with a shot which the Spaniard chose to leave as he thought it was long, but Hawk-Eye

showed it was in by a whisker. Sabalenka pushed Women's world number two Sabalenka scraped past plucky 19-year-old Montgomery 6-1, 6-7 (5/7), 6-4 in a two-and-a-half hour tussle. The big-hitting Belarusian started her Madrid title defence slowly in the second round with a three-set win over Magda Linette and again was tested after claiming the first set easily. Sabalenka broke twice for a 5-1 lead against Montgomery, who steeled herself and battled well in the final game, saving three set points before Sabalenka sealed it. The American hit two aces to hold in the first game of the second set, showing she would not roll over for the two-time Grand Slam champion. Sabalenka survived two set points in the gripping tie-break before 183rd-ranked Montgomery forced a decider. The 25-year-old Australian Open champion broke in the second game but Montgomery hit back immediately. Sabalenka brought up three match points in the 10th and

final game, taking the first when Montgomery pushed a shot into the net. "I'm super happy with the win, she played unbelievable tennis," said Sabalenka on court. "I expected something like that, she's young, I saw her games and I was prepared for a great battle." World number four Elena Rybakina eased to a 6-1, 6-4 win over Egypt's Mayar Sherif to reach the last 16. The Kazakh, who has a tour-leading three titles this season after triumphing in Stuttgart last week, broke twice in the first set to move 5-0 ahead on the Spanish clay, before edging a closer second stanza. Rybakina will face teenager Sara Bejlek in the next round after the Czech defeated American Ashlyn Krueger 6-3, 6-1. Mirra Andreeva defeated Wimbledon champion Marketa Vondrousova 7-5, 6-1 to return to the last 16 for the second year running. The Russian, who turns 17 on Monday, won 25 points to nine in the second set against the world number seven from the Czech Republic.