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Central Chronicle

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PM URGES PRIVATE SPACE SECTOR

'Build global aura of space innovation'

PM highlighted India's cost-competitiveness in launching space ventures.

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi has stressed creating an aura around the private sector in space research so that people worldwide feel that if they want to make a career, they should go to India.

In an interaction with CEOs and founders of 20 space startups on Friday, Modi also highlighted India's cost-competitiveness in launching space ventures. He emphasised that the country's vast talent pool and high risk-taking capacity would allow India to rapidly establish a dominant position in the global space sector, according to the transcript of the interaction, which was released on Sunday. The prime minister said the world must now be looking for Indian startups – wondering who is leading in this space. Because whenever a breakthrough happens, people's attention shifts immediately, he said.

PM Modi during an interaction with Space Startup CEOs, in New Delhi.

> **Need to connect with many people.**
> **Narendra Modi**
> Prime Minister

One of the CEOs told the prime minister that after India opened the space industry for private players, a very positive trend was observed and many Indian citizens living in the US and Europe now want to return and work in the country.

In response, Modi said: "We need to connect with many people – people who went abroad are now returning. I believe we should create an aura where people worldwide feel that if they want to make a career, they should go to

6 injured, minister escapes road mishap

Press Trust Of India

JAGDALPUR: Forest Minister Kedar Kashyap had a narrow escape on Sunday after an SUV collided with his vehicle and rammed into his escort vehicle in Bastar district, leaving six persons injured, police said. Kashyap's personal assistant, four police personnel and the driver of the escort vehicle were among those injured in the accident that occurred between Farsaguda and Junwahi villages under Bhanpuri police station limits, Station House Officer Harshvardhan Verma told PTI.

The minister was travelling from his native village Farsaguda towards Kondagaon, he said. According to police, a sports utility vehicle (SUV) was travelling from Kondagaon towards Jagdalpur when it collided with the minister's vehicle. The SUV then crashed into the escort vehicle following the minister's car, the official said. The security personnel were travelling in the escort vehicle, which suffered extensive damage.

Kashyap escaped without any major injuries, Verma said.

Police and administrative teams reached the spot and launched an investigation to ascertain the exact cause of the accident. The SUV driver has been detained for questioning, he said. The injured were identified as minister's PA Anurag Sharma, escort vehicle driver Sunil Kumar Maurya, head constables Rajesh Netam and Sukantin Usendi, and constables Tilotama Dhruv and Narmada Markam.

NEWSLINE

MUMBAI

Ganesh idol collapse

A day after two persons were killed and five injured when a 22-foot Ganesh idol of 'Bhuleshwaracha Raja' fell during its arrival ceremony in Mumbai, police on Sunday said a preliminary probe suggested the idol's welding support broke, causing it to collapse. The deceased included the president of the 'Bhuleshwarcha Raja Ganesh Mandal', the police said, adding that they have registered a case of accidental death. The incident occurred around 10 pm on Saturday on Balaram Merchant Road near Kabutarkhana at Jay Ambe Chowk in Bhuleshwar in south Mumbai. A preliminary investigation suggested that the welding support at the back of the idol broke, causing it to fall towards the front side.

Terror funding, drugs-weapons nexus exposed

Press Trust Of India

Members linked to designated pro-Khalistan terrorist Arsh Dalla.

NEW DELHI: A Delhi Police probe has uncovered an alleged terror-funding and drugs-for-weapons nexus linked to designated pro-Khalistan terrorist Arsh Dalla, with opium smuggled to Canada allegedly generating funds while weapons were pushed into Punjab through cross-border drone drops, an official said on Sunday.

Pro-Khalistan terrorist Arsh Dalla.

Four members of the alleged syndicate have been arrested and over 5.10 kg of opium has been recovered during the investigation, which began following interception of a single courier parcel in Delhi -- eventually exposing a network spanning Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan and extending overseas.

"The case dates back to February 7, when Delhi Police's Crime Branch received specific information that a parcel booked through a courier company in Delhi for dispatch to Canada contained narcotics concealed beneath food and household items," Special Commissioner of Police (Crime Branch) HGS Dhaliwal said in a statement.

| FRESH PROTEST GUIDELINES |

'Your anger is their satisfaction'

Press Trust Of India

Police urged professionalism and restraint during protests.

NEW DELHI: Fresh guidelines issued to the Delhi police by a central agency advise personnel to remain calm during protests, avoid rising to provocation and being pictured as "villains" by the demonstrators filming them, police sources said on Sunday.

A senior police officer said the directions

were aimed at ensuring that personnel maintain professionalism and restraint while performing crowd-management duties. The officer said similar directions were given to all officers deployed during the CJP protest. Police personnel have also been advised to avoid unnecessary conversations with protesters and not respond to questions, taunts, emotional appeals or attempts to draw them into arguments.

The guidelines come in the backdrop of the allegations of police excesses during the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) protest at Jantar Mantar last month. "Your anger is their satisfaction and content for them to portray you as villains," the fresh guidelines say, urging personnel to exercise restraint and remain conscious that their conduct during protests is likely to be recorded and scrutinised. A senior police officer, requesting anonymity, said the directions were aimed at ensuring that personnel maintain professionalism and restraint while performing crowd-management duties. The officer said similar directions were given to all officers deployed during the CJP protest. "I had given the same directions to all the officers during the CJP protest -- not to give any reaction to any of the protesters and just to do their duty," the officer told PTI.

GANGTOK

Kailash Mansarovar Yatra

The Kailash Mansarovar Yatra through Sikkim's Nathu La route concluded on Sunday, with 464 pilgrims completing the pilgrimage in 10 batches, officials said. The yatra, which began on June 20, concluded with the return of the final batch of pilgrims to Gangtok. The pilgrims visited Mount Kailash and Lake Manasarovar in the Tibet Autonomous Region of China.

On their return, the pilgrims were felicitated by representatives of the Sikkim Tourism Development Corporation (STDC).

STDC Principal CEO Gyurmie Yousal said the pilgrims shared their experiences after returning. The pilgrims described the journey as a deeply spiritual and memorable experience, expressing gratitude to the Centre, STDC, the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) and other agencies for their support.

Modern-day Shravan Kumar

A kanwariya during the holy month of 'Shravan', in Moradabad, Uttar Pradesh, Sunday. | Photo PTI

| LONG WAIT IS OVER |

After Op Sindoor visa hurdle, 150 Pak brides reach India

Press Trust Of India

Raipur-based Sant Yudhishtirlal Shadaani facilitated process.

NAGPUR: Hassle-free visas and movement through the Wagah-Attari border had allowed families from Pakistan's Sindh province to marry their daughters in India for years. However, that changed after India launched Operation Sindoor and shut the visa and border routes for Sindhi visitors.

The decision put the weddings of at least 150 Pakistani women on hold. They had been engaged to men in India and were waiting to settle down in their marital homes. "The long wait is over, finally," said Rajesh Jhambia, a community leader from Nagpur, on Sunday. After much effort, the Centre issued visas to the Sindhi women and their relatives to visit India for their weddings.

"The brides and their kin have arrived in India through transit routes via Muscat, Dubai, Sri Lanka and other countries," Jhambia, who works for Sindhi migrants from Pakistan, told PTI.

NEW DELHI

'Real life Batman'

Posters calling Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi "the real life Batman" were put up near the Congress' Indira Bhawan headquarters and in parts of central Delhi by a party functionary. The posters had Gandhi's picture alongside the picture of Batman. They had the captions "The Silent Guardian" and "A Watchful Protector" written on them. The other caption on the posters was "LoP Rahul Gandhi - The Real Life Batman". Tagging a post on the putting up of the posters, Congress' media and publicity department head Pawan Khera said, "Not all heroes wear capes, some wear a white T-shirt."

Gandhi is known for wearing his trademark white T-shirt and cargo pants.

| ENHANCED COOPERATION |

France expands edu outreach in India

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: France is stepping up its education outreach in India with a four-city tour featuring more than 50 French institutions, as the two countries seek to deepen cooperation in higher education, innovation and artificial intelligence, an official French government agency said. The outreach comes amid a sharp rise in Indian enrolment in French higher education, with the number of students growing to 9,100 in 2024-25, according to a statement by Campus France on Friday. France has set a target of hosting 30,000 Indian students by 2030. Campus France is the official French government agency that promotes higher education abroad and guides international students through the university admission and visa application processes. Operating under the French Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Higher Education, it serves as the mandatory first step for anyone applying to study in France. The Choose France Tour will be held in Mumbai on October 11, Pune on October 13, New Delhi on October 15 and Bengaluru on October 17.

NUMBER

30,000

- **France set a target of hosting 30,000 Indian students by 2030.**

October's four-city tour assumes significance as India and France seek to deepen their Special Global Strategic Partnership in education, innovation and artificial intelligence.

BJP prepares for next round of assembly elections

Press Trust Of India

BJP holds key organisational meeting at Hqs.

NEW DELHI: BJP president Nitin Nabin on Sunday held an intensive meeting with the party office bearers to discuss a range of organisational matters, especially the strategy for high-stakes assembly polls due in seven states next year, including Uttar Pradesh and Gujarat, sources said. The crucial meeting was attended by the newly-appointed office bearers of the party, presidents of its state units and other key functionaries. Those incharge of the BJP state units were also present at the meeting held at the BJP headquarters here, according to sources. BJP national general secretary (organisation) BL Santhosh was also present at the meeting, which delved into measures for strengthening grassroots outreach and youth connect, especially in the states where elections are due next year, the sources said. There was no official word from the BJP on what transpired in the meeting.

Assembly polls are due in Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Goa, Himachal Pradesh and Gujarat in 2027.

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S-48762/4

Raipur News

Ch'garh will lead in solar energy: CM Sai

Target to install solar panels in 5 lakh homes across the state by March 2027.

Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: Solar energy is the energy of the future, and Chhattisgarh is rapidly moving forward to become the country's leading state in this sector, Chief Minister Vishnu Deo said. Addressing the closing ceremony of the two-day 'Samvad' program organized by the Chhattisgarh Solar Welfare Association at Pt Deendayal Upadhyay Auditorium in the capital, Raipur Sai said that unprecedented work is being done in the country to promote clean and green energy under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Utilizing its immense potential in solar energy, Chhattisgarh is also strengthening its resolve for energy independence and environmental conservation, he said adding that a target has been set to install solar panels in 5 lakh homes across the state by March 2027.

According to Sai this is the first major event of its kind in the state bringing together industries, vendors, banking institutions, women's self-help groups, and other stakeholders related to the solar energy sector on a single platform. This meaningful dialogue of experiences and suggestions from different fields will give a new impetus to the expansion of solar energy in Chhattisgarh.

FASTFACTS

- Nearly 95,000 homes illuminated with solar energy so far under the PM Surya Ghar Free Electricity Scheme.
- Target to produce 4,000 megawatts of green energy; Chhattisgarh will make a significant contribution to the resolution of a carbon-neutral India.

Today energy is a basic requirement for development and Chhattisgarh is already in a strong position in the field of power generation, with the state currently producing nearly 30,000 megawatts of electricity, Sai said, adding that Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) worth approximately Rs 3 lakh 50 thousand crore have been signed in the energy sector in the state, which are expected to develop an additional electricity generation capacity of nearly 30,000 megawatts in the coming times. He stated that the state government's goal is to establish Chhattisgarh among the leading states of the country in the energy sector.

Sai said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi is placing special emphasis on the maximum use of green energy alongside solar energy. The sun provides us with a clean, renewable, and abundant source of energy gifted by nature.

Target to connect 5 lakh homes with solar energy by March 2027

Chief Minister Sai noted that the PM Surya Ghar Free Electricity Scheme has provided ordinary families with the opportunity to become energy producers alongside being energy consumers. The scheme is receiving an encouraging response in Chhattisgarh. So far, solar panels have been installed on the roofs of nearly 95,000 homes in the state, and this number is continuously growing.

40-year-old Karanj tree encased in concrete uprooted within a year

RAIPUR: In a stark example of the perils posed by unscientific urban development and concretization, a mature 40-year-old Karanj tree (Millettia pinnata / Pongamia pinnata) that had been tightly encased in concrete has collapsed and been uprooted within a year of the construction work. The tree base was paved over and tightly encased in concrete during recent infrastructure and pavement works without leaving the mandatory soil buffer around the trunk.

Concreting around tree bases prevents rainwater percolation, suffocates the root system, and blocks essential nutrient absorption.

IGKV cancels B.Sc Agriculture Plant Pathology paper after leak

Press Trust Of India

Both rescheduled exams set for September

RAIPUR: Indira Gandhi Krishi Vishwavidyalaya (IGKV) has cancelled the B.Sc Agriculture first-year Plant Pathology examination conducted on August 7, following revelations by the Raipur Police that the paper had been leaked prior to the test. The disclosure emerged during the ongoing investigation into the August 20 B.Sc Agriculture second-year Entomology paper leak. After police confirmed that the arrested accused were also responsible for compromising the August 7 paper, IGKV management convened an emergency meeting on Sunday and resolved to scrap the examination to preserve academic integrity.

Both the cancelled Plant Pathology (1st year) and Entomology (2nd year) papers will be re-conducted in the first week of September.

The university issued a formal notice to Bhartiya College of Agriculture, Durg, and initiated statutory legal proceedings against the institution for failing to maintain examination confidentiality.

IGKV will take strict disciplinary action against the students detained by the police. Additionally, show-cause notices have been served to university-appointed exam observers stationed at the Durg centre for oversight lapses.

To prevent future security breaches, the university immediately revamped its paper distribution model starting August 22:

Physical hard copies have been replaced with password-protected digital question papers sent via email.

For exams starting at 10:00 AM, question papers are now emailed to affiliated colleges at 9:30 AM to minimize handling time.

Various events held at the Regional Science Center

Central Chronicle News

Students showcased scientific thinking and creativity through poster exhibition and presentation competitions.

RAIPUR: Chhattisgarh Regional Science Center (CRSC) in Raipur celebrated National Space Day 2026 with a vibrant array of educational programs aimed at sparking curiosity, scientific temperament, and creativity among students and youth. Held under the guidance of Principal Secretary Sonmoni Borah, the initiative was designed to familiarize the younger generation with India's stellar space journey, milestone achievements, and future possibilities in aerospace and technology.

Eminent scientists and experts, including Milind Chadokar from the National Remote Sensing Center (ISRO) and Regional Science Center Nagpur, along with MK Beg, Scientist-E at the Chhattisgarh Council of Science and Technology (CCOST), shared invaluable insights with attending students.

Accompanied by CCOST Director General Prashant Kavishwar, the experts encouraged participants to maintain a questioning mindset and pursue innovation. Kavishwar highlighted India's major cosmic milestones, including the Chandrayaan missions, emphasizing how indigenous space programs have transformed the nation.

NEWSLINE

TRIBUTE CEREMONY

Tribute ceremony for former Mayor late Juneja

RAIPUR: Raipur Municipal Corporation's Culture Department, in collaboration with Zone 4, has organized a solemn tribute ceremony to mark the death anniversary of former Raipur Mayor late Balbir Singh Juneja on Monday, August 24, 2026.

The event is scheduled to take place at 11:00 AM near his statue site located within the premises of the Balbir Singh Juneja Indoor Stadium in Raipur. To ensure the event runs smoothly, the Culture Department has directed the Zone 4 Commissioner to oversee all necessary administrative arrangements at the venue.

MONSOON ACTIVITY

Good monsoon progress with 783 mm average rainfall

RAIPUR: Monsoon activity across Chhattisgarh has brought favorable conditions for agriculture and water resources, with the state recording an average of 783.0 millimeters of rainfall from June 1 until August 23, 2026. According to data released by the Revenue and Disaster Management Department, this figure represents approximately 99 percent of the 10-year historical average of 791.1 millimeters for the corresponding period.

Heavy rains lash Raipur, other districts

Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: Heavy and continuous rains continued to batter Raipur and several other districts across Chhattisgarh, disrupting normal daily life and causing widespread water-logging in low-lying residential areas. The incessant downpours over the weekend led to significant accumulation of stagnant water in numerous residential colonies of the capital city, making commuting difficult for residents and causing visible damage to local road infrastructure.

According to the latest weather bulletins issued by the Meteorological Centre in Raipur under the Ministry of Earth Sciences, the region remains under active monsoon conditions. The forecast guidelines categorize rainfall coverage based on the percentage of reporting stations, where widespread showers typically affect 76 to 100 percent of stations, while fairly widespread to scattered spells cover many or few locations respectively. The India Meteorological Department classifies rainfall intensity over a 24-hour window, categorizing amounts between 15.6 and 64.4 millimeters as moderate, 64.5 to 115.5 millimeters as heavy, and measurements ranging from 115.6 to 204.4 millimeters as very heavy. Readings reaching or exceeding 204.5 millimeters are designated as extremely heavy. With probabilistic forecast parameters indicating a high likelihood of continued precipitation, authorities and monitoring stations have maintained a close watch on weather developments.

Local administration and municipal teams have been urged to remain prepared for potential disruptions as the wet spell persists.

'Medical seats increase won't affect local students'

Central Chronicle News

Local student rights and medical seats in Chhattisgarh remain fully protected with zero compromise on regional quotas.

RAIPUR: Medical Education Minister Shyam Bihari Jaiswal has strongly affirmed that the rights and educational interests of local students will not be compromised under any circumstances. Addressing concerns regarding admissions, the minister emphasized that the primary objective behind increasing medical colleges and MBBS seats across the state is to provide maximum opportunities for local youth to pursue medical careers. He assured that transparency is being rigorously maintained throughout the academic admission process to protect genuine aspirants.

The state counseling committee has issued strict guidelines for the current academic session, ensuring that all admissions are processed fairly through established online merit frameworks. Officials noted that the verification of domicile certificates, category credentials, and other mandatory paperwork forms an essential part of the evaluation protocol under existing state regulations.

Admission procedures will only be officially finalized after candidates successfully clear the mandatory original document scrutiny stage.

To uphold absolute integrity, authorities have implemented strict penal measures against fraudulent practices. According to official guidelines, any admission secured through misleading information, concealed facts, or administrative oversight will face immediate cancellation. Officials reiterated that while the expansion of medical infrastructure marks a major milestone for the state, ensuring that the intended benefits reach only eligible and hard-working candidates remains a top administrative priority.

The state counseling administration has also urged applicants to stay vigilant against rumors and unverified information circulating online.

FASTFACTS

- Mandatory physical verification of original documents and domicile certificates is strictly required to finalize the admission process.
- Any admission secured through false information or concealed facts will face immediate cancellation under state regulations.

Nurses protest decision to fill promotional posts through direct recruitment

Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: The Chhattisgarh state government's decision to fill nursing cadre posts via direct recruitment in new and existing medical colleges has sparked strong opposition from the state's Nursing Association.

The government recently sanctioned the recruitment of medical faculty and doctors across five new and established medical colleges, approving 375 posts for the new colleges and 330 posts for their affiliated hospitals. However, the inclusion of nursing cadre posts under direct recruitment rather than promotion has triggered backlash. Dr. Ritu Singh, President of the Nursing Association, called the move unfair to working healthcare professionals and highlighted several unresolved grievances.

Dr. Singh noted that the profession operates strictly on a seniority basis, stating it is unprecedented to bypass seniority lists and fill promotional posts directly.

Promotional posts such as Demonstrator are reportedly being finalized on a contractual basis instead of through internal promotions.

An announcement to change the designation of staff nurses was made over three months ago, but the formal government order has yet to be issued.

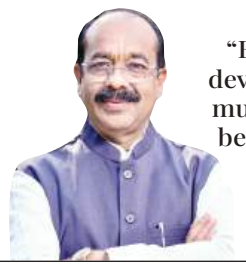
Despite a finalized proposal regarding grade pay adjustments, no official action has been taken so far.

Rs 69 lakh sanctioned for 23 critical patients on MP's recommendation

Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: In a significant relief to families struggling with expensive medical treatments, financial assistance totaling Rs 69 lakh has been sanctioned from the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund (PMNRF) for 23 critically ill patients from the Raipur parliamentary constituency. The assistance was approved by the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) following the personal intervention and recommendations of Raipur Member of Parliament. Under the initiative, Rs 3 lakh has been allocated per eligible beneficiary to support treatments for severe conditions such as bone marrow transplants, renal (kidney) transplants, heart surgeries, cancer, and thalassemia major. The financial aid has been transferred directly to the respective hospitals handling the treatments. Hospitals receiving direct assistance include Indraprastha Apollo Hospital, New Delhi (Bone Marrow Transplant), Narayana Hrudayalaya / Health City, Bengaluru (Bone Marrow Transplant & Thalassemia) and Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar Memorial Hospital & Shri Balaji Institute, Raipur.

Bilaspur



"Basic amenities and developmental works in municipal areas should be completed with top priority"

Arun Sao
Dy CM, Chhattisgarh

Bilaspur-Howrah Vande Bharat train proposed

Bilaspur railway division has proposed two Vande Bharat services to Howrah and Tatanagar for faster regional connectivity.

Central Chronicle News

BILASPUR: The South East Central Railway's Bilaspur Division has prepared proposals for introducing Vande Bharat Express services between Bilaspur and Howrah and between Bilaspur and Tatanagar. The information was provided by the railway administration in response to an application filed under the Right to Information Act.

According to the response provided to Agyeya Nagar resident Ajay Kumar, the Bilaspur Division has already forwarded proposals for both services to the South East Central Railway zonal headquarters. The proposals were sent on June 27 and will now be considered at the appropriate railway level. The proposed Bilaspur-Howrah Vande Bharat service is expected to provide faster connectivity between Bilaspur and Howrah in West Bengal. The proposed Bilaspur-Tatanagar service would provide a direct and faster rail connection between Bilaspur and Tatanagar, the industrial city of Jamshedpur in Jharkhand.

The proposed services are expected to benefit a wide range of passengers if approved and introduced. Business travellers could gain from quicker connectivity between major commercial centres, while students, patients and tourists could also benefit from reduced travel time and improved rail connectivity. According to the information supplied under the RTI response, Vande Bharat services on the proposed routes could reduce travel time by around two to three hours compared with existing train services. The proposed trains would also strengthen connectivity among three important commercial centres, namely Bilaspur, Tatanagar and Howrah. The proposals are currently at the proposal stage and do not amount to confirmation of the services. After consideration at the railway headquarters, the proposals would need to be forwarded for further approval. If approved by the Railway Board, the services could subsequently be introduced on the proposed routes. The railway administration has not announced any launch date or operational schedule for either service. Therefore, passengers will have to wait for further decisions from the railway authorities before the proposed trains become operational. Information related to the remaining 13 requests was stated to be currently unavailable. These requests reportedly included proposed services or extensions involving important destinations such as Puri, Visakhapatnam, Delhi, Jabalpur and Secunderabad.

The proposals, if eventually approved, could expand Bilaspur's direct connectivity with eastern India and provide passengers with faster travel options on important routes.

FASTFACTS

- The proposals were forwarded to SECR headquarters on June 27 for consideration.
- Proposed services could reduce travel time by two to three hours compared with existing trains.

SECR responds over 2 points in RTI

The RTI application filed by Ajay Kumar had sought information on 15 points relating to new trains, route extensions and additional railway services. However, the railway administration provided information on only two points concerning the proposed Vande Bharat services between Bilaspur and Howrah and between Bilaspur and Tatanagar.

Fine collected in ticket checking drive

BILASPUR: A special ticket-checking campaign was conducted on the Pendra Road-Bilaspur railway section, resulting in the detection of 130 cases involving ticketless travel, irregular tickets and unbooked luggage. Railway officials carried out checks on 13 trains during the campaign and detected passengers travelling without valid tickets and with irregular tickets. Cases involving unbooked luggage were also identified during the inspection.

According to railway officials, a total fine of Rs 79,510 was collected during the drive. Of the total amount, Rs 75,845 was recovered from 114 cases of passengers travelling without tickets. Four cases involving irregular tickets were detected, and fines amounting to Rs 2,465 were collected from the passengers concerned. Officials also detected 12 cases involving unbooked luggage and recovered Rs 1,200 in fines. Railway authorities said ticket-checking campaigns are conducted to discourage passengers from travelling without proper tickets and to ensure compliance with railway rules. Such drives also help prevent revenue loss and promote disciplined travel among passengers.

Husband alleges negligence in wife's treatment

Central Chronicle News

The husband of the deceased wife alleged that there was an apparent medical negligence in treatment of his wife in the district hospital

BILASPUR: A man from Takhatpur has alleged negligence in the treatment and surgery of his wife at the District Hospital and submitted a written complaint to the Collector, seeking action against the doctor and hospital management. Pawan Devangan alleged that his wife, Jyoti Devangan, developed serious health complications after undergoing treatment at the government hospital. She is currently undergoing treatment at a private hospital, where her condition has reportedly been described as serious.

According to the complaint submitted to the Collector, Pawan had taken his wife to the District Hospital on July 27 after she went into labour. She delivered a child at the hospital. The complainant has alleged that a stitch was left inside the uterus during the procedure, resulting in an infection and accumulation of pus.

He further alleged that Jyoti's condition began deteriorating due to negligence during the operation and treatment. Despite her condition, she was allegedly discharged from the hospital around three days later.

HIGHLIGHT

- Husband complains to Collector, alleges condition worsened after surgery; CMHO directed to conduct inquiry

After returning home, her health reportedly worsened further, following which the family admitted her to a private hospital. According to the complaint, the woman's condition remains serious.

Pawan has demanded a detailed inquiry into the matter, action against the doctor allegedly responsible for the negligence and fixation of responsibility on the hospital management.

NEWSLINE

TRAIN

Yelahanka train to run weekly

BILASPUR: The South East Central Railway has decided to convert the weekly Bilaspur-Yelahanka (Bengaluru)-Bilaspur special train into a regular weekly service from August 26. The decision will benefit passengers travelling between Chhattisgarh and Karnataka, including students, employees and business travellers. The 08261/08262 Bilaspur-Yelahanka special train was introduced as a summer service. After receiving a good response from passengers, the railway has decided to continue the service on a regular basis. Under the new schedule, train number 18261 Bilaspur-Yelahanka Weekly Express will depart from Bilaspur every Wednesday at 2 pm, while train number 18262 Yelahanka-Bilaspur Weekly Express will depart from Yelahanka every Thursday.

HIGHWAY

Ratanpur highway to remain closed until Sept 30

BILASPUR: The movement of heavy vehicles on the Kenvchi-Ratanpur stretch of Bilaspur-Pendra National Highway-45 has been completely restricted until September 30 due to deteriorating road conditions, continuous heavy rainfall and the collapse of a 35-year-old bridge at Bansajhal on August 3. The restriction applies only to heavy trucks and trailers. Cars, motorcycles and passenger buses have been permitted to use the route with caution. Heavy vehicles travelling between Pendra and Bilaspur or Ratanpur will have to use the longer alternative route via Pendra-Kotmi-Pasan-Katghora-Pali-Ratanpur-Bilaspur. Vehicles travelling from Bilaspur towards Pendra, Amarkantak or Jabalpur will have to follow the reverse route.

LIQUOR

34 litres Mahua liquor seized

BILASPURI: Kota police arrested a 43-year-old man after seizing 34 litres of mahua liquor from his house in Lokband. Acting on information received from an informer, police conducted a raid at the house of Mohit Baghel and recovered the liquor stored in plastic containers. The accused was taken into custody following the seizure.

Police registered a case against Baghel under the provisions of the Excise Act. After completing the necessary legal formalities, he was produced before the court and sent to judicial custody. Police officials said the action was part of ongoing efforts to curb the illegal manufacture, storage and sale of liquor in the area. The authorities have been conducting raids based on information about illegal liquor activities and taking action against those found involved. The seizure and arrest are expected to strengthen enforcement against illegal liquor trade in Kota area.

Six nabbed after violent clash between 2 groups

Central Chronicle News

Sakri police have arrested six persons following a violent clash between two groups in Deehpara, Ameri localities.

BILASPUR: Sakri police have arrested six persons following a violent clash between two groups in Deehpara, Ameri, under the Sakri police station area. The accused allegedly abused, threatened and assaulted members of the opposing group during a dispute. Police also seized a tangia, an iron rod and a wooden stick allegedly used in the incident.

According to Sakri TI Umesh Sahu, residents Ravi Kurre and Dhajaram Lahre approached Sakri police station on August 13 and lodged complaints against each other. Both sides accused the other of using obscene and abusive language, issuing death threats and assaulting them with weapons. Based on the complaints, police registered a case against both groups under Crime No. 755/2026 under Sections 296, 351(3), 115(2), 331(6) and 3(5) of the BNS.

Senior police officers were informed about the incident, following which SSP Rajnesh Singh directed the immediate arrest of those involved. Acting under the guidance of ASP (City) Pankaj Kumar Patel and CSP (Civil Lines) Parmeshwar Tilakwar, a Sakri police team arrested six accused from both sides. The arrested persons have been identified as Harprasad Lahre alias Jhuru (29), Hariprasad Lahre alias Dadu (21), Kanhaiya Lahre (32), Ravi Kurre (43), Ajay Kurre alias Tiklu (21), and Vijay Kurre alias Bodra (20), all residents of Deehpara, Ameri.

Police seized a tangia, an iron rod and a wooden stick from the accused. All six were arrested and sent to judicial remand.

HIGHLIGHT

- Axe, iron rod and wooden stick were seized from the spot, the police disclosed.

| ENCROACHMEN |

BMC continues drive against encroachment on footpath

Central Chronicle News

Municipal Corporation officials intensified action against footpath encroachments in Shanichari Bazaar on Saturday.

BILASPUR: The Municipal Corporation intensified its campaign against encroachments on footpaths and roads, along with illegal plotting within the civic limits. Acting on the directions of Municipal Commissioner Prakash Kumar Sarve, the civic body continued its anti-encroachment drive for the third consecutive day at Shanichari Bazaar on Saturday.

A joint team from the Municipal Corporation's Encroachment Branch and Zone No. 5 conducted the action and removed encroachments from public footpaths and roads. During the drive, officials imposed a total fine of Rs 48,000 on seven shopkeepers for occupying public spaces.

The penalties included Rs 15,000 against Jaiswal Fruit Bhandar, Rs 5,000 against Mohammad Zafar's cloth shop and Rs 5,000 against Vasundhara Krishi Sansar. A fine of Rs 2,000 was imposed on Santosh Biryani, while Samay Fees Seed was fined Rs 10,000. Jaya Shop was fined Rs 1,000 and Yadav Bhojanalaya was penalised Rs 10,000.

The enforcement team faced opposition from some people during the drive. Arguments broke out between officials and some individuals over the action, but the civic body personnel continued their operation and completed the drive before leaving the area.

Municipal Corporation officials said the campaign was being conducted continuously on the Commissioner's instructions to ensure that public footpaths and roads remained free from encroachments. The civic body has also intensified action against illegal plotting within the Municipal Corporation limits.

Officials stated that the anti-encroachment campaign would continue in the coming days and further action would be taken against violations found on public land and roads. The civic body has also urged shopkeepers and other establishments to avoid occupying public spaces and comply with municipal regulations.

FASTFACTS

- Seven shopkeepers were fined Rs 48,000 for encroaching upon public footpaths and roads.

| CONSPIRACY |

Accused held in conspiracy to kill Cong leader

Central Chronicle News

BILASPUR: Police have arrested an absconding accused in connection with a murderous attack on Congress leader Shyam Kashyap while he was on a morning walk near the Railway Hospital in the Tarbahar police station area.

According to police, the attack was allegedly part of a conspiracy to murder a person for money. Police had earlier apprehended one accused and a child in conflict with law in the case.

Tarbahar TI Ravishankar Tiwari said the incident took place at around 6.45 am on July 4. Shyam Kashyap had gone out for a morning walk when three unidentified youths, with their faces covered, allegedly attacked him near the Railway Hospital. The assailants allegedly used sticks and a sharp object, abused him and threatened to kill him.

"Attackers had been assured of being paid Rs 5 lakh for killing the leader."

Ravishankar Tiwari
Town Inspector, Tarbahar

Following the incident, a case was registered at Tarbahar police station and an investigation was launched. Police and the ACCU cyber team examined CCTV footage from the area and used technical evidence to identify the motorcycle used in the crime.

During questioning, accused Nitin Tekam and the child in conflict with law, who were apprehended earlier, allegedly told police that Deepak Tiwari of Gaurela-Pendra had offered them Rs 5 lakh each to kill a person in Bilaspur.

Rakhi-making workshop held in School at Chhuri

Central Chronicle News

CHHURI KALA: A Rakhi-making workshop was organized by students at the Government Girls Middle School in Chhuri Kala.

The workshop aimed to encourage students to participate in creative and extracurricular activities along with their studies and promote their overall development. The event was attended by former student, social worker and Congress leader Bhuvaneshwari Singh Koram as a judge. Addressing the students, she said that students are the future of the country and should actively participate in school activities alongside their studies for their overall development.

She also recalled her own school days and encouraged the students to perform their responsibilities with dedication.

Raipur

The very objective of increasing the number of medical colleges and MBBS seats in the state is to ensure that the maximum number of children from Chhattisgarh get the opportunity for medical education.

Shyam Bihari Jaiswal
Health Minister

CM performs Rudrabhishek of Lord Shiva, prays for prosperity of all

Chief Minister Sai participated in Kanwar Yatra during holy month of Shravan.

Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai participated in the Kanwar Yatra organised at the Maruti Mangalam premises in Gudhiyari on August 23. He performed Rudrabhishek and offered prayers to Bhagwan Shiva as per traditional rituals, praying for the happiness, peace, prosperity and well-being of Chhattisgarh and its people. He also extended greetings to the Shiva devotees participating in the Yatra during the holy month of Shravan.

CM Sai said that Shravan holds special significance for the worship of Bhagwan Shiva and that

the Kanwar Yatra is a unique expression of faith, devotion and dedication. Thousands of devotees undertake the journey on foot carrying sacred water for the Abhishek of Bhagwan Shiva, reflecting the deep-rooted faith and spiritual traditions of Sanatan culture. Thousands of Kanwariyas set out from the Maruti Mangalam premises carrying sacred water for the Jalabhishek of Bhagwan Hatkeshwarnath Mahadev at Mahadev Ghat. The chants and devotion of the Shiva devotees filled the atmosphere with spiritual fervour. The Chief Minister said that the Kanwar Yatra is not merely a religious pilgrimage but also a celebration of culture, tradition and social unity. Highlighting the historical and religious significance of Hatkeshwarnath Mahadev Temple, Sai said it is a prominent centre of Chhattisgarh's ancient tradition of Shiva worship and holds deep significance for devotees. During Shravan, a large number of devotees visit the temple to perform Jalabhishek and offer prayers.

The Chief Minister said that Chhattisgarh is known for its natural beauty, folk culture, and rich spiritual heritage. Ancient Shiva temples and Shakti Peethas across the state reflect its deep-rooted religious traditions. Festivals and pilgrimages help preserve this heritage and connect younger generations with cultural and spiritual values.

FACTFILE

- Sai said the State Government is working to develop major religious and spiritual sites and provide better facilities for devotees.

Accused who forged documents arrested

Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: Police have nabbed another accused in a case involving the rape of a minor, facilitating a delivery using forged documents, and the sale of a newborn baby within the jurisdiction of the New Rajendra Nagar police station in the capital, Raipur. The police apprehended Pintu Singh, the accused responsible for creating a fake Aadhaar card by alter-

ing the victim's name and age. With this latest action, a total of nine accused have now been arrested in the case. This operation was conducted by the Raipur Police under the guidance of senior officials. The New Rajendra Nagar police had previously arrested eight individuals and initiated legal proceedings against them. The police are now investigating the roles of other individuals connected to the case. According to the police, action has been taken against the accused under various sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), the POCSO Act.

Car collision leaves scooter mangled

Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: A road accident occurred on the capital's VIP Road during the intervening night of August 23. A speeding Kia Seltos car collided violently with an EV scooter. The impact was so severe that both vehicles were badly damaged, and the scooter rider sustained injuries. According to eyewitnesses, the speeding Kia Seltos suddenly went out of control and rammed into the oncoming EV scooter.

The force of the collision was such that the scooter was reduced to a mangled wreck, and the front section of the car was also completely destroyed. Upon receiving information about the incident, the Telibandha police team arrived at the scene and initiated an investigation.

Thief snatches gold chain amidst the crowd

Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: An incident of theft involving a female officer has been reported from the Pension Bada area of the capital. Unidentified female co-passengers took advantage of the jostling inside the e-rickshaw to steal a gold chain (weighing approximately one tola) from the officer's neck. Upon receiving the information, the Kotwali police registered a case and initiated an investigation. According to reports, Manju Lata Sahu, a resident of Gudhiyari (Janta Colony) and an Assistant Director at the State Project Office of Samagra Shiksha, Raipur, had set out for her office with an acquaintance in the morning. Due to the rain, she boarded an e-rickshaw near the Jail Road bus stop. The e-rickshaw driver pro-

ceeded via Khalsa School and Ambedkar Chowk.

Along the way, six other women boarded the vehicle. With a total of seven passengers, the e-rickshaw became quite crowded, and the women inside were jostling against one another. Amidst this pushing and shoving, the victim got off the e-rickshaw near the 'Hamar Clinic' in Pension Bada. Upon alighting, she touched her neck and discovered that her gold chain–weighing about one tola–was missing.

| 'NASHA MUKT YUWA FOR VIKSIT BHAGAT' |

Strict action against drugs must be supported by awareness: NCB

Central Chronicle News

Media should effectively use Its reach to protect youth from substance abuse

RAIPUR: To tackle the drug problem in Chhattisgarh, it is essential to give equal importance to public awareness alongside strict action against drug trafficking.

Collective participation from families, educational institutions, social organizations, and the media is necessary to keep youth away from addiction. These views were expressed by Anil Kumar, Superintendent of the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB). He was addressing a dialogue program organized in Rajnandgaon under the "Nasha Mukt Yuva for Viksit Bharat–

FACTFILE

- Emphasis on reducing demand for Narcotics alongside supply control
- Call to align journalism with public awareness for a Drug-Free society

Sankalp Abhiyan" by the Press Information Bureau, Raipur.

Anil Kumar stated that the fight against drugs cannot be limited to enforcement actions against trafficking alone. Along with controlling the illegal supply of narcotics, it is crucial to reduce their demand. He shared that the Narcotics Control Bureau's drug control strategy works on both supply control and demand reduction. For this, enforcement and awareness activities are being conducted in coordination with various central and state agencies.

He noted that the media can play a decisive role in protecting the youth of Chhattisgarh from the harmful effects of drugs.

| ALL INDIA RADIO LISTENERS' CONF. |

Protecting new generation from vulgar songs our primary duty: Bajaj

Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: The two-day All India Radio Listeners' Conference concluded recently with a strong pledge to launch a nationwide public awareness campaign against vulgar and double-meaning songs broadcast across radio and other media platforms. Addressing the inaugural session on the occasion of Radio Listeners' Day, Ashok Bajaj, Convener of the Chhattisgarh Radio Lis-

teners' Association, voiced serious concern over the growing prevalence of indecent music. Attributing this trend to Western cultural influence, he noted that such content degrades social values. In contrast, he highlighted that classic Hindi film songs–deeply rooted in Indian civilization–remain soulful, melodious, inspirational, and timeless due to their harmonious blend of meaningful lyrics and heartfelt compositions. Bajaj, who is also a member of the Hindi Advisory Committee under the Union Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, emphasized that radio broadcasts like All India Radio (Akashvani) and Vividh Bharati play a pivotal role in promoting standard Hindi. He noted that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Mann Ki Baat has significantly revitalized radio's importance across the country. He further announced plans to form a National Federation of Radio Listeners' Associations to ensure high broadcast quality and keep the medium vibrant.

Over 600 radio listeners attended from 18 states, including Maharashtra, Haryana, Punjab, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Telangana, Rajasthan, Jharkhand, Delhi, Odisha, Karnataka, West Bengal and Chhattisgarh.

The event saw participation from key media personalities and listeners, including Santosh Jadhav (Vividh Bharati, Mumbai), Pankaj Meshram (Director, Akashvani Raipur), announcer Deepak Hatwar and several others.

Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

SILK WEAVES EXPO

Last chance to shop at Silk Weaves Expo, discounts up to 60%

RAIPUR: The Silk Weaves Expo (Festive & Wedding Edition), being held at Guru Tegh Bahadur Bhawan in Civil Lines, will offer visitors the last opportunity to shop on Monday, which is the final day of the exhibition. The expo, which began on August 14, is open to the public daily from 11 AM to 9 PM. Entry and parking are completely free.

The expo features an impressive collection of silk sarees crafted by weavers and artisans from across India. Major attractions include Banarasi, Kanjeevaram, Kosa Silk, Bengaluru Silk, Jamdani and special wedding sarees. Visitors can also explore a wide range of shawls, stoles, linen, wedding ethnic wear and other handcrafted products.

Products from artisans representing Kolkata, Banaras, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Odisha, Assam and several other states are on display. Special discounts of up to 60% are also being offered on selected products at the expo.

According to the organisers, with Monday being the final day, this is the last opportunity for Raipur residents to shop for traditional handloom and handicraft products from across the country under one roof.

INSIGHTFUL WORKSHOP

CBSE workshop on financial awareness and smart retirement planning at Pranavananda Academy

RAIPUR: A highly informative and insightful workshop on "Financial Awareness and Smart Financial Planning for Retirement" was organized by CBSE at Pranavananda Academy on August 20

The workshop was graced by the presence of Rector & Secretary Arunav Maharaj, Principal Ma'am Dr Nitee Singh Yaduvanshi,and faculty members .

The distinguished guest speakers for the session were Neeraj Kharya, Financial Coach and Ms. Harshita Jaiswal, Relationship Manager, Nippon India Mutual Fund. Neeraj Kharya is a Management Expert, NISM certified, MBA, MCA, Certified Retirement Goal Planner and Chartered Inheritance Succession Planner with over 20 years of experience in financial planning.

The program commenced with the auspicious ceremonial lighting of the lamp and Guru Prarthana. As a gesture of growth, gratitude and sustainability, bouquet were presented to the guests by Hon. Rector cum Secretary and Principal Ma'am.

In his address, Neeraj Kharya shared valuable and practical insights on financial discipline, investment awareness, importance of early planning and building a secure future. He emphasized that financial success begins with small but wise decisions taken consistently over time.

CLOSING CEREMONY 'DRISHYA SAMVAD-2026'

Photographs revive CM Sai's memories at the closing ceremony of 'Drishya Samvad 2026'

RAIPUR: Photographs bridge the past and the present; at times, they serve as historical records, while at others, they breathe new life into long-forgotten moments. A similar scene unfolded in the capital, Raipur, today as Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai revisited the long journey of his public life through photographs taken years ago. The images evoked memories ranging from his first term as an MLA to glimpses of a life deeply rooted in the village, the fields, and the soil. A different side of the Chief Minister was also witnessed during the event; he took the camera into his own hands and captured a photograph of a photojournalist, making the occasion truly memorable.

CM Sai attended the closing ceremony of 'Drishya Samvad 2026'–a five-day photojournalist fest organized by the Raipur Press Club to mark World Photography Day.

TAEKWONDO COLOR BELT EXAMINATION

70 athletes appear for Taekwondo color belt exam

RAIPUR/ KORBA: Around 70 athletes participated in a one-day Taekwondo Color Belt Examination organized by the District Taekwondo Association Korba at the Labor Welfare Centre, Junior Club of the Chhattisgarh State Power Generation Company.

Korba Municipal Corporation Mayor Mrs. Sanju Devi Rajput presented color belts and merit certificates to the successful participants. Addressing the gathering, Mayor highlighted the holistic benefits of martial arts, noting that Taekwondo is not merely a method of self-defense, but an essential tool for developing discipline, self-confidence, mental focus, and character. She emphasized the importance of integrating sports with academic education for youth development. During the examination, approximately 70 athletes from various training centers across Korba district demonstrated their technical proficiencies across several parameters, including specific kicks, punches, and blocking techniques

Traditional Taekwondo forms (poomsae). Certified coaches and judges evaluated the demonstrations before awarding the upgraded belts and certificates.

"Since the formation of the new government, more than 11 lakh houses under the PMAY-Gramin have been completed."

Vijay Sharma
Home Minister Ch'garh

Bilaspur Region

Skills and technology are essential alongside education, says Jaiswal

An induction program (Diksharambh') was organized at Govt Vivekananda PG College, Manendragarh'.

Central Chronicle News

MCB: Under the National Education Policy (NEP-2020), an induction program (Diksharambh') was organized in an enthusiastic atmosphere for newly admitted students at Government Vivekananda Post-Graduate College, Manendragarh, for the 2026-27 academic session.

Health Minister Shyam Bihari Jaiswal graced the event as the chief guest. Also present on the occasion were Collector and District Magistrate Santan Devi Jangde, Manendragarh Municipal Council President Pratima Yadav, Vice-President Dharmendra Patwa, District President and former Parliamentary Secretary Champa Devi Pavle, Public Participation Committee President Virendra Singh Rana, along with other public representatives, faculty members, and a large number of students.

The program commenced with the lighting of a lamp before the portrait of 'Chhattisgarh Mahtari'. Female students presented the national song. Welcoming the guests and the new students, College Principal Prof. Shrabani Chakraborty announced that, under NEP-2020, three new subjects–Hindi Literature, History, and Zoology–have been introduced at the college this session. With the addition of these to the four existing subjects, facilities for studying a total of seven subjects are now available. She described this as a significant achievement in the college's academic expansion. Chief Guest and Health Minister Shyam Bihari Jaiswal extended his best wishes to the newly admitted students for the new academic session, noting that Government Vivekananda Post-Graduate College, Manendragarh, is making continuous progress. He observed that both the student population and the quality of education are increasing. "Our endeavor is to elevate this college to the category of the state's outstanding government colleges," he said.

FASTFACTS

- **Health Minister informed the gathering that development works worth approximately Rs 1.15 cr have been carried out at the college over the past two and a half years.**

471 domestic & commercial gas cylinders seized

Central Chronicle News

GPM: The Food Department is taking continuous action against irregularities regarding the storage and distribution of LPG gas in the district. As part of this effort, a Food Department team conducted a surprise inspection of the warehouse belonging to M/s Siyaram Gas Agency, Gaurela, on Friday. Following the discovery of various irregularities during the inspection, a total of 471 LPG gas cylinders were seized.

The Food Department team seized 433 domestic gas cylinders (14.2 kg capacity)–comprising 87 empty and 346 filled cylinders–and 38 commercial gas cylinders (19 kg capacity)–comprising 36 empty and 2 filled cylinders–from the site. This action was taken under the provisions of the Liquefied Petroleum Gas (Regulation of Supply and Distribution) Order, 2000. Irregularities such as the failure to display the main board and stock board, failure to maintain inward-outward and stock registers, and failure to display the price-stock board were also observed. Viewing these irregularities seriously, the department proceeded with the seizure.

District Food Officer Shweta Agrawal stated that persistent complaints had been received regarding M/s Siyaram Gas Agency, Gaurela. Acting on these complaints, the Food Department team conducted the surprise inspection of the warehouse.

NEWSLINE

TRANSPARENCY

Student details in hostels to go online

MCB: A significant initiative has been taken to enhance transparency and improve monitoring in the management of 'Ashrams' (residential schools) and hostels operated by the Chhattisgarh Government's Department of Tribal Development, Scheduled Caste Development, and Backward Classes & Minority Development. Students residing in various 'Ashrams' and hostels across the district have been registered on the department's dedicated Hostel-Ashram Management System portal. To promote transparency, details of all registered students will now be displayed on the portal's homepage.

| GLOOM IN THE FAMILY |

Three children swept away in Ghongha river, one boy recovered

Central Chronicle News

TAKHATPUR: Three young children returning home from school were swept away by the strong current while crossing the river. Divers have recovered the body of one child, while the search for the other two continues. A pall of gloom has descended on the village. Gloom engulfed Gram Panchayat Samdeel on Saturday when three children, returning home from school, were swept away by the strong current of the Ghongha River. Upon receiving news of the incident, villagers and the police administration launched a search operation in the river. After hours of effort, the body of one child was recovered, while the search for the other two is ongoing. The children swept away have been identified as 7-year-old Anmol Jaiswal (son of Bhuvneshwar Jaiswal), 9-year-old Stuti Jaiswal (daughter of Bhuvneshwar Jaiswal), and 8-year-old Shiksha Jaiswal (daughter of Vijay Jaiswal).

18 female students receive bicycles

KHADGAWAN/MCB: A bicycle distribution program for Class 9 female students was organized at the Government School in Thaggaon for the 2026-27 academic session. Eighteen students benefited from the scheme during the event. The names of these 18 students were listed among the beneficiaries enrolled at the school. The program commenced with a prayer dedicated to Goddess Saraswati.

| KANWAR YATRA

Kanwar Yatra is a symbol of faith, devotion: Agrawal

Central Chronicle News

AMBIKAPUR: During the holy month of Shravan, the enthusiasm of devotees immersed in devotion to Lord Bholenath is at its peak. In this spirit, Rajesh Agrawal, the Tourism and Culture Minister of the Chhattisgarh Government, extended a warm welcome and hospitality to the pilgrims undertaking the Kanwar Yatra from Ramgarh to Kailash Gufa. He met with the pilgrims,

inquired about their journey, and conveyed his best wishes for a pleasant, safe, and successful pilgrimage. Minister Rajesh Agrawal remarked that the Kanwar Yatra undertaken during the month of Shravan is not merely a religious trip but a journey of faith, devotion, penance, and dedication. The unwavering faith and trust of the devotees in Lord Shiva are evident throughout this pilgrimage. Despite challenging conditions and the hardships of a long-distance trek, the pilgrims complete their journey with immense enthusiasm and reverence. This pilgrimage stands as a testament to the spiritual energy of the devotees and their profound faith in Lord Bholenath.

SCHEDULE

Election schedule announced

KORBA: The election schedule for the members of the Board of Directors of the Adarsh Adivasi Kosa Silk-Worm Rearing Industry Cooperative Society Ltd., Kudrikhar (Registration No. 101, Block Korba, District Korba) has been released. According to the schedule announced by Returning Officer Subhadra Sidar, nomination papers are to be submitted at the society's office on August 24, 2026, between 11:00 AM and 1:00 PM. The scrutiny of nomination papers and the publication of the list of valid nominations will take place on August 25.

| EFFECTIVENESS OF CRIMINAL CASE INVESTIGATION |

Convictions secured in 62 court cases

Central Chronicle News

BAIKUNTHPUR: The police department has conducted a review aimed at enhancing the effectiveness of criminal case investigations and legal proceedings in the Sarguja Range. Inspector General (IG) of Police, Sarguja Range, Deepak Kumar Jha, held a range-level review meeting at the Police Coordination Center to examine various cases in detail. During the meeting, a review was conducted of 578 cases–comprising 174 in Sessions Courts and 404 in subordinate courts–that resulted in acquittals during May and June.

Meanwhile, the IG commended the concerned police officers for securing convictions in 62 Sessions Court cases during the same period. The 62 cases resulting in convictions included matters related to serious crimes: 18 cases of murder, 12 of attempted murder, 8 of rape, 11 under the SC/ST Act, 4 under the POCSO Act, 7 under the NDPS Act, and 2 involving corruption and fraud.

| BUSINESS TRAINING ON AI TOOLS |

Over 100 people attend JCI Korba Central's AI business training

Central Chronicle News

KORBA: JCI Korba Central organized a special training program titled "The Mega Business Training - AI Tools for Business Growth." More than 100 businesspeople participated in the event. The objective of the training was to raise awareness among businesspeople regarding the practical and effective use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) technology in the evolving business landscape. The training session was conducted by Pune-based trainer and author Goldy Ambwani. He shared valuable information with the participants regarding the practical application of Artificial Intelligence across various business sectors. He explained how AI-based tools can be utilized to simplify daily business operations, save time, enhance productivity, and facilitate better communication. During the training, participants were informed about various aspects of using AI tools in business. The session highlighted how the effective use of technology can help streamline and simplify routine business tasks.

NATIONAL LOK ADALAT

Meeting held for Lok Adalat

KORBA: In accordance with the directives of the National Legal Services Authority (New Delhi) and the Chhattisgarh State Legal Services Authority (Bilaspur), and under the guidance of the Principal District & Sessions Judge/ Chairman of the District Legal Services Authority (Korba), a meeting was held regarding the successful implementation of the National Lok Adalat scheduled for September 12, 2026. Chaired by the constituted panel, the meeting involved officials from the Korba Municipal Corporation, Chhattisgarh State Power Distribution Companies (CSPDCL).

| TRAINING FOR TEACHERS |

Training for teachers held to strengthen skills

Central Chronicle News

RAIGARH: A meeting-cum-training session was organized at Primary School Bodatikra in Pusaur Block with the aim of strengthening children's foundational academic skills and improving the quality of education at the primary level. On Saturday, August 22, training was provided to teachers instructing Mathematics in classes 3, 4, and 5 across the primary schools of the Garhumariya, Doomarmuda, and Chhatamura clusters.

Block Education Officer (BEO) Shri Bhuvneshwar Patel stated that the training covered the objectives of the National Curriculum Framework (NCF) 2005, the development of mathematical aptitude in children, and the achievement of foundational literacy and numeracy goals through classroom activities. Methods were demonstrated to enhance student participation and simplify complex concepts using mathematical models and teaching-learning materials.

BEO Bhuvneshwar Patel instructed teachers to ensure regular and punctual attendance during school hours, record attendance on the VSK app, and complete the syllabus on time in accordance with the curriculum breakdown. Headmasters were directed to regularly monitor classes and ensure the achievement of grade-appropriate learning outcomes among students.

Minister distributes wheelchairs to persons with disabilities.

Central Chronicle News

BALRAMPUR: Minister for Women & Child Development and Social Welfare, Laxmi Rajwade, distributed various assistive devices and materials to six persons with disabilities today at the Balrampur Joint District Office complex. On this occasion, she interacted warmly with the beneficiaries, inquiring about their well-being and gathering information regarding their health, daily living needs, and the challenges they face. Minister Rajwade provided crutches to Dhaneshwar Soni (resident of Sauni); wheelchairs to Nishant Paikra (Bhanaura) and Mahima Das (Barki Mahri); walking sticks to Gaurishankar and Phanu Singh (Bhanaura); and a smartphone to Mamta Pal (Sauni). Upon receiving the assistive devices, the beneficiaries expressed their happiness and gratitude towards the government and administration. These devices will facilitate easier mobility for persons with disabilities and help them become more self-reliant in their daily activities.

RURAL LIVELIHOOD

1020 bags of improved fish seed distributed

KOREA: The Korea district administration is making continuous efforts to strengthen the rural economy and increase the income of farmers and women's self-help groups. As part of this initiative, and under the guidance of Collector Smt. Roktima Yadav and the efforts of District Panchayat CEO Shri Yogendra Shrivas, 1020 bags of improved fish seed were distributed to 174 farmers in the district. This distribution was carried out under the joint aegis of the VB-Gram-G scheme, the National Rural Livelihood Mission (Bihan), and the Fisheries Department.

|TB-FREE INDIA CAMPAIGN |

Preparations underway to make block 'TB-free'

Central Chronicle News

SURAJPUR: A significant initiative was launched in Surajpur district on Saturday as part of the resolve to make the country completely free from tuberculosis (TB). Under the guidance of Collector Smt. Rena Jameel and the directives of Chief Medical and Health Officer (CMHO) Dr. K.D. Paikra, a one-day district-level workshop was organized at the District Hospital's conference hall under the "TB-Free India Campaign." Cadets from the National Cadet Corps (NCC) and youth volunteers from 'My Bharat' participated in the event. The primary objective of the workshop was to groom the district's youth and student force to serve as health ambassadors.

During the program, specialist doctors from the Health Department and district TB officials provided detailed training to the cadets and volunteers regarding TB symptoms, modern diagnostic methods, and the free treatment facilities provided by the government. Experts emphasized that a complete cure for TB is possible, provided symptoms are identified early and the patient completes the full course of medication without interruption. In his message, the Chief Medical and Health Officer noted that NCC cadets possess discipline, while 'My Bharat' volunteers possess a spirit of social service.

"The government has set a target to declare Bhaiyathan block completely TB-free by December 2026."

Dr. Rajesh Paikra
TB Nodal Officer

Relief from pain, swelling after wisdom tooth surgery

BAIKUNTHPUR: Patients can now find quicker relief from the unbearable pain, facial swelling, and difficulty opening the mouth that follow impacted third molar (wisdom tooth) surgery. This significant finding has emerged from a new clinical study conducted by Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeon Dr. Ramkrishna Yadav and his research team. According to this double-blind randomized controlled trial–published in the official journal of the Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons of India by the world-renowned publisher Springer Nature–combining the traditional painkiller Diclofenac with the proteolytic enzyme combination of Trypsin, Bromelain, and Rutoside significantly accelerates patient recovery.

Fun&Focus

IT'S QUIZ TIME

1. This prehistoric-looking mammal has a body covered with overlapping scales and rolls into a tight ball when threatened. It is heavily poached in India because its scales are falsely believed to have medicinal properties. Which animal is it?

2. Venus is covered by thick, highly reflective clouds that are mainly made up of droplets of which highly corrosive substance?

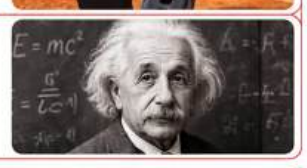
3. Which Deccan Sultan, known for his love of music, wrote the Kitab-i-Nauras, a collection of Dakhni songs praising both Hindu deities and Sufi saints and reflecting the region's shared cultural traditions?

4. In 2008, Tata Motors made a major international acquisition by buying which famous British carmaker?

5. In the Yogini tradition, which group of 64 goddesses are worshipped as attendants of Devi in unique circular, open-air temples such as the one at Hirapur in Odisha?

6. Starting with the 2026 French Open, Grand Slam tournaments allowed players to use which device during matches to access more detailed performance data?

7. Which two countries granted Albert Einstein citizenship between his German citizenship and later American citizenship?



ANSWERS-

(1) Indian Pangolin (2) Sulfuric acid (3) Ibrahim Adil Shah II of Bijapur (4) Jaguar Land Rover (5) Chausath Yoginis (6) Wearable fitness trackers (7) Switzerland and Austria

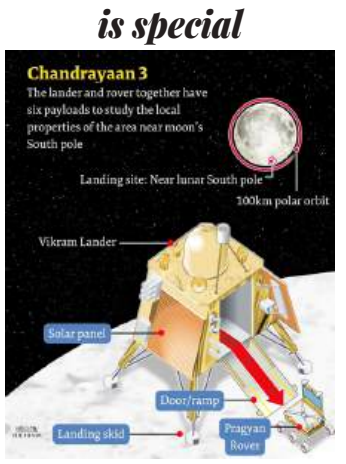
RamaQuiz

SCIENCE WATCH

Today is National Space Day

August 23 is officially celebrated as National Space Day in India. The day marks the successful soft landing of the Chandrayaan-3 lander and rover on the lunar South Pole region in 2023, making India the first nation to reach the Moon's southern polar area.

Why the day is special



The day commemorates Vikram lander and Pragyan rover touching down at the "Shiv Shakti" point. And with this India became the fourth country to land a spacecraft on the Moon.

Youth towards STEM & Space

PM Narendra Modi officially proclaimed August 23rd as National Space Day to honour space scientists and inspire youth in STEM fields. The first official celebration had the theme "Touching Lives while Touching the Moon: India's Space Saga".

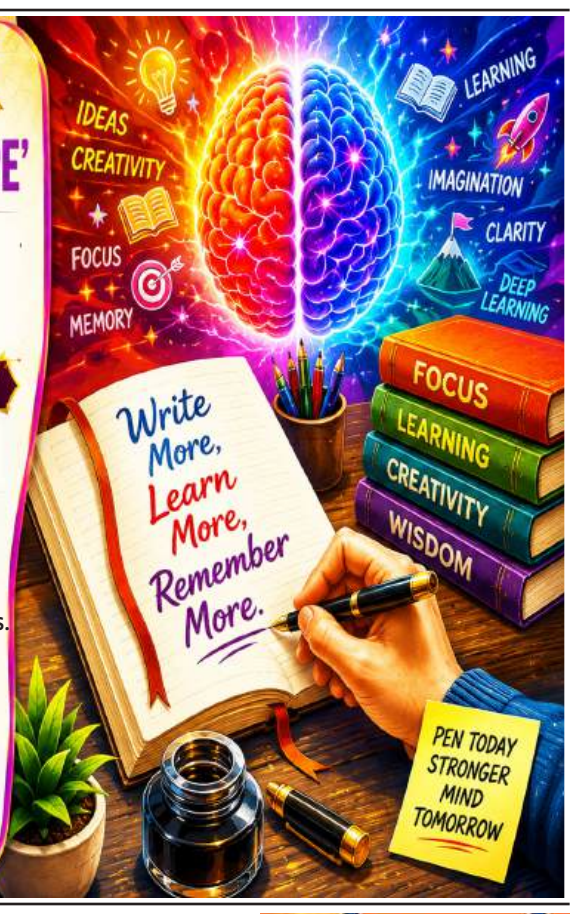
WISDOM

BETTER 'WRITE' AND NOT 'TYPE'

Writing by hand activates more brain regions than typing. It improves memory, deepens learning, and forces you to slow down to process ideas. Typing is fast, but pen and paper build stronger neural connections.

THE MANY FACETS OF WRITING

1. Brain activation: Hand movements link strongly to language and meaning networks.
2. Recall: Physical strokes make it easier to remember facts later.
3. Fewer distractions: Paper does not have pop-ups, tabs, or notifications.
4. Slow filtration: Writing acts as a filter that stops random thoughts from rushing past.
5. Flow state: Physical writing lets your imagination lead instead of your fast, editing mind.



August 24- THE DAY IN HISTORY

1. August 24 holds several notable milestones in Indian history, most prominently the birth of freedom fighters Shivaram Rajguru in 1908, and K. Kelappan, often called "Kerala Gandhi' in 1889.

2. On August 23, 1999 Pakistan declined to recognize eight Indian soldiers captured during the Kargil conflict as official prisoners of war.

3. Same day in 2011, the Supreme Court of India ruled that privacy is a fundamental right under the Indian Constitution in landmark related discussions.

4. Also on this day in 1949, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) officially went into effect and in 1991; Ukraine declared its independence from the Soviet Union.

Daily Horoscope

Aries

Pleasure trips and social get-togethers will keep you relaxed and happy. Together with your spouse, you can discuss finances and plan your wealth for your future. Blessing from an aged relative who seeks your efforts in solving personal problems. Relive your precious moments by going on a picnic.

Cosmic tip: Stay open to the miracles.

Taurus

Self medication could cause drug dependency. Take a physician advice before taking any drug-otherwise chances of drug dependency are high. People who had invested their money in the past are likely to benefit from that investment today. Today is going to be a great day for you.

Cosmic tip: Serendipities is coming.

Gemini

Take proper care about your diet especially migraine patients who should not miss their meal otherwise it could give them undue emotional stress. Today instead of just sitting around-why not get involved in something- which will improve your earning power. Trouble seems to be brewing on the home front.

Cosmic tip: Decide the direction.

Cancer

You will have abundance of energy- but work pressure seems to get you irritated. Your money comes to your work only when you stop yourself from spending extravagantly, today you can understand this thing well. In a happy-energetic-nature bring joy and happiness to those around you.

Cosmic tip: Choose peace and freedom.

Leo

Sheer pleasure and enjoyment for those venturing out to have fun. If you were about to take a loan and had been engaged in this work for a long time, then today is your lucky day. Get everybody to your big party. You'll have that extra bit of energy today which will make you organize events for your group.

Cosmic tip: Feel accepted and loved.

Virgo

You will be very vulnerable emotionally- therefore stay away from situations in which you're likely to get hurt. Today, you may have to spend a lot of money on your mother or father's health. This will, though, deteriorate your financial condition but also strengthen the relationship.

Cosmic tip: The Universe is not testing you.

Libra

Some people might feel that you are too old to learn something new-but that is far from the truth- you will easily learn new things because of your sharp and active mind. Perfect day to purchase items that would grow in value. You will face some problems today.

Cosmic tip: Simply stay consistent.

Scorpio

Company of humourous relatives will lessen your tension and give you the much-needed relief. You are fortunate to have these kinds of relatives. Although your financial position improves but the outflow of money will still create hindrance in executing your projects. Spouse will encourage you to get rid of smoking.

Cosmic tip: Drag forward. Finally move.

Sagittarius

Be careful not to neglect yourself when it comes to health matters. At the beginning of the day, you may suffer from any financial loss, which can spoil the whole day. Children will make you feel proud with their achievements. If you live away from home, then utilize your free time today by talking to your family.

Cosmic tip: What are you begrudgingly accepting?

Capricorn

Do not allow the feeling of frustration overtake you. Money position will improve later in the day. At the moment you must be facing some problems but these are momentary and will wither away with the time. If you have been waiting for a long time for then you are sure to find some relief.

Cosmic tip: Step to the next amazing chapter.

Aquarius

You will have abundance of energy- but work pressure seems to get you irritated. Today, you can learn the skill of accumulating and saving money and put it to the right use. Family front could be problematic. Your negligence of family responsibilities may invite their ire.

Cosmic tip: Future requires a perspective.

Pisces

You would get relief from the tensions and strains of life which you have been experiencing for long. It is right time to change your life style to permanently keep them a bay. Speculation will bring in profits. Students of this zodiac sign may find it difficult to concentrate on their studies today.

Cosmic tip: Care for. Slow down.

WORD OF THE DAY

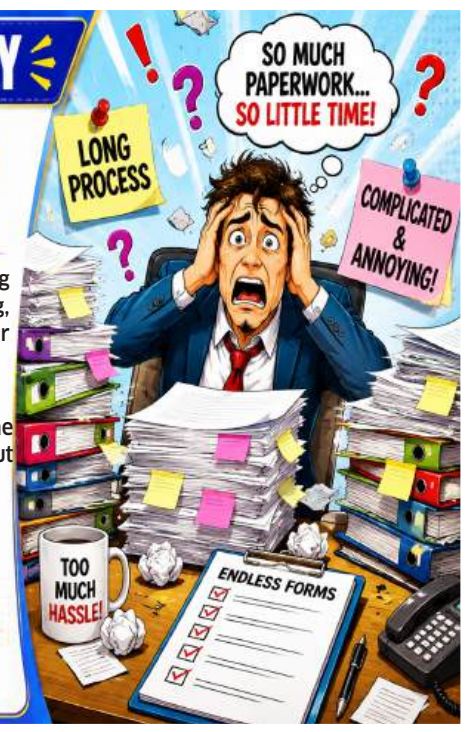
Rigmarole

Meaning –
A long, complicated, and annoying process, or a-long, confusing, and meaningless piece of talk or nonsense

Example –
"I did not want to go through the whole rigmarole of filling out endless paper forms again."

Synonyms –
Fuss, Hassle, Palaver, Nonsense

Antonyms –
Sense, Truth, Simplicity, Straightforwardness



HUMOUR AT IT'S BEST

Judge and Defendant

Judge: "Why did you steal that watch?"

Defendant: "I was just trying to pass the time."

Judge: "Order! Order in the court!"

Defendant: "I'll have a burger and fries, please!"

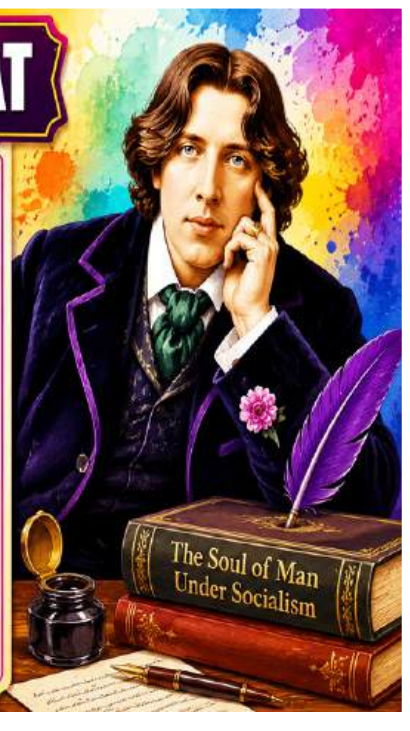
HINDI MADE EASY

1. 'प्रकाश संश्लेषण' – Photosynthesis
2. सर्वव्यापी – Ubiquitous, Omnipresent
3. स्थानिक रोग – Endemic Disease
4. वायुमंडल – atmosphere

WHO SAID THAT

"To live is the rarest thing in the world. Most people exist, that is all".

This famous quote was said by the Irish writer and poet Oscar Wilde in 1891. The line was published in his philosophical essay 'The Soul of Man Under Socialism'.



CROSSWORD -212

Across
1 The drink of the gods (6)
4 Game played in a court (6)
8 British soldier (5)
9 Fictional vampire (7)
10 Car frame (7)
11 Skirts worn by ballerinas (5)
12 Police officer (9)
17 Vertical part of a stair (5)
19 Be enough (7)
21 Decorated (7)
22 Scottish dances (5)
23 14-line poem (6)
24 Confer, impart (6)

Down
1 Observe (6)
2 Red aperitif (7)
3 Bottomless gulf (5)
5 Group of four musicians (7)
6 Grown-up (5)
7 Funeral car (6)
9 Scattered (9)
13 Odd (7)
14 Apparel (7)
15 Fractures (6)
16 Playground item (6)
18 Contempt (5)
20 Smithy (5)

CROSSWORD SOLUTION- 211

SUDOKU- 212

	4		6	3				
	2						4	1
				4	5		8	
	5					1		8
		4				9		
2		1					7	
	3		8	5				
8	7						2	
				9	7		1	

SUDOKU SOLUTION- 211

5	9	7	6	8	4	1	2	3
8	3	6	1	2	5	9	4	7
2	4	1	9	3	7	5	8	6
9	7	2	5	6	3	4	1	8
4	6	3	8	1	9	7	5	2
1	5	8	7	4	2	3	6	9
3	1	5	2	7	6	8	9	4
7	2	9	4	5	8	6	3	1
6	8	4	3	9	1	2	7	5

DAILY WORD SEARCH

- Bathos
- Iamb
- Satire
- Couplet
- Imagery
- Simile
- Dactyl
- Irony
- Sonnet
- Elegy
- Lyric
- Spondee
- Elision
- Measure
- Stanza
- Epic
- Prose
- Verse
- Foot
- Rhyme

I	Y	P	O	R	S	A	Z	N	A	T	S	
A	N	R	C	H	E	P	T	F	D	D	L	
M	O	O	C	Y	M	E	O	Y	O	Y	V	
B	R	S	O	M	E	T	T	N	T	O	R	
S	I	E	U	E	A	E	E	C	D	E	T	
A	C	I	P	E	S	Y	A	N	L	E	E	
T	S	E	L	R	U	D	G	I	N	L	E	
I	O	A	E	A	R	C	S	E	I	O	H	
R	H	V	T	P	E	I	I	M	L	I	S	
E	T	L	E	C	O	R	I	E	S	E	D	
U	A	L	L	N	U	S	L	Y	R	I	C	
V	B	I	M	A	G	E	R	Y	I	E	I	

Business

"Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link has given access to markets for farmers and traders while boosting tourism and economic activity."

Ashwini Vaishnaw
Railway Minister

Classic 350 Gorkha Edition launch

Royal Enfield officials pose with the newly launched Classic 350 Gorkha Edition during its launch, in New Delhi. PTI.

Geo-political deals, crude oil prices to decide market fate

Crude oil prices and developments in the US-Iran conflict will remain the primary factors influencing stock market movements this week, according to analysts.

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Crude oil prices and developments in the US-Iran conflict are expected to remain the key factors influencing stock market movements this week, analysts said.

Investors will closely watch the Jackson Hole symposium, especially comments from US Federal Reserve Chairman Kevin Warsh, for clues about the central bank's future interest rate policy. US GDP estimates, durable goods orders and consumer confidence data will also offer signals about the health of the economy and the Fed's policy outlook.

"Investors will closely monitor the Jackson Hole symposium, particularly comments from the US Federal Reserve Chairman, for indications on the future trajectory of interest rates," Ajit Mishra, SVP, Research, Religare Broking Ltd, said. On the domestic front, investors will track movements in the rupee, foreign institutional investor flows and domestic liquidity conditions, Mishra added. Ponmudi R, CEO of Enrich Money, said global markets are focused on three major themes: the Federal Reserve's policy direction, Nvidia's quarterly results and the unresolved US-Iran conflict.

He said Fed Chair Kevin Warsh's address at Jackson Hole will be closely watched for signals on how the central bank is balancing persistent inflation risks with signs of a weaker labour market ahead of its September policy meeting. Crude oil prices remain another major external risk for global and Indian markets. The 60-day US-Iran agreement expired without a lasting settlement, keeping tensions around the Strait of Hormuz unresolved. Disruptions to energy flows through the region could put further pressure on crude prices.

Foreign portfolio investors have increased their buying in Indian equities this month, investing Rs 23,544 crore so far in August. This could provide some support to domestic markets despite global uncertainties.

NUMBER

60

•The 60-day US-Iran peace deal expired without settlement, and Strait of Hormuz remains an unresolved confrontation.

ASHISHKUMAR CHAUHAN: ARCHITECT OF INDIA'S MODERN MARKETS

A pioneering technocrat whose vision transformed India's exchanges, technology, and financial access.

Central Chronicle Raipur/New Delhi

He helped build NSE's screen-based trading, derivatives ecosystem, satellite network, and Nifty.

He revitalised BSE, expanded market access, and now leads NSE's next chapter.

Ashishkumar Chauhan, Managing Director and CEO of the National Stock Exchange of India, is a distinguished financial-markets leader and technology pioneer. An alumnus of IIT Bombay and IIM Calcutta, he previously led BSE and held senior roles at Reliance Industries, NSE and IDBI Bank. His influential academic and public appointments complement numerous global honours, including a 2023 Lifetime Achievement Award.

EARLY FOUNDATIONS

Ashishkumar Chauhan combines engineering discipline, management training and institution-building experience. After earning a mechanical engineering degree from IIT Bombay and a postgraduate management diploma from IIM Calcutta, he joined IDBI in 1991 as an industrial finance officer.

BUILDING THE NSE

In 1993, Chauhan became part of the core team that established the National Stock Exchange. Until 2000, he helped develop its equities and derivatives markets and technology backbone. His work covered screen-based trading, satellite telecommunications, clearing systems and depository infrastructure. He is also widely associated with the development of the Nifty index and is often described as a pioneer of modern financial derivatives in India.

TECHNOLOGY AND ENTERPRISE

After leaving NSE in 2001, Chauhan entered the Reliance Group. He later served as chief information officer of Reliance Infocomm and Group CIO. His diverse career also included leading the Mumbai Indians cricket franchise during its formative period.

TRANSFORMING BSE

Chauhan joined BSE as deputy CEO in 2009 and became its chief executive in 2012. During a decade at the helm, he supported technological modernisation, broader product offerings and new routes for investor participation. Important initiatives included the BSE StAR MF mutual-fund distribution platform and India International Exchange at GIFT City, inaugurated in 2017.

RETURNING TO NSE

In 2022, Chauhan returned to NSE as managing director and CEO, bringing decades of experience across finance, technology and institution building. NSE continues to list him in that position.

PUBLIC LEADERSHIP

His influence extends beyond stock exchanges. Chauhan serves on the University Grants Commission, is Chancellor of the University of Allahabad, and sits on the board of IIM Calcutta. He has also held roles connected with the World Federation of Exchanges and the Data Security Council of India. His journey reflects a sustained commitment to modern markets, digital infrastructure, education and public institutions.

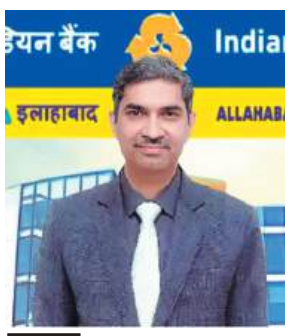
Gold loan to cross Rs 1.5 lakh cr next year : MD Binod

Press Trust Of India

CHENNAI: Public sector lender Indian Bank expects its gold loan book to cross Rs 1.5 lakh crore in the current financial year, supported by robust demand for the product. "Gold loan is safe lending for banks...it is not a consumption loan, but mostly it is income-generating and also helps small businesses to grow.

Last year, we saw very significant growth of 30 per cent in the segment due to a jump in gold prices. It will be slower this year as there is a 30 per cent decline in gold prices," Indian Bank MD and CEO Binod Kumar told PTI in an interaction.

This growth would come from tonnage, he said, adding that the gold loan segment is likely to grow about 20 per cent. Currently, the gold loan portfolio is around Rs 1.25 lakh crore, and the book should exceed Rs 1.5 lakh crore during this financial year at the anticipated growth rate, he said.



HIGHLIGHT

•Public sector lender Indian Bank expects its gold loan book to cross Rs 1.5 lakh crore in the current financial year, supported by robust demand for the product.

| JAPAN VISIT |

Goyal leads business group in Japan visit for trade ties

Press Trust Of India

Union Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal will visit Japan from August 24 to 27, leading India's largest-ever business delegation.

NEW DELHI: Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal will visit Japan from August 24 to 27, leading India's largest-ever business delegation to the country as New Delhi and Tokyo seek to deepen bilateral trade and investment ties.

Goyal will travel to Tokyo, Nagoya and Osaka with a delegation comprising more than 200 business representatives from sectors including manufacturing, semiconductors, clean energy, steel, automotive, financial services, healthcare and start-ups. During his visit to Tokyo, Goyal will hold meetings with senior leaders of major Japanese conglomerates and industrial houses and participate in a round-table with Keidanren, the Japan Business Federation, which represents more than 1,500 leading Japanese companies. Dedicated sessions on semiconductors and artificial intelligence, start-ups and engagement with foreign institutional investors are also scheduled.

Goyal will hold bilateral talks with Japan's Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry Akazawa Ryosei and meet senior members of the Japanese Government and Parliament. He will also interact with the Indian community in Japan.

In Nagoya, the industrial hub of Central Japan, Goyal will lead a roadshow with Chukeiren, the Central Japan Economic Federation, and the Nagoya Chamber of Commerce and Industry. He is also scheduled to engage with the Aichi Prefecture leadership and major manufacturing investors from the automotive and steel sectors.

HIGHLIGHT

• Goyal will be leading a group of over 200 business leaders from semiconductors, clean energy, steel, automotive, healthcare and start-ups.

| FMCG-LEADERSHIP |

FMCG firms change leadership amid challenges

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The Indian fast-moving consumer goods (FMCG) sector is witnessing a wave of leadership changes, with several leading companies appointing new chief executives and elevating senior executives as they seek to sharpen execution, drive growth and adapt to an evolving consumer landscape.

In the last 12 months or so, at least half a dozen major FMCG companies, including Hindustan Unilever Ltd (HUL), Godrej Consumer Products Ltd (GCPL), Dabur India, Britannia Industries and Colgate-Palmolive India, have announced transitions at the top level, with Nestle India's own change of guard having taken place just before that window. These leadership changes have come at a time when FMCG companies are grappling with a challenging operating environment marked by uneven consumer demand, rising competition from regional and local players, and pressure to deliver volume-led growth while protecting market share, profitability and earnings.

Companies are also contending with elevated input costs driven by geopolitical uncertainties and supply-chain disruptions, even as investors increasingly focus on sustainable growth and margin expansion. At the same time, premiumisation continues to reshape consumer demand across categories, prompting FMCG firms to recalibrate product portfolios and strengthen innovation capabilities to capture higher-value consumption opportunities.

FUNDS

IIFCL initiates USD 1.8-bn ECB fund-raising programme

NEW DELHI: State-owned India Infrastructure Finance Company Ltd (IIFCL) has kick-started its USD 1.8 billion External Commercial Borrowing (ECB) fund-raising programme by mobilising USD 200 million through international markets. The mobilisation marks the first milestone in IIFCL's broader international fund-raising programme, following government approval to raise about USD 1.8 billion through ECBs, the company said in a statement on Sunday. The company is pursuing opportunities across international financial markets with a focus on competitive pricing, prudent risk management and mobilisation of long-term resources to support India's infrastructure financing requirements.

BUSINESS

SBI's business may reach Rs 200 lakh cr by 2030: Chairman

NEW DELHI: State Bank of India's total business could potentially double to around Rs 200 lakh crore by 2030, when the bank celebrates its platinum jubilee, given the current growth trajectory, Chairman C S Setty said. SBI came into existence on July 1, 1955 through an Act of Parliament, which, among other things, provided for the transfer of the undertaking of the Imperial Bank of India.

The country's biggest lender crossed the landmark of Rs 100 lakh crore total business, which is an aggregate of total loans and advances in the second quarter of the last financial year. This further increased to Rs 110.01 lakh crore at the send of June 2026.

AD CAP FOR TV CHANNELS

Govt removes 12-minute ad cap for TV channels to promote fair competition & ease of doing business

NEW DELHI: The Government has decided to remove the 12-minute advertisement duration cap for television channels, a move aimed at promoting fair competition in the broadcasting sector and improving ease of doing business. The cap was introduced in 2006 under the Cable Television Networks Rules, 1994, when India's television broadcasting landscape was significantly smaller and less competitive. At that time, the country had only 62 television channels, compared with more than 900 channels currently.

The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MIB) said the television sector had undergone substantial technological and structural changes since the advertisement cap was introduced. In 2006, cable television was largely analogue and had limited carriage capacity, giving consumers relatively few viewing choices.

Since then, the cable television sector has been completely digitised, while distribution platforms such as Direct-to-Home (DTH), Cable TV, Headend-in-the-Sky (HITS) and Internet Protocol Television (IPTV) have expanded their capacity. These platforms now carry 300 to 500 or more channels, providing viewers with a wider range of content and creating greater competition within the broadcasting market. The Ministry said the changes in the sector had made it necessary to reconsider the existing restrictions on advertisement duration.

Television broadcasting in India remains heavily dependent on advertising revenue, whether channels operate on a pay or free-to-air basis. The government also noted that traditional television channels faced a disadvantage compared with digital media platforms, which are not subject to a similar advertisement duration cap. The Ministry said there was now adequate competition both within the television broadcasting industry and between television and digital media.

Nation News

| PAINTING A GROWTH PICTURE |

Modernists and emerging artists expand market

Raja Ravi Varma's "Yashoda and Krishna" auctioned at Rs 167.2 cr in 2026.

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Amrita Sher-Gil's "The Storyteller" breaks the world record for an Indian artist with Rs 61.8 crore in 2023. Followed by M F Husain clocking Rs 118 crore for "Gram Yatra" in 2025 and Raja Ravi Varma's "Yashoda and Krishna" auctioned at Rs 167.2 crore in 2026.

The records are tumbling every year as it were. If the numbers by the greats are staggering so are these by lesser known artists. Take, for instance, Asit Kumar Haldar's "Mother India" (Division of Bengal) that sold for Rs 2.07 crore against an estimate of approximately Rs 8-12 lakh, over 25 times its lower estimate, or Shanti Dave's Untitled (1971) that went for Rs 3.25 crore against an estimate of approximately Rs 32-45 lakh. The sales have established a trend for Indian artists, especially modernists, in a market that luxury intelligence magazine LuxeTrope pegs at nearly Rs 3,000 crore, a sharp spike from a few crore at the turn of the century.

It all paints a picture of Indian art widening its canvas beyond just a few high value transactions. A growth story seemingly centred around a handful of master modernists but one motivated by the expansion of the collector base thanks to new and informed buyers, increase in buyer participation from within India, and the country's growing presence at international exhibitions, museums, and institutions.

A visitor looks at artworks at an exhibition of paintings by 21 Gond Pradhan artists from Patangarh, Madhya Pradesh, at the India International Centre,

The price surge, according to Dinesh Vazirani, co-founder and CEO of Saffronart Auction House, can be attributed to wanting "a slice of the best work".

"The renewed interest in Indian art is closely tied to the growing international recognition of India's modernist movement. A new generation of Indian collectors has also developed a stronger desire to acquire works by modernist artists, who occupy a foundational place in India's artistic narrative," added Manoj Mansukhani, director - marketing at AstaGuru Auction House.

Indian collectors now drive largest purchases

"One of the most important shifts in recent years is that many of the largest purchases are now being made by collectors based within India. Many new collectors are entering the market through contemporary art before moving toward historical works, while others begin by acquiring works at relatively accessible price points," he said. Commercial art platforms such as India Art Fair and Art Mumbai as well as forums like international exhibitions like Kochi-Muziris Biennale have been introducing Indian art enthusiasts to international works and vice versa. At its 17th edition in February this year, India Art Fair hosted "its largest and most international presentation to date" with 133 exhibitors in total, nearly 25 of which came from outside of India. Jaya Asokan, director of the India Art Fair, while modern Indian art is seeing the most visible growth in terms of headline prices and auction performance, contemporary art, South Asian diaspora practices and younger artists are also seeing significant momentum.

HIGHLIGHT

- India Art Fair expands international presence further
- Business houses lead; young entrepreneurs join

New study

BENGALURU: Amazon Ads unveiled findings from a new study examining how AI is transforming advertising for small and medium businesses (SMBs) in India.

The research conducted found that AI is helping businesses overcome traditional barriers of cost, complexity and limited resources, making sophisticated advertising more accessible than ever before.

Nearly nine in ten (87%) SMBs say AI-powered advertising tools have enabled them to access advertising channels, audiences or formats that previously felt out of reach, including high-impact video formats such as streaming TV.

Beyond expanding access, AI is also helping businesses grow, with 75% saying AI-enabled advertising has supported business growth. 68% say it has unlocked greater creativity in their advertising by virtue of simplified tools.

"We are seeing Indian SMBs approach advertising with a confidence we have not seen before. The share of Amazon advertisers using AI-powered tools in India has grown by 77% year over year with SMBs generating 62% more ad creatives with those tools in Q1 2026 over last year.

Today, AI-powered tools are opening up channels like streaming TV that once felt reserved for big brands with big budgets.

ED raids IAS officer Gangwar

Press Trust Of India

ED raids IAS officer Gangwar's premises in KPSC case.

BENGALURU: The Enforcement Directorate on Sunday raided the premises of IAS officer Gyanendra Kumar Gangwar in Bengaluru and Bareilly in connection with its money laundering investigation linked to alleged irregularities in an exam conducted by the Karnataka Public Service Commission (KPSC), officials said.

Gangwar is a 2016-batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer and is currently posted as Director-MSME in the Karnataka Department of Industries and Commerce.

He earlier served as the Controller of Examinations at the KPSC and was replaced in March this year.

Officials said Gangwar's premises in Bengaluru's Jayamahal area and Uttar Pradesh's Bareilly were searched under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

It was not immediately known if the officer was found on the premises by the central agency.

A controversy erupted on Saturday after Gangwar was reported "missing" for a few hours. Later, Karnataka Home Minister Priyank Kharge denied the reports and clarified that Gangwar was in his native place in Uttar Pradesh following a family emergency involving his father's health.

Kharge said reports that Gangwar had gone missing and that his absence was linked to the ED searches at the KPSC were untrue. He said he had personally spoken to the officer, who would return soon.

"Circumstances might have led to such conclusions, but nothing of that sort happened," he said.

"While the circumstances might suggest a link to the KPSC, he (Gangwar) has very clearly said that he is open to an inquiry by any agency as a government servant. There are no allegations against him currently, and no one has filed an application seeking an inquiry against him; let this be very clear," Kharge told reporters on Saturday.

The ED, on August 18, conducted the first round of searches in this case at the KPSC head office in Bengaluru apart from those of former Chairman Shivashankarappa S Sahukar, Member Shanta Hosmani and some others.

FASTFACTS

- 2016-batch IAS officer, Director-MSME Karnataka.
- Replaced as KPSC exam controller in March.

NEWSLINE

PATNA

'Nishant will be Bihar CM'

Senior JD(U) leader Devesh Chandra Thakur on Sunday voiced hope that Bihar Health Minister Nishant would "follow in the footsteps of his father", Nitish Kumar, the party's president, and rise to become the state's chief minister. Thakur was replying to queries from journalists in Sitamarhi, his Lok Sabha constituency, where the state health minister was on a tour, and received a rousing welcome from JD(U) workers across the district.

'Strong recovery frameworks'

Robust recovery frameworks are critical to fulfilling national climate commitments and positioning India as a global benchmark for sustainable textile manufacturing, Union Minister Giriraj Singh has said. He visited the Textile Recovery Facility (TRF) in Navi Mumbai on Saturday, marking the Foundation Day of the Textiles Committee. During his visit, the minister inspected end-to-end processing operations, including automated sorting, fibre identification, shredding, and secondary material recovery, aimed at diverting post-consumer and pre-consumer textile waste from municipal landfills, according to an official release.

Nursing exam paper photographed mid-test

Press Trust Of India

The malpractice came to light during an inspection by central inspectors

MUMBAI: Five persons were arrested in Maharashtra's Parbhani after an exam supervisor allegedly clicked a photograph of a question paper on her mobile phone minutes into the examination at a nursing school and sent it to her sister, police said on Sunday.

The alleged malpractice occurred during the examination of the first-year General Nursing and Midwifery course at the Indira Gandhi A.N.M. Nursing School on Friday, an official said.

Police arrested the accused, examination supervisor Rakhi Chavan, her sister Rani Chavan, one Pratiksha Kiran Khillare, Ishwar Baraboina and Dilip Borkar in connection with the incident.

According to the police, Rakhi, who was deployed at the examination centre in Parbhani, allegedly took a photograph of the question paper on her mobile phone soon after the examination commenced at 10.30 am and sent it to her sister through WhatsApp. The malpractice came to light during an inspection by central inspectors, the official said.

Suspecting that the question paper had been taken out of the examination centre while the test was in progress, centre inspector Vishwajit Mathapati searched the female invigilator and, on scanning her mobile phone, found a photograph of the question paper. The official said the examination was conducted as per schedule without interruption.

Challenging environment

NEW DELHI: Ai+ Smartphone announced a price revision of Approx Rs 2,000 across select devices in its smartphone portfolio, effective immediately. The adjustment comes in response to sustained increases in component and input costs impacting the broader smartphone industry. The smartphone industry continues to navigate a challenging cost environment, with rising costs across key components, particularly memory, alongside manufacturing, logistics and other critical inputs. These pressures have increasingly impacted device economics across price segments, requiring brands to reassess pricing while continuing to balance affordability with product experience. Ai+ Smartphone has absorbed a significant portion of these incremental costs to maintain accessible pricing for consumers.

| SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOOD OPPORTUNITIES |

Tripura develops income avenues for Brus families

Press Trust Of India

Steps to provide Brus with sustainable livelihood opportunities.

AGARTALA: Tripura Chief Minister Manik Saha on Sunday said his government has not only resettled Bru families in the state but also taken steps to provide them with sustainable livelihood opportunities. Addressing a programme where toolkits were distributed among members of the community who were trained under a government scheme, Saha said Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah had taken the initiative for the permanent resettlement of Bru families who fled Mizoram in 1998. "The Bru families had been languishing in miserable conditions in refugee camps in the state since 1998. The Communist government, which ruled the state for 35 years, could not solve the crisis. Ultimately, the BJP government under the leadership of Narendra Modi solved it," he said at the programme in Amarpur in Gomati district. A tripartite agreement involving the Centre and the governments of Mizoram and Tripura was signed in January 2020 for the resettlement of more than 8,000 internally displaced Bru families in Tripura.

Tripura CM Manik Saha

FASTFACTS

- Modi, Shah initiated permanent Bru resettlement

CHANGE OF NAME

IT IS INFORMED TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC THAT I MUSTAFA KAPASI S/O YUSUF ALI RESIDENT OF 19/81 SUHAGAN BHANDAR ROAD KHAPARGANJ JUNI LINE BILASPUR (C.G.)-495001 HAVE CHANGED MY OLD NAME MUSTAFA KAPASI S/O YUSUF ALI, SO IN FUTURE I SHOULD BE RECOGNIZED BY MY NEW NAME AKHTAR HUSSAIN KAPASI S/O YUSUF ALI IN ALL GOVERNMENT AND OTHER DOCUMENTS.

AKHTAR HUSSAIN KAPASI
19/81, SUHAGAN BHANDAR ROAD KHAPARGANJ JUNI LINE BILASPUR (C.G.)- 495001

CHANGE OF NAME

IT IS INFORMED TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC THAT I HATIM MUSTAFA KAPASI S/O MUSTAFA KAPASI RESIDENT OF 19/81 SUHAGAN BHANDAR ROAD KHAPARGANJ JUNI LINE BILASPUR (C.G.)-495001 HAVE CHANGED MY OLD NAME HATIM MUSTAFA KAPASI S/O AKHTAR HUSSAIN KAPASI SO IN FUTURE I SHOULD BE RECOGNIZED BY MY NEW NAME HAATIM KAPASI S/O AKHTAR HUSSAIN KAPASI IN ALL GOVERNMENT AND OTHER DOCUMENTS.

HAATIM KAPASI
19/81 SUHAGAN BHANDAR ROAD KHAPARGANJ JUNI LINE BILASPUR (C.G.)-495001

| CLAIM |

'People will wipe out SP in next assly polls'

LUCKNOW: Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Sunday claimed people will "wipe out" the Samajwadi Party permanently in the next assembly elections, alleging that the opposition party had no place for the poor in its agenda. Addressing a felicitation ceremony for mid-day meal cooks and a cashless healthcare card distribution programme here, Adityanath said his government is providing social security guarantees to cooks working in government primary schools. The chief minister announced an increase in honorarium of mid-day meal cooks, financial assistance of Rs 2 lakh in case of accidents, cashless treatment up to Rs 5 lakh and an increase in the amount provided for sarees from Rs 500 to Rs 1,000. "This could have been done earlier as well, but it did not happen because the poor were never an issue in Samajwadi Party's agenda," Adityanath said.

Oppn ignored poor, lacked inclusive agenda

Yogi Adityanath
UP Chief Minister

Taking a jibe at Samajwadi Party (SP) chief Akhilesh Yadav, whom he referred to as "Babua", the chief minister said, "You must have read the statement of the Samajwadi Party chief today.

"Babua said all the members of our family are MPs, and that is why the SP remains consolidated. Notwithstanding, people will wipe it out in the next (assembly) election, permanently."

Yadav had said on Saturday that SP parliamentarians had not defected as five members of his family are MPs, while several others are Muslims and "committed socialists". Adityanath accused SP leaders of exploiting the poor for the benefit of their own families, looting the state and turning it into a haven for goons. "These people used to encroach upon the land of the poor, compromise the safety of daughters and no one was safe.

Record 416 weddings held

NEW DELHI: Ai+ Smartphone announced a price revision of Approx Rs 2,000 across select devices in its smartphone portfolio, effective immediately. The adjustment comes in response to sustained increases in component and input costs impacting the broader smartphone industry. The smartphone industry continues to navigate a challenging cost environment, with rising costs across key components, particularly memory, alongside manufacturing, logistics and other critical inputs.

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Contact Person: 1. Piramal Finance Ltd - 022-69482444

E-Auction Sale Notice- Fresh Sale

Pursuant to taking possession of the secured asset mentioned hereunder by the Authorized Officer of Piramal Finance Ltd (Formerly Piramal Capital & Housing Finance Ltd.) under the **Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002** for the recovery of amount due from borrower/s, offers are invited by the undersigned for purchase of immovable property, as described hereunder, which is in the possession, on **'As Is Where Is Basis', 'As Is What Is Basis' and 'Whatever Is There Is Basis'**, Particulars of which are given below:

Loan Code/ Branch/ Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)	Demand Notice Date and Amount	Property Address _final	Reserve Price	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) (10% of RP)	Outstanding Amount (22-08-2026)
Loan Code No.: BLSA00046CE9, Raipur (Branch), Shalabh Chaturvedi (Borrower), Sudha Chaturvedi (Co Borrower 1) Divya Chaturvedi (Co Borrower 2)	Dt: 20-05-2026, Rs. 2,67,42,177/- (Rs. Two Crore Sixty Seven Lakh Forty Two Thousand One Hundred Seventy Seven Only)	All The Piece And Parcel of The Property Having An Extent:- All The Piece And Parcels of Immovable Diverted Property Bearing Khasra No.102/4, Area 5597.233 Sq. Ft. Property Situated At Mouja- Juna Bilaspur, P.H. No. 36, R. I. C. Juna Bilaspur, Tahsil & District Bilaspur (C.G.) Boundaries As:- North:- Land of Arora West:- House of Padnamsingh East:- House of Indolikar South:- Road	Rs. 4,29,00,000/- (Rs. Four Crore Twenty Nine Lakh Only)	Rs. 42,90,000/- (Rs.Forty Two Lakh Ninety Thousand Only)	Rs. 2,88,94,498/- (Rs.Two Crore Eighty Eight Lakh Ninety Four Thousand Four Hundred Ninety Eight Only)

DATE OF E-AUCTION: 25-09-2026, FROM 11:00 A.M. TO 01:00 P.M (WITH UNLIMITED EXTENSION OF 5 MINUTES EACH)
LAST DATE OF SUBMISSION OF BID: 24-09-2026, BEFORE 04:00 P.M.

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The above-mentioned Borrower/Guarantor are hereby noticed to pay the sum as mentioned in section 13(2) notice in full with accrued interest till date before the date of auction, failing which property will be auctioned/sold and balance dues if any will be recovered with interest and cost from borrower/guarantor.

The Borrowers attention is drawn towards sub-section 8 of section 13, of the act, in respect of the time available, to redeem the secured asset.

Borrowers in particular and public in general may please take note, that in case the auction scheduled herein fails for any reason whatsoever then the secured creditor may enforce its security by the way of private treaty.

Date: August 24, 2026
Place: Bilaspur

Sd/- (Authorised Officer),
Piramal Finance Limited.

Central Chronicle

Since 1974 Volume 14 No. 145

Comment

QUOTE FROM THE QUOTABLE

"Character remains life's greatest wealth guiding honesty and lasting success always."

[Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya]

| OUR VIEW |

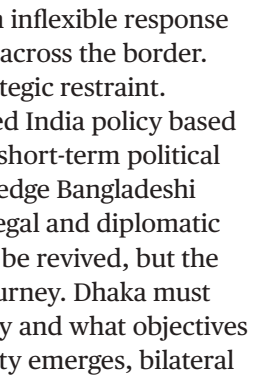
Dhaka's Political Divisions Cloud India Relations

For several days, Tarique Rahman's proposed visit to New Delhi appeared close to confirmation. Reported preparations, including a subsequently withdrawn Rashtrapati Bhavan communication, suggested that diplomacy had moved beyond preliminary discussion. Its apparent postponement now reveals a larger problem: Bangladesh's political establishment remains divided over relations with India. The immediate obstacle is Dhaka's demand for the extradition of former prime minister Sheikh Hasina. Her political statements from Indian soil have strengthened voices demanding that normal engagement with New Delhi remain suspended until the issue is resolved. What might have been handled through quiet diplomacy has become a public test of sovereignty and political credibility. There are visible differences within Bangladesh over how firmly India should be confronted. Some political forces favour a harder position, influenced partly by domestic anti-India sentiment. Others recognise that geography and shared interests make stable engagement unavoidable. Mixed signals from officials deepen uncertainty and weaken Dhaka's ability to pursue a coherent diplomatic strategy. Practical realities cannot be ignored. India and Bangladesh must cooperate on migration, border management and 54 transboundary rivers. Renewal of the Ganges Water Treaty is particularly urgent. These matters affect millions of citizens and cannot remain hostage to political rivalry or competing domestic narratives. New Delhi, too, must act with sensitivity. Describing Hasina's political activity as private does not address Dhaka's concern that Indian territory is being used to influence Bangladeshi politics. India's emphasis on reciprocity indicates that it will not accept unilateral pressure, but an inflexible response could strengthen hostile opinion across the border. Both governments now need strategic restraint. Bangladesh must develop a unified India policy based on national interests rather than short-term political advantage. India should acknowledge Bangladeshi sensitivities while protecting its legal and diplomatic position. Rahman's visit may still be revived, but the real issue extends beyond one journey. Dhaka must decide who shapes its India policy and what objectives that policy serves. Until that clarity emerges, bilateral engagement will remain vulnerable to sudden reversals, public posturing and avoidable mistrust.

| GUEST VIEW |

When Exam Papers Become Easy Prey

The leak of an Entomology examination paper at Indira Gandhi Agricultural University, Raipur, recently is more than an isolated act of cheating. It exposes how a single weakness in the chain of custody can compromise an examination for hundreds of students. The alleged involvement of a professor entrusted with transporting question papers makes the incident particularly disturbing. The reported use of a tiny camera to copy questions from a sealed envelope also shows how determined offenders can exploit even seemingly secure procedures. The university's decision to cancel the examination and introduce OTP-based digital access is a welcome immediate response. But technology alone cannot guarantee examination integrity. Going forward, question papers should remain under strict central custody until shortly before examinations. Every handover must be digitally logged, with individual authentication, tamper-evident packaging, CCTV monitoring and surprise audits. No person should have unsupervised access for extended periods. As examination security is about fairness, students who prepare honestly must not pay the price for institutional lapses. There is an imperative need for stringent systems, clear accountability and constant vigilance –not after a leak, but before one occurs. There can be no room for any complacency.



Anantha Pamanabhan

Research in Journalism Education: Seeking Truth Amid Information

We are living in a time when information influences almost every aspect of our lives. Our mornings often begin with news and messages appearing on mobile phones, and throughout the day we remain connected through social media, news portals, television, radio, YouTube, and other digital platforms. Our opinions, understanding of social issues, and even decisions are frequently influenced by the media. In this changing environment, journalism and mass communication education must evolve continuously. Research has an extremely important role in this process. Journalism was once viewed primarily as the collection, writing, and publication or broadcasting of news. Today, news appears on mobile screens within seconds. Audiences do not merely read it; they respond, share, comment, and often become creators of information themselves. Social media has made communication more participatory, but also more complex.

This transformation raises important questions. Are traditional concepts of journalism equally relevant in the digital age? How can the credibility of information circulating on social media be ensured? How can society be protected from fake news and misinformation? What impact will artificial intelligence have on journalism? How are women, tribal communities, rural populations, and marginalized groups represented in the media? These questions require systematic and scientific research. Research takes a subject beyond information towards the creation of knowledge. It helps us understand a problem, identify its causes, and explore possible solutions. This is particularly necessary in journalism and mass communication, where media platforms, technology, audiences, and communication behaviour are constantly changing.

Journalism education should not be limited to teaching students how to write news or operate a camera. A good journalist must understand why an event is taking place, the social and economic factors behind it, and how different sections of society are affected. When students conduct research, they examine facts, compare sources, evaluate evidence, and arrive at logical conclusions. This process develops critical and rational thinking. One of journalism's greatest challenges today is information credibility. The internet enables information to reach millions of people rapidly, but it also accelerates false and misleading claims. Old photographs can be presented in new contexts, videos can be edited to convey different messages, and unverified claims can spread within minutes. Research into fact-checking can help us understand why people believe misinformation and how reliable information can be made more accessible.

Digital media has also changed journalistic practices. Mobile journalism, data journalism, digital storytelling, and multimedia journalism are developing rapidly. Continuous research is required to understand their possibilities and limitations. University curricula should be revised periodically according to research findings. If education remains confined to outdated curricula while industry requirements change, the gap between education and employment will increase. In a diverse country like India, media research is especially important. Differences in language, culture, ethnicity, geography, and economic conditions influence media consumption. Therefore, Indian journalism education cannot depend entirely on foreign theories and examples. We must generate knowledge based on our own society and experiences.

Dr. Dhanesh Joshi
Media Educator,
Shri Shankaracharya Professional University, Bhilai

Research in Indian languages and regional journalism deserves particular attention. A large section of the population prefers news in its mother tongue or regional language. Local journalism brings significant community problems to public attention. In Chhattisgarh, research can examine how development information reaches tribal communities, how local media represents their concerns, and how modern media can help preserve tribal knowledge, languages, and folk culture. Research is equally important for understanding media representation and democracy. Some communities receive greater visibility, while others remain inadequately represented. Studies of women, children, tribal communities, rural society, and marginalized groups can reveal whether media coverage is balanced and socially responsible. Research can also examine biased reporting, political influence, corporate interests, sensationalism, and the competition for TRPs, clicks, and online engagement.

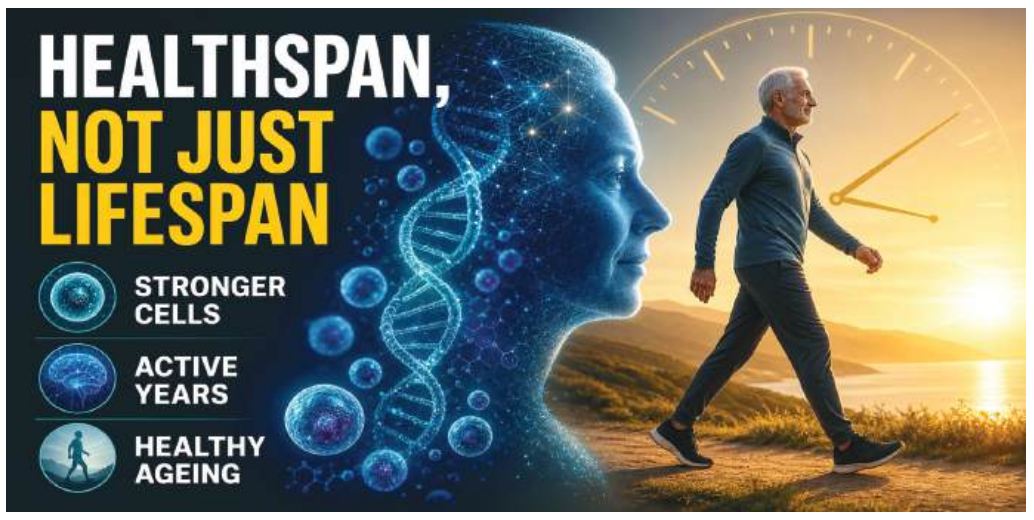
Artificial intelligence has opened a new chapter in communication. It can assist in drafting reports, analysing data, translating content, and producing digital material. However, it raises questions about accuracy, responsibility, algorithmic bias, human sensitivity, and editorial judgement. These matters require careful and continuous study. Media research is also closely connected with social development. Communication plays a significant role in health, education, agriculture, women's empowerment, environmental protection, employment, and rural development. Research can identify why an awareness campaign failed to reach its intended audience or why its language and medium were ineffective. During health emergencies, accurate information can save lives, while misinformation can cause serious harm.

Research methodology, therefore, should not be treated merely as an examination subject. Students should analyse media content, conduct surveys and interviews, prepare case studies, study digital data, and present research findings. Universities can establish Media Research Labs where students gain practical experience in content analysis, audience research, social media analytics, and data journalism. Ultimately, research is directly connected with educational quality, journalistic credibility, and the media's responsibility towards society. It teaches students to ask questions, seek evidence, verify facts, and reach informed conclusions. In an ocean of information, society needs not merely more information, but information that is accurate, credible, useful, and socially responsible. Placing research at the centre of journalism and mass communication education is, therefore, an urgent need of our time.

Science's Race Towards Healthier Human Ageing

Ageing is inevitable, but prolonged illness need not be. Scientific research now seeks to extend the healthy, active and independent years of human life today.

Dr. Vijay Garg
Retired Principal,
Educational Columnist and Eminent Scientist



Ageing is among the most universal human experiences, yet its biology remains only partly understood. Scientists are investigating why some people stay healthy for many decades while others develop age-related diseases earlier. Their realistic goal is not immortality or permanent youth, but healthier longevity.

Modern research therefore distinguishes lifespan from healthspan. Lifespan measures how long someone lives; healthspan measures the years spent physically and mentally well, active and independent. Additional years have greater value when they also preserve dignity, mobility and quality of life.

Ageing results from many interconnected changes. Cells accumulate damage, repair mechanisms become less effective, inflammation may increase, and communication between tissues can weaken. Researchers are studying DNA changes, energy production, protein maintenance, stem-cell decline and cellular senescence. Senescent cells stop dividing but remain in the body, sometimes releasing substances that damage nearby tissues. Experiments are examining whether removing or modifying them could reduce age-related illness, although this work is still developing.

Genes influence longevity, but they do not determine it alone. Epigenetic changes, which affect how genes operate without altering DNA itself, may help scientists measure biological age. Nutrition, exercise, sleep, stress, social circumstances and access to healthcare remain equally important.

Regenerative medicine offers another possibility. Stem cells, engineered tissues and cellular therapies may eventually help repair damage and restore certain functions. However, human organs are complex systems, and replacing cells does not automatically rebuild normal function. Safety and long-term effectiveness must be established through careful research.

Artificial intelligence is also accelerating the field. It can analyse large datasets from genomes, medical images, proteins and health records, helping researchers identify patterns, possible drug targets and useful compounds. Nevertheless, AI produces hypotheses, not guaranteed cures. Laboratory investigation and clinical trials remain essential.

Promising results in animals must also be treated cautiously. A substance that extends an animal's life may not be safe or effective in humans. Reliable treatments require trials that examine dosage, side effects, long-term risks and differences between individuals. Meanwhile, the strongest tools for healthy ageing remain familiar: regular physical activity, balanced nutrition, adequate sleep, avoidance of tobacco, mental engagement and supportive relationships. Maintaining muscle strength and mobility is especially important because independence depends on the ability to perform everyday tasks.

The pursuit of longer healthspan also raises ethical questions. If new treatments become available, they must not remain limited to wealthy groups. Longer healthy lives could also affect employment, pensions, healthcare and relationships between generations. Ageing should not be treated merely as a disease; older people contribute experience, knowledge and leadership. The future will probably bring no single miracle treatment. Progress is more likely to come from combining genetics, preventive healthcare, regenerative medicine, AI and personalized treatment. Science may never stop time, but it can reduce preventable disease, disability and decline. The true race is not against ageing itself, but towards later years lived with health, purpose and independence.

YOURLETTERS

India's space odyssey

India celebrates National Space Day on 23 August annually to commemorate the historic soft landing of Chandrayaan-3's Vikram lander and Pragyan rover on the unexplored lunar South Pole on August 23, 2023, making India the first nation to land in that polar region. The in-situ scientific data confirmed the presence of sulphur and other elements. The 2026 theme reflects the importance of strengthening India's scientific and technological capabilities, while encouraging innovation, partnerships and greater participation in the global space ecosystem.

Nabnit Panigrahi, Rayagada, Odisha

Making India's caste census meaningful

As a fellow democracy, India can draw practical lessons from the United States in addressing persistent gaps in health, education and public safety. Standardised census categories, combined with social and economic data, allow American authorities to connect race and ethnicity with health outcomes, graduation rates, incomes and crime. Such evidence helps identify healthcare shortages, school dropout clusters and unsafe areas, enabling targeted support. For India's caste census to advance social justice, data collection must remain accurate, transparent, disciplined and accountable

MK Nair, Raipur

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

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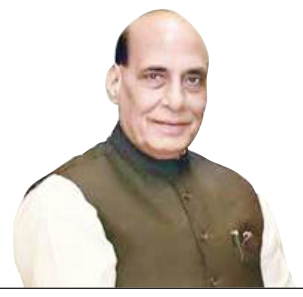


India to become global shipbuilding hub.

Rajnath Singh,
Defence Minister

| ANNAPURNA YOJANA |

‘System problems, disrupt caused payment delay’

Under Annapurna Yojana scheme, eligible women are entitled to receive Rs 3,000 per month.

Press Trust Of India

WB BJP president Samik Bhattacharya .

KOLKATA: West Bengal BJP president Samik Bhattacharya on Sunday blamed “system problems” and alleged attempts at sabotage for delays in disbursing Annapurna Yojana scheme benefits among eligible women, amid protests across the state over non-payment.

“There are some deviations and problems with the system. In some places, attempts are being made to sabotage it. That is why this has happened,” Bhattacharya said at an event in neighbouring Howrah.

Under Annapurna Yojana scheme, eligible women are entitled to receive Rs 3,000 per month.

Several women who applied within the stipulated period and were found eligible alleged they did not receive the money by August 20, the deadline set by the state government.

Bhattacharya assured the beneficiaries that the payments would reach them.

“I am saying that everyone will get the Annapurna money,” the BJP MP said.

He said nearly 50 lakh more women would be brought under the ambit of the scheme and claimed that only a small proportion of beneficiaries had not yet received the money.

“Another nearly 50 lakh women will receive the benefits. Only two to three per cent have not received the money. Everyone will get it,” he said.

Bhattacharya’s comments came amid protests in several parts of the state by women who claimed they had completed the application and verification process but were yet to receive the promised assistance. State minister Agnimitra Paul has also faced protests over the issue.

Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari and senior state government officials have repeatedly assured beneficiaries that all eligible women would receive the money. Bhattacharya also blamed the previous Trinamool Congress government for irregularities in the earlier Lakshmir Bhandar scheme.

“The kind of fraudulent practices that took place during the Trinamool Congress government, where men received Lakshmir Bhandar benefits, will not happen in Annapurna Yojana,” he said.

The Annapurna Yojana was introduced after the BJP government reviewed the earlier Lakshmir Bhandar scheme and stated that benefits would be limited to eligible applicants following scrutiny. Fresh applications were invited and subjected to verification, including through an online process.

HIGHLIGHT

- Eligible women allege payments remain pending.
- 50 lakh more women to benefit.

Onam celebrations

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: Keralam’s week-long Onam celebrations will begin on Monday, with Chief Minister V D Satheesan inaugurating the state-level festivities at the Nishagandhi Auditorium in Kanakakunnu here. The CM will inaugurate the celebrations at 5.30 pm on August 24.

Tourism, Culture and Cinema Minister P C Vishnunath will preside over the function, while actor Kunchacko Boban will be the chief guest, a press release said here on Sunday. Health and Devaswom Minister K Muraleedharan, Transport Minister C P John, Leader of the Opposition Pinarayi Vijayan, Mayor V V Rajesh and Congress MP Shashi Tharoor, among others, will attend the inaugural function. The cultural programmes will begin with a dance performance by actor Shobana, followed by a live music performance by K S Harishankar at Nishagandhi from 7 pm. The celebrations, which will continue till August 30, will feature more than 340 cultural programmes across 35 venues in Thiruvananthapuram alone, the release said. Around 3,000 artistes will take part in programmes on stage and behind the scenes, while more than 8,000 artistes from across the state are expected to participate in the celebrations.

Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

EXPERT ADVICE

Obesity a chronic disease, shift beyond ‘eat less, exercise more’ approach

MUMBAI: Health experts have described obesity as a chronic disease and called for a shift away from the traditional “eat less, exercise more” approach, urging treatment to be tailored to an individual’s health needs and disease severity.

The Obesity and Metabolic Surgery Society of India (OSSI) and the Endocrine Society of India (ESI) have jointly prepared an expert document that sets out recommended approaches to managing obesity, stressing that many factors contributing to it may be beyond a person’s control. “Obesity is a chronic disease that requires timely recognition, scientific treatment and long-term care. This joint consensus provides a unified, India-specific framework that can help move the conversation away from blame and towards evidence-based medical care,” OSSI president Dr K S Kular said. The consensus highlights that obesity is influenced by a complex interplay of genetic, metabolic, endocrine, environmental, psychological, socioeconomic and lifestyle factors. **PTI**

FROM NEHRU TO MODI

Book gives peek into PMs’ kitchens, dinning tables

NEW DELHI: A prime minister’s plate might reveal what a political biography cannot. “The Prime Minister’s Table” by journalists Purabi Shridhar and Sanghita Singh uses food, family stories and kitchen memories to uncover the more personal side of India’s prime ministers -- from Jawaharlal Nehru to Narendra Modi.

The book, published by Manjul Publishing House, steps into their kitchens and dining rooms to explore what they ate, how they entertained, the recipes they cherished and the relationships that shaped their lives away from the glare of office. Indira Gandhi, for instance, is remembered playing ‘antakshari’ with her doctor, while Manmohan Singh helped his wife with the dishes during their early years overseas. Atal Bihari Vajpayee’s fondness for golden fried prawns at the Taj Mahal Hotel and chaat in Lucknow finds a place alongside an account of PM Modi teaching a local BJP worker’s wife how to perfect ‘sabudana khichdi’. “Are PMs just primary political figures? What lies beyond their political and public persona was a subject I found intriguing: their homes, family life, friendships, working relationships and dining table choice and talks. **PTI**

NATURE’S FURY

Heavy rain lashes Odisha; IMD issues ‘red warning’

BHUBANESWAR: Heavy rainfall lashed several parts of Odisha under the influence of a low-pressure area in northwestern Bay of Bengal, with the IMD issuing a ‘red warning’ for five districts on Sunday.

Under the impact of the system, heavy rainfall is expected in several districts of Odisha till August 26, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said. Several areas in the state received heavy to extreme heavy downpour in the last 24 hours till 8.30 this morning. Of those, at least two places recorded over 200 mm of rainfall. The IMD issued a ‘red warning’ (take action) for Cuttack, Anugul, Dhenkanal, Kalahandi, and Nabarangpur districts, predicting heavy rainfall.

Thuamula Rampur in Kalahandi district recorded extreme heavy rainfall of 345 mm, while Kashipur in Rayagada district received 212 mm of downpour, the weather office said.

Nineteen other places recorded between 100 mm and 200 mm of rainfall in the last 24 hours, it said.

The upper air cyclonic circulation over the Bay of Bengal off the West Bengal-Bangladesh coasts intensified into a low-pressure area around 5.30 am on Sunday, the IMD said. **PTI**

Drug peddlers

JAMMU: Two notorious drug peddlers were detained under the PIT-NDPS Act, while five persons were arrested after narcotic substances were recovered from their possession in different districts of Jammu and Kashmir, police said on Sunday. Uttam Kumar, a resident of Mand village, was detained under Prevention of Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (PIT-NDPS) Act on the orders of competent authority in Udhampur district on Sunday, a police spokesman said.

Kumar, a notorious drug peddler, has been subsequently lodged in district jail, Bhaderwah, he said. The police also executed a detention warrant under PIT-NDPS Act against habitual drug peddler, Javid Hussain alias Palla, a resident of Nowshera area of Rajouri district on Saturday, the spokesman said. He said despite involved in multiple narcotics-related cases, Hussain continued to engage in the illicit trafficking of drugs.

| POLICE-STUDENTS CLASH |

Three FIRs filed against 28 named, 900 unnamed people

Press Trust Of India

Clashes broke out between police and protesting job aspirants .

RANCHI: Three FIRs have been lodged against 28 named and more than 900 unnamed people in connection with clashes that broke out between police and protesting job aspirants in Jharkhand’s Giridih and Hazaribag, officials said on Sunday.

The development comes a day after three FIRs were registered at Ranchi’s Kotwali police station against 14 named and 200 unidentified people for allegedly obstructing government work and clashing with the police.

In Giridih, two FIRs were filed at the Town police station in connection with clashes on Friday and Saturday, while another FIR was lodged in Hazaribag for allegedly obstructing government work and assaulting police personnel, the officials said.

On Friday, thousands of students protesting against alleged Jharkhand recruitment exam irregularities had gathered at the Gandhi Maidan to burn an effigy of Chief Minister Hemant Soren, where a scuffle between the agitators and the police took place.

In Hazaribag district, an FIR was registered against 18 named accused and 700 unnamed people at Korra police station for allegedly obstructing government work and assaulting policemen, while attempting to burn an effigy of Soren on August 21, Hazaribag Sadar DSP Rupak Kumar Singh told PTI.

“We lodged the FIR based on the application of Sadar CO Ashutosh Kumar,” he said.

Korra police station officer-in-charge Nemdhari Rajak said so far no one has been arrested or detained in this connection, but the police are analysing CCTV and video footage to identify the miscreants.

Rajak said a total of eight personnel, including four sub-inspectors who were OCs of four police stations - Korra, Lohsinghna, Sadar, and Bada Bazar - were injured.

The accused have been booked under the BNS for assaulting police, obstructing government duty and unlawful assembly, he added.

In Giridih, the first FIR was filed based on the application of ABVP activist Anish Rai, while the second was lodged on the application of Sadar Circle Inspector (CI) Manoj Kumar Singh.

HIGHLIGHT

- In Giridih, two FIRs were filed at the Town police station
- Another FIR was lodged in Hazaribag for obstructing govt work.

FADNAVIS AT YOUTH EVENT

‘Power of democracy gave ordinary person like me chance to become CM’

NAGPUR: Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Sunday pitched his personal journey alongside Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s as concrete proof of the strength of India’s democracy and its Constitution, which enable an ordinary person to reach the highest constitutional offices. Interacting with young audiences during the “Manthan 4 Yuva” event here, Fadnavis fielded questions on civic engagement and leadership, marking a major outreach effort at a time when political parties are intensifying efforts to reach Gen Z voters ahead of upcoming elections.

“It isn’t easy; our Constitution has given democracy in this country,” Fadnavis said during a Question and Answers session. “The beauty of this democracy is that someone like Devendra Fadnavis, who might never even have imagined becoming a corporator, reached the post of chief minister, or the boy who sold tea at a railway station in Gujarat became the country’s Prime Minister.” Recalling his early days in public life, Fadnavis said that he entered politics driven solely by ideological conviction during a period when the party sat firmly on the opposition benches. “We used to think we were born to do politics as the Opposition... but somehow the public showed faith, and step by step, climbing one rung at a time, one day I got the responsibility of being Maharashtra’s chief minister,” he said, reiterating that politics remains a vital instrument for socio-economic change. **PTI**

| RESOLUTION |

‘Will work to restore 65 pc reservation’

Press Trust Of India

PATNA: Rashtriya Lok Morcha president Upendra Kushwaha on Sunday vowed to work towards restoring the 65 per cent reservation for deprived castes in Bihar, which was introduced by the Nitish Kumar government but struck down by the court.

Kushwaha, an ally of the BJP, said his party had passed a resolution to this effect at its three-day organisational convention, ‘Vimarsh Shivir 2026’, which concluded in Rajgir on Saturday.

> **Court struck down reservation citing ceiling.**
>
> **Upendra Kushwaha**
> RLM president

“At our three-day organisational convention, we passed a resolution to ensure 65 per cent reservation for backward classes. During his tenure, Nitish Kumar had initiated the reservation process following a caste survey, but it was struck down by the Patna High Court citing the 50 per cent ceiling,” the Rajya Sabha MP said. The enhanced quotas, which breached the 50 per cent reservation ceiling set by the Supreme Court, were introduced in 2022 when Bihar was ruled by the Mahagathbandhan, comprising the JD(U), RJD, Congress and Left parties.

The Patna High Court subsequently struck down the enhanced quotas, and the state government’s appeal is pending before the Supreme Court. The JD(U), which is now back in the NDA, has faced criticism from the RJD and other parties for not getting the legislation providing for the enhanced quotas included in the Ninth Schedule of the Constitution, which offers protection from judicial review.

Kushwaha also sought to play down the controversy over his recent remark that the RLM was a “true claimant to the legacy” of JD(U) president Nitish Kumar, who stepped down as chief minister earlier this year.

"I simply loved films. I'd watch performances and quietly imagine myself playing those characters. It was a private dream more than an ambition because I never thought I'd have the courage to pursue it."

Yami Gautam

&Glitters

OTT Watch

Gandhari to Premiere on Netflix

Taapsee Pannu-starrer Gandhari will premiere on Netflix on September 3. Directed by Devashish Makhija, the action thriller follows Bani, a mother whose courage and devotion are tested by difficult circumstances.

Kubbra Sait joins Farzi season 2

Kubbra Sait has begun filming for Farzi Season 2, reuniting with Shahid Kapoor and returning as Saira. Created by Raj and DK, the series also brings back Vijay Sethupathi, Raashii Khanna, Kay Kay Menon and Bhuvan Arora.

Apple TV's Stick returns with season 2

Apple TV's sports comedy Stick will return for its second season on November 4. Starring Owen Wilson, the series follows professional golfers navigating ambition, pressure and personal struggles. Rhea Seehorn joins the cast.

Serendipity returns with Showalter

Filmmaker Michael Showalter will direct a modern retelling of Serendipity for Amazon MGM Studios and Miramax. Original writer Marc Klein will work on the script, with Showalter and Jordana Mollick producing.

*Aryan Khan may return with Ba*ds season two*

Netflix and Red Chillies Entertainment are reportedly discussing The Ba***ds Of Bollywood Season 2. Writer Bilal Siddiqi expressed hope for another season, following the success of Aryan Khan's directorial debut series.

CLOSE UP

Bobby Deol wants roles beyond villainy

Bobby Deol opens up about escaping his recurring antagonist image.

Bobby Deol has opened up about getting a lot of negative roles.

Central Chronicle News

The actor discusses challenging roles, diverse characters and creative experimentation.

Actor Bobby Deol says he is making a conscious effort to move beyond the villainous roles that have dominated his recent career, taking up diverse projects and exploring different characters. The 57-year-old actor said performers often get stereotyped after becoming successful in a particular kind of role. "If an actor becomes successful in a particular kind of role, they keep getting similar roles. That's what happens in the industry. And I try really hard to break out of that," said Bobby pointed to Bandar as an example of his attempt to choose challenging material. Directed by Anurag Kashyap, the film features him as an aging star accused of rape by his former girlfriend. Released in theatres in June, the movie received positive reviews from critics. However, his other two releases this year, Alpha, starring Alia Bhatt and Sharvari, and Jana Nayagan, alongside Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay, saw him play antagonists. The actor said he enjoys finding different shades within villainous characters. "Even within antagonist roles, there are different kinds of antagonists, with different shades. So I enjoy playing those," he said, adding that he is also set to appear in a few web series with different roles. Bobby's next project is Prime Video's Teen Kauwe, a spy drama currently in production. The series also stars Sidhant Gupta, Fatima Sana Shaikh and Pavail Gulati.

Asked about genres he finds difficult, Bobby said he feels uncomfortable with over-the-top and slapstick comedy. He explained that such films need strong writing and can be risky choices for actors. He said he would rather choose characters that offer emotional depth, variety and room to experiment as an actor across genres.

| HOLLYWOOD |

HBO Max green lights 'The People v. Gorilla Grodd'

Central Chronicle News

HBO Max has ordered The People v. Gorilla Grodd, an eight-episode mockumentary series set within the DC Universe and led by Skyler Gisondo. The actor will reprise his Superman role as Daily Planet staffer Jimmy Olsen, who directs and stars in a fictional true-crime documentary investigating whether Gorilla Grodd was wrongly convicted in one of Metropolis' most notorious murder trials. Jimmy Tatro will play Gorilla Grodd, the superintelligent ape and occasional Superman nemesis. The cast also includes Beck Bennett as Steve Lombard, Mikaela Hoover as Cat Grant and Wendell Pierce as Perry White, alongside Mary Holland, Eduardo Franco, Arian Moayed, Dan Perrault, Andrew Leeds and Tim Baltz. Created by American Vandal creators Dan Perrault and Tony Yacenda, the series will be lighter and more comedic than several other DCU projects. Yacenda will direct every episode, while both creators serve as showrunners and executive producers. DC Studios heads James Gunn and Peter Safran said Gisondo's performance and the Daily Planet cast's chemistry inspired them to explore the world further. They described the series as a chance to explore the darker and funnier corners of the DCU through Jimmy's investigation into Metropolis' criminal justice system. HBO programming executive Amy Gravitt said the streamer was excited to present DC characters in an unexpected format. The announcement follows the August 16 premiere of Lanterns. While that series has a darker tone, The People v. Gorilla Grodd will embrace comedy and a documentary-style approach.

The ensemble cast of 'The People Vs Gorilla Grodd'

HIGHLIGHT

- **HBO Max is expanding DC's universe with a quirky mockumentary.**
- **The lighter-toned series explores Metropolis through Jimmy Olsen's documentary.**

CineBriefs

BEST OF THE REST

Web Series

Koffee with Karan 9 guest list leak sparks buzz

Koffee With Karan Season 9 has not premiered yet, but an unverified guest list has already sparked major buzz online. The rumoured lineup, includes Aamir Khan, Saif Ali Khan, Farhan Akhtar and Akshaye Khanna, raising hopes for a Dil Chahta Hai reunion. Other names reportedly include Rashmika Mandanna and Vijay Deverakonda, whose appearance together could fuel fresh relationship chatter. Vicky Kaushal, Diljit Dosanjh, Varun Dhawan, Kriti Sanon, Kareena Kapoor Khan, Kajol and Jaya Bachchan are also said to be part of the alleged lineup. However, the makers have not confirmed any names yet, so fans should treat the list as speculation.

Hot Pair

Priyanka Chopra on secret behind her marriage

Priyanka Chopra has opened up about what keeps her marriage to Nick Jonas strong, highlighting the importance of respecting each other's culture and roots. She said Nick's willingness to embrace Indian traditions is a significant part of their relationship. Priyanka explained that when two people come from different cultural backgrounds, understanding and respecting where each person comes from becomes essential. She also emphasised kindness as another important quality, saying partners should always treat each other with care and understanding. Priyanka and Nick have often spoken about supporting each other while making space for their different traditions, values and backgrounds.

Music

Sohni teases Gippy-Shehnaaz

Romance gets a musical twist in Singh Vs Kaur 2 with Sohni, the upcoming Punjabi comedy's second song. Sung by Gippy Grewal, the track features him alongside Shehnaaz Gill and is set to release on August 20. The romantic poster showcases the duo surrounded by red floral decor, hinting at the song's softer mood. Happy Raikoti has penned and composed the track, while Kulshan Sandhu has handled the music. Directed by Navaniat Singh, the film also stars Prince Kanwaljit Singh, Raghveer Boli and Gurpreet Bhangu. Singh Vs Kaur 2 is scheduled for a worldwide theatrical release on September 11, 2026.

Trending on Insta

@aslisona

Sonakshi Sinha gives a peek into her Sunday

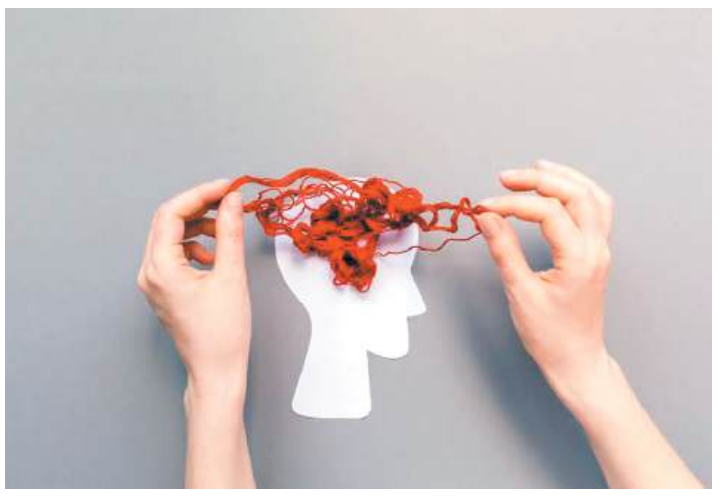
Sonakshi Sinha shared a glimpse of her relaxing Sunday morning on Instagram. The actress enjoyed coffee while taking in Mumbai's scenic sea view from her balcony, captioning the serene moment, "Happy Sunday."

Wellness

AWARENESS

Brain fog needs systematic attention & care

Struggling to concentrate or remember simple things? Brain fog may be responsible.



Brain fog can affect focus and memory.

Brain fog is that feeling when your mind seems cloudy, your thoughts move slowly, or tasks require extra effort. You may forget why you entered a room, struggle to find the right word, lose focus while reading or feel mentally drained. Brain fog is not a medical diagnosis. It describes cognitive symptoms with several possible causes. Poor sleep, dehydration, prolonged stress, an overloaded routine and illnesses can contribute to mental sluggishness. Hormonal changes, some medications and underlying health problems may also play a role. Occasional brain fog after a stressful period or sleepless night is not unusual, but persistent symptoms should not be ignored.

These simple habits may help improve clarity:

1. Take regular breaks: Step away from screens and tasks for five or 10 minutes. Stretch, walk or sit quietly to give your mind time to reset.
2. Use reminders: Keep appointments, deadlines and tasks in a calendar, phone reminder or notebook instead of trying to remember everything.
3. Prioritise sleep: Aim for seven to nine hours each night and maintain a consistent sleep schedule.
4. Stay hydrated: Drink water regularly throughout the day, as dehydration can contribute to tiredness and difficulty concentrating.
5. Move your body: Walking, stretching, cycling or activity can help you feel more alert.
6. Eat balanced meals: Include vegetables, fruits, whole grains, protein, nuts and seeds to provide nutrients your brain needs.
7. Manage stress: Breathing exercises, mindfulness, exercise, outdoor time and hobbies can help your mind switch off and recover.

If brain fog becomes frequent, worsens, appears suddenly or interferes with work and everyday activities, speak with a healthcare professional. Finding the underlying cause is more useful than simply pushing through the symptoms.

HIGHLIGHT

- Learn what causes brain fog and seven simple habits that may improve mental clarity.

Personalised mRNA shot targets cancer cells

Merck and Moderna's personalised mRNA cancer vaccine, intismeran autogene, has shown promising results in a Phase 3 trial involving high-risk melanoma patients. The treatment is created using genetic information from a patient's own tumour. After surgery, scientists analyse tumour DNA to identify cancer-specific mutations and use them to design an individualised mRNA vaccine. The shot trains the immune system to recognise and attack cancer cells carrying those mutations. Tested alongside Keytruda, the vaccine reduced the risk of melanoma recurrence or spread compared with Keytruda alone. However, it remains experimental and requires regulatory approval before becoming widely available to patients.

STRAIN YOUR SPINE

Looking down at screens can strain your spine

Spending hours hunched over a laptop can put sustained stress on the neck, shoulders and upper back. When the head remains bent forward, neck muscles work continuously to support it, potentially causing muscle fatigue, stiffness, headaches and persistent pain. Prolonged poor posture may also affect normal cervical alignment and increase joint strain, particularly in people already prone to spine problems. Experts recommend keeping the screen at eye level, supporting the back and arms, and taking movement breaks every 30 to 40 minutes. Persistent neck pain, especially with arm pain, numbness or weakness, should be evaluated by a doctor promptly.

| SELF-SILENCING |

Tired always? Then you ought to change your diet

Central Chronicle News

Tiredness, weakness and numbness may sometimes reflect essential nutrient deficiencies.

Foods that support healthy nerves

Feeling tired, weak or experiencing occasional numbness can sometimes be linked to an inadequate intake of essential nutrients. Vitamin B12, magnesium and omega-3 fatty acids play important roles in maintaining normal nerve and brain function. While food cannot treat every cause of fatigue or numbness, including nutrient-rich choices in your daily diet can support overall health. Eggs are a convenient source of vitamin B12, a nutrient needed for healthy red blood cells and normal neurological function. Milk, yoghurt and paneer can also contribute B12 to the diet, while providing protein and other essential nutrients. People following a vegetarian diet can consider fortified foods if their regular diet does not provide enough B12.

Leafy greens such as spinach and amaranth are useful sources of magnesium and provide folate and other beneficial plant compounds. Magnesium is involved in numerous processes in the body, including those important for normal muscle and nerve function. Adding cooked greens to meals can improve the nutritional value of everyday dishes. Walnuts are another easy addition, offering healthy fats and plant-based omega-3 fatty acid ALA. Almonds also provide healthy fats, vitamin E and minerals. A small serving of nuts can make a convenient snack or topping for yoghurt and breakfast bowls. Pumpkin seeds are particularly rich in magnesium, while flax seeds provide ALA. They can be sprinkled over salads, yoghurt, porridge or other meals for an easy nutrient boost. However, persistent numbness, tingling, weakness or severe fatigue should not be blamed solely on diet. Such symptoms may have several causes, including vitamin deficiencies, diabetes or other medical conditions. If symptoms continue or worsen, seek medical advice and consider appropriate testing rather than relying only on dietary changes alone.

Health Tips

HEALTHY INDIAN MEALS FOR RECOVERY

Moong Dal Khichdi

Ingredients
½ cup rice, ½ cup yellow moong dal, 1 small carrot, ½ cup mixed vegetables, 1 tsp ghee, cumin, turmeric and salt.

Instructions
Wash rice and dal and pressure cook with vegetables, turmeric and enough water until soft. Add ghee and cumin tempering, then serve warm.

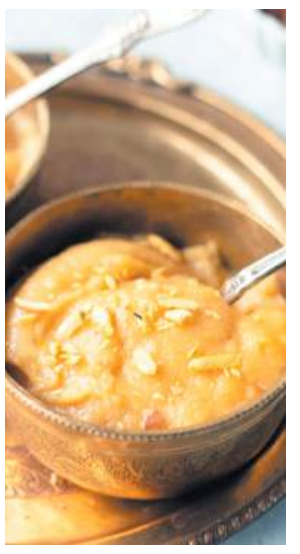
Benefits
Light and easy to digest, khichdi provides carbohydrates, protein and fluids. Adding vegetables and a little ghee makes it a nourishing choice during recovery.

Palak Dal

Ingredients
½ cup yellow moong dal, 2 cups chopped spinach, 1 tomato, 1 small onion, cumin, turmeric, garlic and salt.

Instructions
Cook dal until soft. Add spinach, tomato, turmeric and salt and simmer until tender. Finish with light cumin and garlic tempering.

Benefits
Palak dal combines plant-based protein with spinach, providing folate, iron and other nutrients. Its soft texture and mild seasoning make it suitable when you are feeling unwell.



Besan Sheera

Ingredients
½ cup besan, 1 tsp ghee, 1 cup milk or water, 1–2 tsp jaggery, cardamom and chopped almonds.

Instructions
Heat ghee and roast besan until fragrant. Gradually add milk or water while stirring. Add jaggery and cardamom and cook until smooth.

Benefits
Besan provides plant-based protein and energy, while almonds contribute healthy fats and nutrients. Using moderate amounts of ghee and jaggery keeps this traditional sweet relatively light.

Rasam

Ingredients
2 tomatoes, 2 cups water, 1 tsp rasam powder, 2 garlic cloves, ginger, cumin, coriander and salt.

Instructions
Cook tomatoes until soft and mash them. Add water, rasam powder, garlic, ginger and salt. Simmer gently and finish with cumin tempering and coriander.

Benefits
Warm rasam adds fluids to your diet and can feel soothing when congested. Tomatoes and spices provide flavour, while the light preparation avoids making the meal overly heavy.

Oats Vegetable Porridge

Ingredients
½ cup oats, ½ cup chopped vegetables, 1½ cups water, cumin, pepper and salt.

Instructions
Cook vegetables with water until slightly tender. Add oats, cumin, pepper and salt. Simmer until the mixture becomes soft and creamy.

Benefits
Oats provide carbohydrates and fibre, while vegetables add essential micronutrients. This warm, soft meal can be satisfying and easy to eat during recovery.

Sports

There is no need to fake an illness; Kuldeep genuinely had viral fever and was in no position to play.

Sitanshu Kotak
India batting coach

Padikkal hits second ton in a row, leads India to 300/5

Devdutt Padikkal's resilient 117 rescued India from injuries and regular setbacks, guiding the visitors to 300 for five against Sri Lanka in Colombo on Sunday.

Press Trust Of India

Pant retired hurt while Jaiswal, Gill and Jadeja missed bigger opportunities too.

COLOMBO: Devdutt Padikkal produced a determined century to guide India to 300 for five on the opening day of the second and final Test against Sri Lanka in Colombo. Playing only his fourth Test, the Karnataka batter scored 117 from 168 balls, registering his second hundred in successive matches.

India ended the demanding day with Dhruv Jurel unbeaten on seven and debutant Saransh Jain on four.

Padikkal's innings lacked some of his customary elegance, but its value lay in the difficult circumstances. He survived chances on zero and one before settling into a patient, responsible knock against disciplined bowling, a responsive pitch and Colombo's oppressive heat and humidity.

India suffered several setbacks around him. Yashasvi Jaiswal made 45, while captain Shubman Gill contributed 50 during a stabilising 120-run third-wicket partnership with Padikkal. Both batters appeared capable of making substantial scores but failed to continue.

Rishabh Pant was forced to retire hurt on three after pacer Lahiru Kumara struck his forearm. The injury increased the pressure on Padikkal, who responded by adopting the lead role in India's recovery.

Unlike the easier surface at Galle, the SSC pitch offered bounce and movement for the seamers, along with occasional turn for the spinners. Padikkal adjusted carefully, avoiding short deliveries, defending patiently and attacking whenever opportunities arose.

He completed his fifty from 90 balls by driving Prabath Jayasuriya for four. Padikkal later moved to 99 with another boundary off the spinner before nudging a single to long-on to complete his century. His brief celebration reflected both relief and satisfaction.

Keshara Nuwantha eventually bowled Padikkal, but India had reached a safer position by then.

Earlier, KL Rahul showed restraint before edging Kumara to wicketkeeper Niroshan Dickwella. Jaiswal was bowled by an excellent delivery from Asitha Fernando, while Gill edged the same bowler behind after reaching his half-century.

Ravindra Jadeja added 74 runs with Padikkal for the fourth wicket but was also struck on the forearm by Kumara. He was later bowled by Fernando after misjudging an incoming delivery.

Despite injuries and missed opportunities, Padikkal's composure ensured India finished the day with a competitive total.

Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

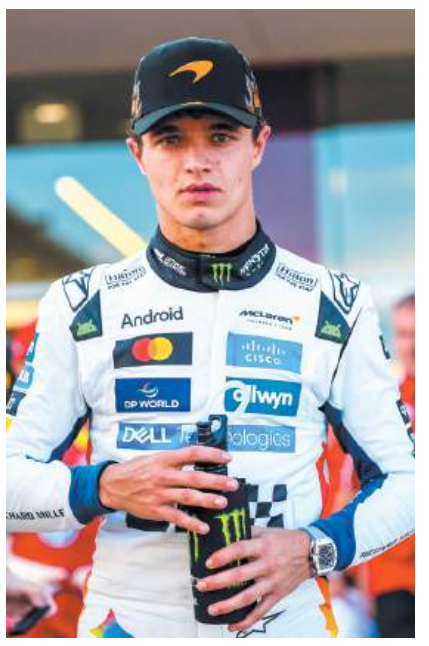
BAYERN'S DOUBLE TRIUMPH

Harry Kane is Germany's player of the year, Vincent Kompany gets coach's award

BERLIN: Bayern Munich striker Harry Kane has been voted Germany's 2026 player of the year, while Vincent Kompany claimed the coaching award following another dominant campaign. Kane scored 61 goals across all competitions last season, helping Bayern retain the Bundesliga title and win the German Cup. He also struck a hat trick in the cup final and contributed to Saturday's 2-1 German Supercup victory over Borussia Dortmund. The England captain received 272 votes in the poll of 659 German sports journalists, finishing ahead of teammate Michael Olise, who collected 203. Kompany secured nearly half the votes for best coach, beating Freiburg's Julian Schuster. The honours, presented since 1960 for players and 2002 for coaches, recognise German football's leading performers annually. **PTI**

POLE POSITION PRESSURE

Norris claims dutch pole, targets another formula one victory



ZANDVOORT: Lando Norris will start Sunday's Dutch Grand Prix from pole position after finding unexpected speed in qualifying to beat Mercedes drivers George Russell and championship leader Kimi Antonelli. The McLaren driver is seeking consecutive victories after winning in Hungary on July 26, but expects another difficult race at Zandvoort. Norris struggled during Saturday's sprint, dropping from second to third behind Charles Leclerc. He admitted McLaren remained vulnerable through low-speed corners, although fresh tyres and low fuel concealed some weaknesses during qualifying. Russell won the sprint, while Antonelli finished fourth and extended his championship advantage. Lewis Hamilton placed seventh in the sprint before qualifying fifth for the Grand Prix. **PTI**

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

French pair Gicquel-Delrue creates history as first from country to win World C'ship

NEW DELHI: Thom Gicquel and Delphine Delrue scripted history on Sunday, becoming France's first-ever badminton World Champions after stunning world No. 1 pair Feng Yan Zhe and Huang Dong Ping in the mixed doubles final here. The world No. 5 French pair overcame their Chinese opponents 22-20, 19-21, 21-15 in one hour and 18 minutes to claim the biggest title of their careers. Bronze medallists at the last edition, Gicquel and Delrue produced a tactical masterclass, particularly at the net, where they successfully neutralised Huang's influence. The French duo had shown strong form in the lead-up to the World Championships, finishing runners-up at the All England Championships and reaching the semifinals at the Indonesia and China Super 1000 tournaments earlier this year. **PTI**

SELECTION SPARKS DISAPPOINTMENT

Top Indian women shocked by Asian Games tennis squad exclusions

NEW DELHI: India's leading women's singles players Sahaja Yamalapalli, Vaishnavi Adkar and Vaidehee Chaudhari have been excluded from the Asian Games tennis squad after the government reduced AITA's proposed list. Sahaja, India's highest-ranked player at world No. 344, said she was shocked and disappointed because major multi-sport events often produce unexpected results. Vaishnavi is ranked 390th and Vaidehee 437th. The Sports Ministry cleared 492 athletes across 35 disciplines but approved only seven tennis players from AITA's proposed 12-member squad. Ankita Raina and Rutuja Bhosale are the only women retained. **PTI**

Mayank ends Jaiveer's run; Pratitee, Leyla stay ahead

MUMBAI: Jaiveer Mahendru's dream run came to a halt as top-seeded GM-elect Mayank Chakraborty outclassed him in a Ruy Lopez battle in the fifth round of the Asian Junior Open Classical Chess Championship here on Sunday. Mayank's victory took him to 4.5 points out of a possible 5 and into joint lead with IM Artem Pingin of Russia and FM Sharnarthi Viresh. Pingin defeated FM Amanmuhammet Hommadov of Turkmenistan, while Viresh scored an impressive victory over IM Aaditya Dhingra at the ITC Maratha Sheraton. Jaiveer, who had entered the round as the sole leader with a perfect 4 points out of 4, has now slipped to the chasing group on 4 points. He is joined by Hommadov, IM Vignesh Advaith Vemula, FM Madhvendra Pratap Sharma and FM Nandish V S Vignesh, Madhvendra and Nandish, who all registered victories in the fifth round.

| 'SILENT RESULT IS EVERYTHING' |

Treesa-Gayatri let historic bronze silence their doubters

Press Trust Of India

The Indian pair silenced doubts with a breakthrough World Championships bronze medal.

NEW DELHI: Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand said their maiden World Championships bronze proved performance was the strongest response to criticism after an emotional week for Indian badminton.

The unseeded women's doubles pair lost Saturday's semifinal to world No. 1 defending champions Liu Sheng Shu and Tan Ning of China but ended India's 15-year wait for a medal in the category.

Ranked 39th, Treesa and Gayatri defeated three seeded combinations on their way to the semifinals. Their achievement was especially significant because Treesa had only recently returned from an ankle injury suffered in April.

Treesa said negative comments could distract athletes from the present and insisted results were the best way to demonstrate their potential. Gayatri described the campaign as emotional and memorable, saying they would cherish the medal forever. The pair celebrated with ice creams.

Reflecting on the semifinal, Treesa admitted that easy points and difficulty receiving flick serves disrupted their rhythm at crucial stages. Despite holding a 1-7 record against Liu and Tan, she remains confident they can eventually defeat the world's top-ranked pair through greater composure, persistence and self-belief.Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand said their maiden World Championships bronze proved performance was the strongest response to criticism after an emotional week for Indian badminton.

HIGHLIGHT

- Unseeded Indians defeated three seeded pairs during their remarkable medal-winning campaign run.
- Treesa believes victory against the world's leading pair is increasingly within reach.

| DREAM TEST BEGINNING |

Jadeja urges debutant Saransh to embrace Test opportunity

Press Trust Of India

COLOMBO: Veteran all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja advised debutant Saransh Jain to avoid pressure and approach his maiden Test appearance against Sri Lanka like another First-Class match. The 33-year-old Madhya Pradesh spin bowling all-rounder became India's 320th Test cricketer after replacing Kuldeep Yadav in the playing eleven for the second match of the two-Test series.

Presenting Saransh with his cap, Jadeja praised his years of consistent performances in the Ranji Trophy and for India A. He reminded him that representing India was every cricketer's dream and encouraged him to enjoy the occasion with the support of his teammates.

Saransh said receiving the cap from Jadeja was especially meaningful because both are all-rounders. He described Jadeja as a legend whose guidance would motivate him to fulfil his ambitions.

Treat this debut like another First-Class match, trust your preparation, enjoy every moment and never allow pressure to dominate you.

Ravindra Jadeja
India all-rounder

The debutant thanked God and his family, particularly his father, who inspired him to begin playing cricket. Saransh said his father remained the person closest to him and would be the first family member he informed about the achievement.

Sports News

Edmund hat-trick ends East Bengal's 22-year Durand drought

Edmund Lalrindika's stunning hat-trick inspired East Bengal to a dominant derby victory, securing their record-equalling 17th Durand Cup crown after a 22-year wait in Kolkata.

Press Trust Of India

Lalrindika struck thrice while captain Mohammed Rashid brilliantly controlled midfield proceedings throughout.

Union Minister Rajnath Singh handsover the tournament trophy to East Bengal FC's Edmund Lalrindika, 10, after winning the Durand Cup 2026 Final football match between East Bengal FC and Mohun Bagan Super Giant, in Kolkata, West Bengal, Sunday.

KOLKATA: Edmund Lalrindika produced a memorable derby hat-trick as East Bengal demolished Mohun Bagan 4-1 to win their record-equalling 17th Durand Cup title on Sunday.

The emphatic triumph ended East Bengal's 22-year wait for the prestigious trophy. Their previous success came in 2004, when they defeated Mohun Bagan 2-1 in the final.

Antonio Lopez Habas' team delivered a fluent and disciplined performance, effectively deciding the contest with four goals during a breathtaking opening half. Captain Mohammed Rashid controlled midfield, regained possession effectively and repeatedly created openings for East Bengal's attackers.

Rashid initiated the opening goal in the 10th minute after winning possession inside the opposition half. He shaped to shoot before finding Bipin Singh, who calmly placed a left-footed effort beyond goalkeeper Vishal Kaith.

Mohun Bagan had barely recovered when Lalrindika doubled the advantage two minutes later. Operating as the lone striker in place of Jesin TK, he surged forward before striking powerfully from 20 yards. His effort took a deflection off Kaith and entered the net.

Lalrindika scored again in the 22nd minute. Hardik Bhatt found Daniel Ramirez, whose pass released the striker. Lalrindika rounded the advancing goalkeeper and finished into an empty net.

Manvir Singh reduced the deficit in the 33rd minute, briefly giving Mohun Bagan hope. However, East Bengal restored their dominance before halftime. Rashid delivered a cross towards Jay Gupta, who squared the ball across goal for Lalrindika to complete his hat-trick with a simple finish.

East Bengal remained compact after the interval, preventing their rivals from building any sustained pressure. Mohun Bagan's defensive gaps and lack of control in important areas left them unable to mount a comeback.

The victory also avenged East Bengal's 1-0 defeat in the 2023 final, which had given Mohun Bagan their 17th title. Both Kolkata giants are now level with 17 trophies each in the 135-year history of Asia's oldest football competition.

Sooryavanshi fails; Gharami, Shahbaz tons prop up East

Press Trust Of India

Sudip Gharami's commanding 146 powered East Zone's recovery against North East bowlers.

BENGALURU: Bengal's middle-order mainstay Sudip Gharami continued his dream run of form from the last domestic season with a stylish 146 that propelled East Zone to 355 for six against North East on the opening day of the Duleep Trophy here Sunday.

Gharami was ably complemented by out-of-favour India player Shahbaz Ahmed, who was unbeaten on 100, as they added 150 runs for the sixth wicket to help East recover well from 138 for 5.

The day started with Vaibhav Sooryavanshi (8) showing why he is very much a work in progress as far as his red ball game is concerned.

He started with a whiplash through mid-wicket and another thumping cover drive before Manipur's Bishworjit Konthoujam bowled one back of length and the slash went to gully.

Abhimanyu Easwaran (15), who is no longer in India contention, was caught plumb in-front by medium pacer Jotin Singh.

Kumar Kushagra (55) and Gharami then got together for a 92-run stand for the third wicket. Kushagra looked in fine nick hitting nine boundaries off 65 balls as Gharami also slowly resurrected the innings.

However Kushagra's dismissal sparked a mini-collapse as India star Ishan Kishan and Virat Singh were also gone in quick succession before Shahbaz and Gharami took charge.

Gharami, who was fourth in last year's list of run-getters with 795 runs, was quick to dispatch anything on the legs but was also adept at finding gaps on the offside -- one such bringing about his ninth first-class hundred.

FASTFACTS

- **Shahbaz Ahmed remained unbeaten on 100 after sharing a crucial 150-run partnership.**
- **East Zone recovered from 138 for five to finish strongly at 355/6.**

|WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS|

Alex emerge France's first-ever world champions, An too win

Press Trust Of India

Lanier emerged as the world champion in men's singles, thrashing Japan's Kodai Naraoka 21-11 21-11

NEW DELHI: The mixed doubles pair of Thom Gicquel and Delphine Delrue, and men's singles player Alex Lanier on Sunday became the first French badminton players to become world champions, while Korea's An Se Young captured her second women's singles crown.

Thom and Delphine, the world No. 5 French pair, stunned the world No. 1 duo of Feng Yan Zhe and Huang Dong Ping of China in the World Championships mixed doubles final 22-20 19-21 21-15 in one hour and 18 minutes to claim the biggest title of their careers.

Moments later, Lanier emerged as the world champion in men's singles, thrashing Japan's Kodai Naraoka 21-11 21-11 in a lop-sided summit clash.

Korea's World No. 1 An Se Young dispatched three-time champion and world No 2 Akane Yamaguchi of Japan 21-17 21-14 to capture her second women's singles world title. She had won the maiden crown in 2023 Denmark.

Indian junior hockey team to train in Dalian in China

NEW DELHI: The Indian junior men's hockey team will play three practice matches in Dalian in China against the counterparts of the host country as part of preparations for the upcoming Junior Asia Cup next month. The Junior Asia Cup will be held in Moqi, China from September 4 to 13. The Indian team left for Dalian in Liaoning province in China on Sunday. The team will arrive in Dalian on Monday and undergo a series of training sessions before playing practice matches against the China junior men's team, a release from Hockey India said.

|CITY'S DRAMATIC COMEBACK|

Late Gvardiol winner gives Maresca dream Man City debut

Press Trust Of India

MANCHESTER: Manchester City celebrated Enzo Maresca's first Premier League match in charge by scoring twice from the 84th minute to defeat Bournemouth 2-1 on Sunday.

Josko Gvardiol secured victory in the opening minute of stoppage time, guiding a composed finish into the bottom corner. The goal was initially disallowed for offside but awarded following a video review.

Marc Guehi had earlier equalised with a header from a corner after substitute Rayan Cherki transformed City's attack. Cherki created both goals and injected urgency into a performance lacking the familiar fluency of Pep Guardiola's era.

|GRAND CHESS TOUR|

GCT Grand Finale: Praggnanandhaa lets Keymer off the hook

Press Trust Of India

Praggnanandhaa missed a winning opportunity before drawing Vincent Keymer in St. Louis.

ST. LOUIS: Indian Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa came close to winning but let the cup slip from the lip as he settled for a draw with Vincent Keymer of Germany in the first game of the grand finale of the Grand Chess tour here.

On a day when American Wesley So decided to play safe against compatriot Fabiano Caruana and drew effortlessly with his white pieces, Pragg was in full flow fighting hard from what looked like a spatial advantage for white.

Keymer, who has been very steady riser did not have a clue while he was pressing for an advantage and when the turbulence ended the German found himself in a nearly hopeless endgame.

The fighter that he is, Keymer just stick in there and matched Pragg move for move till the Indian blundered away a full six points.

The USD 450,000 event this year is a USD 100,000 USD increase in prize fund compared to last year's event at Sao Paulo in Brazil.

And the think tank has done well to let the event remain in St. Louis where the tour was conceived.

The players will start the contest with two games in Classical wherein each victory will be worth 6 points and a draw will mean both players receiving 3 points each.

After the two Classical games the players will have to change gears and play the rapid and blitz games on the very next day.

In rapid section, each victory will be worth 4 points and a draw will split that between the players.

The two rapid games will be followed by four blitz games where each win will be worth two points each and a draw resulting in one point for both players. In all cases the player that loses does not get anything.

World

US memorandum is best path out of stalled war.

Masoud Pezeshkian
Iranian President

INS Sudarshini at Lisbon, Portugal

Navy officials as Indian Navy's sail training ship, INS Sudarshini, arrives at Lisbon, Portugal, as part of her ongoing Lokayan 26 transoceanic expedition. (PTI Photo)

US memorandum best path out of stalled war: Pezeshkian

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian defended a memorandum of understanding with the United States as the best approach to move past the current stalled phase of the war.

Press Trust Of India

DUBAI: Iran's president defended a memorandum of understanding with the United States as the best way out of a stalled war. Meanwhile, the new head of the Islamic Republic's top security body warned, in a more forceful tone, of retaliation if neighbouring countries support US threats to further sanction Tehran.

A Palestinian man was beaten by an Israeli settler outside his home, and Israel's military said they were pursuing a stabbing suspect in a separate attack, the latest violence in the occupied West Bank. An Israeli airstrike in Gaza killed a child, according to a local hospital.Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian defended a recent memorandum of understanding as the best way for the country to move beyond what he described as a situation of "neither war nor peace."

"There is not a single provision in this agreement that amounts to capitulation," Pezeshkian said in a speech published by state-run IRNA early on Sunday. "The supreme leader sets the policies, and we will follow that path." The deal known as the Memorandum of Understanding that US President Donald Trump signed in June set a 60-day deadline for ending the war with Iran and reaching an accord on its nuclear program.

That period ended last week, but no signs of compromise have emerged, especially on the crucial issue of reopening the Strait of Hormuz, vital to global shipping. Pezeshkian also linked the agreement to Iran's economic prospects, saying the country couldn't attract investment in this stalled phase. Nearly six months into the war with the United States and Israel, Iran's economy is suffering under sanctions and a naval blockade. The judiciary's Mizan news agency reported on Sunday the latest execution connected to the protests, identifying the man as Majid Adineh and saying he was arrested Jan. 9 in Mohammadshahr, near Karaj, west of Tehran. Authorities said that he was carrying a handgun with 30 rounds of ammunition, two stun guns, two cans of tear gas and a battery-powered chainsaw. The judiciary said that forensic examinations indicated the handgun had been fired on Jan. 8 and 9. Mizan said Adineh had joined the unrest following calls by groups opposed to Iran's government and alleged that he had received training from groups outside the country.

FASTFACTS

- **The newly appointed head of Iran's top security body issued a strong warning regarding potential retaliation if neighboring nations support US threats of further sanctions.**

Indian killed, 9 injured in Oman crash

DUBAI: One Indian national was killed and nine others were injured after a vehicle veered off the road in Oman, police said. The incident occurred on Saturday on Sultan Said bin Teymur Street after the vehicle veered off the road.

The police Air Wing carried out an operation to transport two of the injured from Al Hema Governorate to Nizwa Hospital, the Royal Oman Police said in a post on X.

"The incident resulted in one fatality and injuries to nine people of Indian nationality, who were subsequently transferred to Nizwa Hospital by ambulance vehicles to receive medical care," it said.

| EARTHQUAKE SHAKES JAPAN |

Moderate quake shakes Japan, injuring over 30 in Tokyo region

Press Trust Of India

A moderate earthquake struck eastern Japan with its epicenter in Ibaraki prefecture, shaking the Tokyo area early Sunday.

TOKYO: A moderate earthquake rattled eastern Japan, including the Tokyo area, early Sunday, injuring more than 30 people, most of them lightly, officials said. There was no danger of a tsunami.

According to the Japan Meteorological Agency, the quake had a preliminary magnitude of 5.9 and its epicentre was in the southern Ibaraki prefecture with a depth of 70 kilometres (42 miles).

The US Geological Survey recorded a magnitude of 5.8. At least 37 people were injured in five prefectures in the region -- 15 in Tokyo, nine in Saitama, eight in Kanagawa, four in Chiba and one in Ibaraki -- according to prefectural officials and the Fire and Disaster Management Agency. Most of the injured were hurt when they fell down or hit themselves against furniture or doors as they were caught off guard by the quake while sleeping and got out of bed in a panic, officials said. Among them was a woman in her 80s who fell off the bed and suffered a serious hip injury in Yokohama, in the Kanagawa prefecture, the Yomiuri newspaper reported. A 23-year-old man told the Asahi newspaper that he felt a vertical jolt seconds after his earthquake alert went off when he was shopping in Tokyo's eastern district of Taito.

FASTFACTS

- **At least 37 people across five prefectures were injured, mostly suffering light injuries from falls or impacts with furniture while panicking.**

| RUSSIA UKRAINE WAR |

Zelenskyy details rift with dismissed defence minister

Press Trust Of India

KYIV: Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said he believes actions taken by dismissed Defence Minister Mykhailo Fedorov, including his involvement in mass protests and calls for elections, were misguided, as he publicly detailed their dispute for the first time.

Zelenskyy also alluded to problematic decisions over defence spending and said inaccurate information provided by the Defence Ministry contributed to an awkward encounter with US President Donald Trump over the use of Starlink in Russia. Zelenskyy disclosed figures showing Ukraine's growing shortage of Patriot air-defence missiles needed to counter Russian ballistic attacks, with deliveries from Western allies declining in the past three years even as Russian missile strikes intensified. He highlighted battlefield gains, however, saying Ukrainian forces have almost completely recaptured the Dnipropetrovsk region, with only about 10 square km remaining under Russian control. He made the remarks during a two-hour off-the-record meeting with reporters on Saturday, with a transcript released publicly on Sunday. His comments ranged widely, covering the latest battlefield developments, efforts to counter Russian ballistic attacks, the state of peace negotiations, Ukraine's budgetary challenges and the political turmoil surrounding Fedorov's dismissal. "I really had and still have a very positive attitude toward Mykhailo. We have been through a lot together. But I believe that he himself goes, or is pushed, into the wrong things," he said.

> **I really had and still have a very positive attitude toward Mykhailo. We have been through a lot together. But I believe that he himself goes, or is pushed, into the wrong things.**
>
> **Volodymyr Zelenskyy**
> President of Ukraine

Fedorov, a popular minister credited with modernising Ukraine's armed forces and accelerating the military's embrace of technology and drone warfare, was dismissed last month after reportedly falling out with the country's top military commander.

Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

EUROPE BALTICS CYCLONE

Powerful storm hits Baltic countries, killing 2 and leaving hundreds of thousands without power

WARSAW: Two people died and around half a million people were left without electricity across Latvia and Lithuania after a powerful cyclone, bringing rain and strong winds, hit the region on Saturday and into Sunday morning. "This seems to be the most severe storm in Latvia since 2005 in terms of its overall impact," Andris Viksna, from the Latvian Environment, Geology and Meteorology Centre, told the AP.

One person died in Jelgava, central Latvia, when part of a building collapsed on Saturday, and others were injured across the country. Wind speed exceeded 67 mph on Saturday in the capital, Riga. At many stations, half of the average monthly rainfall was recorded on Saturday. More than a quarter-million people were left without electricity and mobile services were disrupted. Rail and other public transport services were affected by trees and other objects falling on infrastructure. The Riga airport said on Sunday morning that flights could be delayed or rerouted because of the severe storm overnight.

One person also died in neighbouring Lithuania after being hit by a falling tree. Others were injured and over 200,000 residents were without electricity on Sunday morning. Strong winds also battered Estonia, with the western and northern parts and its islands most affected. Ferry services to islands were disrupted and trains arriving from Latvia and Lithuania delayed.

GREECE MIGRANTS CLASH

Migrants clash and escape detention centre in Greece

ATHENS: Migrants clashed with police at a detention center in northern Greece and cut through a perimeter fence, with 35 escaping before authorities recaptured about half of them, officials said Sunday. Greece is a key entry point for migrants into Europe, and migration is a hot-button issue in the country. Greece's conservative government has been toughening its migration policies.

Police reinforcements were called late Saturday to the temporary accommodation centre for asylum seekers in Sintiki, a few kilometres from the Bulgarian border, after migrants threw rocks at guards, according to police. The facility houses around 450 people who are placed there while their asylum applications are processed, which can be a protracted procedure.Police special forces responded with flash grenades during the clashes, which officials said lasted until the early hours of Sunday.

Police said they arrested 17 of the migrants who had escaped, while searches continued for around 18 others. An additional five were injured and taken to hospital.

US INDIAN KILLING

Indian national shot dead by unidentified man in New York City

NEW YORK: A 27-year-old Indian national was shot dead in New York City by an unidentified man after an altercation, according to a media report. Gurdeep Singh, a resident of Queens, was fatally shot around 10 pm (local time) on Friday near Stanley Avenue in East New York neighbourhood. The suspect fled the scene after the incident. When the police reached the scene, they found a man who was shot in the chest. Paramedics rushed the victim to a hospital, where he was pronounced dead, according to CBS News.

A surveillance video obtained by CBS News shows two people fighting in the street followed by a flash of light, assumed to be from gunshots. One person fell on the ground, and the other got in a car and drove off, the report said. The police searched the neighbourhood for evidence till Saturday morning. No arrests have been made so far, and an investigation into the matter is underway. Anthony Santos, who works near the crime scene, told CBS News that the incident left him "shocked" and "afraid".

KAZAKHSTAN parliamentary ELECTION

Kazakhstan votes in parliamentary election expected to strengthen president's grip on power

TALLINN: Kazakhstan was voting Sunday in a parliamentary election that is expected to further strengthen President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev's grip on power in Central Asia's largest nation. The pro-presidential Adilet party is widely predicted to win an overwhelming majority, with several smaller parties loyal to Tokayev also anticipated to enter parliament. The vote is the country's first election to a new, single-chamber parliament called the Kurultai. The 73-year-old Tokayev, a former Soviet official and Kazakh diplomat who previously worked at the United Nations, has been in office since 2019. Sunday's vote is the culmination of a constitutional overhaul that Tokayev initiated in March, when 87 per cent of voters supported a referendum to merge the two chambers of parliament into one and grant the president authority to appoint key officials, subject to parliamentary approval, including reestablishing the vice presidency. Tokayev, who has sought to maintain a delicate balance between Moscow and the West since sanctions were imposed on Russia over the war in Ukraine, has justified the changes by citing the need for rapid decision-making in a fast-changing world. Last month, Kazakhstan's Constitutional Court ruled that the amendments effectively reset the clock on Tokayev's previous terms in office, opening the door for him to run for another seven-year term.