

Census vital national responsibility: PM Modi

Over 2.6 crore people completed mobile self-enumeration.

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Sunday that Census is a national responsibility, urging citizens to self-enumerate online to ensure accurate data for planning the nation's future.

In his monthly radio address Mann Ki Baat, he noted that so far more than 2.6 crore people have entered their details on the Census portal via mobile phones, completing the self-enumeration.

"Census is a national



responsibility for all of us. It is important for the nation as accurate information about you and your family helps create a precise picture of the country's future," he said. The prime minister said the online self-reg-

istration facility is highly convenient, allowing citizens to easily enter information for themselves and their families directly from their mobile phones. Along with Hindi, this facility is available in 16 regional

First phase nears completion.

Narendra Modi,
Prime Minister

languages, he said.

"A grand picture of the nation is currently emerging. This picture includes you, your family and even your neighbours. I am referring to India's Census. The first phase of this exercise is nearly complete across all states and union territories," he said.

Modi said data of over 32 crore families has already been recorded and work is currently underway also in the remote, snow-clad regions of Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, and Uttarakhand.

"To do this, you need to visit the Census online portal. The portal is se.census.gov.in log in using your mobile number, enter your location, fill in the details regarding your family and submit the information," he said.

Three-day nationwide bank strike from today

Press Trust Of India

Unions threaten indefinite strike from October 26.

NEW DELHI: Banking services, including cheque clearance, cash withdrawals and deposits, are likely to be disrupted for three days beginning Monday as bank unions go on nationwide strike to press for a five-day working week and other pending demands.

The impact is expected to be felt primarily at



public sector banks, old generation private sector banks and regional rural banks, though digital banking and other online services are likely to remain available.

Besides, branches of new generation private

sector lenders like ICICI Banks, HDFC Bank, and Axis Bank will remain open during those three days.

The three-day strike follows one-day nationwide strike observed on September 11.

5,000 rescued; locals retrieve liquor bottles

Press Trust Of India

Upstream inflows worsen flood situation in Bastar.

JAGDALPUR/RAIPUR: Nearly 5,000 people were rescued, including 16 airlifted, in the last two days after heavy rains swelled rivers in Chhattisgarh, officials said on Sunday, while a video showed people retrieving liquor bottles swept away from a shop in Dhamtari.

As many as six truck drivers and helpers were stranded on a highway in the worst-affected Bastar



and sought help from the rooftops of their vehicles before being rescued, they said. On Saturday, two persons were reported missing after being swept away in separate incidents in Dhamtari district, while two boys, aged 12 and 16, were swept away while bathing in the swollen

Arpa river in Bilaspur district, they said, adding that the body of one of the victims was found.

Although rainfall has subsided, rising water levels in rivers and streams due to continued inflow from upstream areas and release of water from dams have aggravated the flood-

like situation, particularly in Bastar and adjoining areas, they said. More than 1,000 persons have been rescued and shifted to relief camps in the last 24 hours in Bastar district, an official in Jagdalpur said. Sixteen persons stranded in the Dongaghat area were rescued using helicopters on Sunday morning, he said. The administration has set up 43 relief camps in urban and rural areas of the district, where more than 5,000 affected people were being provided shelter, food and other essential facilities, the official said.

Urban Flooding



An aerial view of a residential area partially inundated after heavy rainfall and subsequent rise in the Pandu River water level, in Kanpur.

Punjab's LPU students go on a rampage over rape 'rumours'

Press Trust Of India

Students protest at varsity over rape claim, block highway.

PHAGWARA: Students of the Lovely Professional University in Punjab's Phagwara allegedly went on a rampage on the campus early Sunday, damaging property and block-



ing a national highway over claims that a female student was raped by an outsider in the university premises.

Police said a rape case has been registered against an unknown person on a complaint by the students, who blocked a stretch of Delhi-Amritsar national highway, leading to a massive traffic jam.

A special investigation team has also been formed to investigate the matter, police said.

In a statement, Lovely

Professional University (LPU) said there was no truth in the rumours.

Videos circulating on social media purportedly showed a large number of LPU students damaging window panes, earthen flower pots and even putting some objects on fire.

Protesting students could be heard saying, "We want justice."

Classrooms join childhood obesity fight

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: As childhood overweight and obesity emerge as an increasingly important public health concern in India, experts say the fight cannot be confined to hospitals and clinics, and must extend to classrooms, school canteens, playgrounds and home.

According to the World Obesity Atlas 2026, India has the second-highest number of children liv-



ing with overweight or obesity globally, with around 41 million children affected. In 2025, nearly 14.9 million Indian children aged five-nine years and more than 26.4 million adolescents aged 10-19 years were estimated to be living with

NUMBER

41

India has 41 million overweight children.

overweight or obesity.

The experts said schools, where children spend a substantial part of their waking hours, can play a crucial role in shaping food choices, encouraging physical activity and health habits at an age

when lifelong habits are being formed. Dr Anirban Mandal, consultant, Paediatric Intensive Care at Sitaram Bhartia Institute of Science and Research, said schools have a much larger role to play in preventive healthcare than we have traditionally recognised.

"Because children spend a significant portion in the classroom, the lifestyle patterns shape their lifelong metabolic health," Dr Mandal said.

'Digital stack' unifies tourism products, services: Centre

Press Trust Of India

Union Tourism Secretary Bhuvnesh Kumar explained the salient points of this ambitious and first-of-its-kind initiative.

NEW DELHI: The Centre on Sunday launched a project to build a national digital public infrastructure for the tourism sector, which will enable users to

access a wide range of products and services on an open unified platform.

The Ministry of Tourism has joined hands with the Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) to build the 'National Digital Tourism Stack', with a target to bring onboard "23,000 tourism experiences and homestays" and make them "discoverable, trustable and

bookable" by the end of 2028.

Union Tourism Minister Gajendra Shekhawat launched the project at a function held at the Bharat Mandapam here to mark World Tourism Day.

On the occasion, Union Tourism Secretary Bhuvnesh Kumar explained the salient points of this ambitious and first-of-its-kind initiative.

NEWSLINE

NEW DELHI

'SAMARTH' vision

Indian Army Chief General Dhiraj Seth on Sunday said an army should have the capability to endure long-drawn conflicts, while technology must make soldiers faster and better informed, as he put forth the vision of 'SAMARTH' to enhance the operational readiness of the force. In his address at the Defence Summit, Gen Seth also said that an effective force should be capable of adapting and upgrading its capabilities faster than evolving threats, while modernising itself and remaining mission-ready in the era of "transformative wars". He spelt out his vision for the Indian Army in the acronym 'SAMARTH', saying the word in Hindi means capable.

NEW DELHI

Minister slaps man

Delhi PWD Minister Parvesh Verma landed in a controversy on Sunday after a video showing him allegedly slapping a man recording a road inspection in Tilak Nagar circulated on social media.

AAP MLA from Tilak Nagar Jarnail Singh, who was present at the spot, pulled out portions of the newly laid road surface by hand and questioned its quality. A young man standing nearby was recording the proceedings when Verma allegedly slapped him.

The incident, captured in a video shared by Singh on social media, triggered demands from AAP leaders for Verma's arrest, with party chief Arvind Kejriwal alleging that the minister lost his composure after local residents questioned the quality of the road.

NEW DELHI

Constructive politics

BJP Rajya Sabha MP Raghav Chadha on Sunday said the Centre mandating telecom operators to issue service tariff vouchers for voice calls and SMS only at a lower cost is a perfect example of constructive politics.

In a video message, Chadha said the government has asked telecom operators to issue STVs after he raised the issue during the Budget session of Parliament on March 11. "This is a perfect example of constructive politics," Chadha said, adding, "I hope we continue to solve the real problems of real India together like this." According to the Telecom Consumers Protection (Thirteenth Amendment) Regulations, 2026, released by the TRAI of India on September 22, telecom operators would have to issue special tariff vouchers for voice calls and SMS only.



The initiative to include moringa as a nutritious food in daily meals is significant.

Vishnu Deo Sai
CM Ch'garh

Shoaib Dhebar nabbed in Rs 25 cr extortion case

Police have nabbed the accused, Shoaib Dhebar, in Rs 25 cr extortion money case.

Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: Police have arrested the accused, Shoaib Dhebar, in connection with a case involving a demand for Rs 25 crore in extortion money in the capital, Raipur. According to the police, the accused demanded the money by sending threatening messages via WhatsApp from a foreign mobile number. The victim and his family were threatened with death if the amount was not paid.

A joint team comprising the Anti-Crime and Cyber Unit and the Telibandha Police Station carried out the operation.



Following the arrest, the court granted bail to Shoaib Dhebar.

According to the police, the complainant, Anandmal Kukreja, had lodged a complaint at the Telibandha police station.

The complaint stated that on September 14, 2026, he received threatening messages on his mobile phone via WhatsApp from a foreign number. The sender claimed to be associated with the

FACTFILE

During interrogation, the police claim that Shoaib Dhebar confessed to carrying out the act; he was then arrested.

‘Aman Sahu gang’ and demanded an extortion sum of Rs 25 crore. It is alleged that the accused threatened to kill Anandmal Kukreja, his son Ajit, and other family members if the money was not paid. Furthermore, an attempt was made to create an atmosphere of fear by threatening to have them killed in the Raipur and Telibandha areas.

A joint team comprising the Anti-Crime and Cyber Unit and the Telibandha police station gathered detailed information from the victim during the investigation. The police collected threatening WhatsApp messages, foreign mobile numbers, videos, and other digital evidence. The investigation team meticulously analyzed the foreign number that had contacted the victim's mobile, along with associated numbers and technical data. Based on digital inputs and the analysis of mobile number links and contacts, the police traced the accused.

Sai hails national recognition for Ch'garh's Moringa campaign

Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai on Sunday listened to the 138th episode of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's monthly radio programme Mann Ki Baat at Eklavya Adarsh Residential School in Lamkanhar village of Antargarh development block in Kanker district.

Sai expressed happiness over Prime Minister Modi's mention and appreciation of Chhattisgarh's 'Har Ghar



Munga-Ghar Ghar Munga' campaign, describing the recognition as a matter of pride for the state. He said Mann Ki Baat provides a national platform to positive changes, innovations and people-centric initiatives emerging from dif-

ferent parts of the country through public participation.

The Chief Minister said the repeated recognition of Chhattisgarh's initiatives reflected the dedication and participation of the people of the state.

IAF rescues 12 civilians stranded by floodwaters

Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: Following receipt of information that 10-12 civilians were stranded in kutcha huts on the north bank of the Indravati River near Dongaghat village, a crew of the Indian Air Force's Central Air Command took off to locate and rescue them.

After a thorough search of the area, the crew located the civilians gathered on the rooftop of a kutcha hut at risk of collapsing under the force of



the gushing floodwaters.

Considering the limited time available and the need to ensure the civilians' safety, a daring rescue operation was undertaken. A Garud commando was lowered onto the fragile rooftop to assist the stranded people, who were then winched aboard the hovering helicopter.

| TRIPLE MURDER CASE |

Husband kills wife and two innocent children

Central Chronicle News

In the Sahu Para locality of Dumartarai, a man allegedly attacked his wife and two minor children.



FACTFILE

Preliminary investigations suggest that suspicion regarding his wife's character was the motive behind the incident.

rented house in Sahu Para, Dumartarai. Preliminary investigations suggest that following a late-night dispute, he first attacked his wife, Khilleshwari Sahu.

According to the police, after attacking his wife, the accused targeted both his children as well. The deceased children have been identified as Ashish Sahu (10) and Gyan Sahu

(8). All three sustained fatal injuries in the attack carried out with a sharp-edged weapon.

After attacking the three victims, the accused, Bhuvneshwar Sahu, stabbed himself as well, sustaining serious injuries. Neighbours learned of the incident in the morning and alerted the police. Upon arriving at the scene, the Mana police found the accused injured and immediately rushed him to the hospital.

The police have admitted the injured accused to Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar Memorial Hospital in Raipur for treatment.

Mayor inspects dilapidated buildings in Sadar and Satti Bazaar



Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: The Municipal Corporation administration has intensified security preparations for the Shri Ganesh idol immersion procession scheduled for tomorrow. Raipur Municipal Corporation Mayor Meenal Choubey inspected the dilapidated buildings situated along the designated route of the procession and appealed to the building owners for their cooperation to prevent potential accidents and loss of life. Raipur Municipal Corporation Mayor Meenal Choubey personally inspected the designated procession

route in the Sadar Bazaar and Satti Bazaar areas. Mayor Choubey appealed to the owners of the concerned dilapidated buildings to keep the structures closed for a total of three days—the day before the procession, the day of the procession, and the day after—and to stay away from the premises during this period. The Raipur Municipal Corporation Mayor stated that a large crowd of devotees and citizens gathers during the procession. Given the risk of untoward incidents caused by dilapidated buildings, taking this precautionary measure is essential.

| MMI NARAYANA HOSPITAL'S WALKATHON |

Over 5,000 people walk for a Healthier Heart

Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: MMI Narayana Hospital, Raipur, successfully hosted the 15th edition of its annual Walkathon, a community initiative held since 2012 to promote heart health and help build awareness for the prevention of cardiac ailments.

This year's Walkathon began from Shaheed Bhagat Singh Chowk today, drawing over 5,000 participants, reflecting continued community enthusiasm for



the event across Chhattisgarh.

The Walkathon, which has grown into one of Raipur's most recognised community health initiatives over the past fifteen

years, once again reinforced the importance of heart health, healthy habits, and early prevention. Participants of all age groups took part in the walk, demonstrating

growing awareness about heart care in daily life.

The event was graced by the Chief Guest, Commanding Officer, CRPF 65 Battalion, Radhe Shyam Singh, who flagged off the walk. The event was also attended by Traffic AIG Sanjay Sharma, Dr. Sumanta Sekhar Padhi, Dr. PK Hari Kumar, Dr. Sunil Gouniyal, Dr. Wasim Khan, Dr. Snehlal Goswami, Ankit Agrawal (Khushi Rice Bran Oil), and Lalit Jaisingh (Sindhi Council of India, C.G.), along with Tapani Ghosh,

Facility Director, MMI Narayana Hospital, Raipur.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Tapani Ghosh said, "Fifteen years of this Walkathon reflect our commitment to heart health awareness in Raipur and across Chhattisgarh. Seeing over 5,000 people walk with us this year is truly heartening. We remain dedicated to making preventive cardiac care accessible and reaching communities before health concerns turn critical."

Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

WORKSHOP ON "AI FOR CULTURAL HERITAGE"

IIIT Naya Raipur launches B.Tech. Minor in 'Digital Humanities'



NAYA RAIPUR: Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee International Institute of Information Technology, Naya Raipur (IIIT-NR), will formally launch its B.Tech. Minor in 'Digital Humanities' on September 28, 2026, as an important multidisciplinary academic initiative. On the same occasion, a one-day workshop on "AI for Cultural Heritage" will also be organised under the aegis of the AI Centre of Excellence (AI-CoE) established at IIIT-NR under the Government of India's IndiaAI Mission. In line with the vision of multidisciplinary education envisaged under the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, IIIT-NR has made it mandatory for B.Tech. students to opt for an interdisciplinary Minor. Among the five Minor options offered by the Institute, 60 students have chosen Digital Humanities based on their interests

and preferences. This marks the formal beginning of this innovative and multidisciplinary Minor stream at IIIT-NR. The Chief Guest of the programme will be Dr. Sachchidanand Joshi, Vice Chancellor, Indian Institute of Heritage and Member Secretary, Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA), New Delhi. Dr. Joshi will deliver the keynote address on "Preservation of Cultural Heritage in the Digital Age – Challenges and Opportunities." Shashank Sharma, President, Sahitya Parishad, Chhattisgarh, will attend the programme as the Guest of Honour and deliver a special address on "Culture, Art and Literature of Chhattisgarh." The programme will thus place the broader perspective of India's cultural heritage alongside the rich local culture, art and literature of Chhattisgarh.

COMMENTS ON BJP GOVT'S WORKING

Law-and-order situation across the state is in shambles, alleges Bhagat



RAIPUR: MP and the new Congress in-charge for Chhattisgarh, Sukhdev Bhagat, raised a question: if the BJP advocates "A Tree in Mother's Name," does that imply the entire forest is being handed over to Adani? Speaking at a press conference at Rajiv Bhawan today—during his first visit to Chhattisgarh since assuming the role of State in-charge—Sukhdev Bhagat stated that this is not a matter of caste or religion. He expressed regret that the conduct of Chhattisgarh's Chief Minister stands in stark contrast to the community he hails from; his actions and style of functioning resemble those of corporate houses. Congress has always remained committed to preventing the water, forests, and land of the

Hasdeo Arand region from falling into the hands of outsiders.

When the Congress was in power in Chhattisgarh, a resolution was passed in the Legislative Assembly ensuring that no coal blocks—including those in Hasdeo—would be auctioned. Under the current BJP government, however, the situation has reached a point where a million trees are facing the axe. There is talk of displacing affected people, but the question remains: will this displacement happen at the cost of the environment?

Congress state incharge said that the Chhattisgarh government claims it will recruit for 5,000 to 7,000 posts, yet it fails to clarify whether these appointments will be permanent or temporary.

PLANTATION USING MIYAWAKI METHOD

Dense tree plantation using Miyawaki method begins at Himalaya Heights Ph-2

RAIPUR: A dense tree plantation drive was launched on September 27 at the Himalaya Heights Phase-2 complex under the joint aegis of Chhattisgarh Gramin Bank and the Green Army (Devpuri, Raipur). Vinod Arora, Chairman of Chhattisgarh Gramin Bank, graced the event with his special presence and active participation. On this occasion, retired and serving officers and employees of the Gramin Bank, Green Army volunteers, and residents of Himalaya Heights Phase-2 enthusiastically participated in planting saplings of various species.



GPM DISTRICT'S TOURISM SPLENDOUR

District administration making continuous efforts to bring recognition to tourism potential: Collector

RAIPUR: On the occasion of World Tourism Day, the rich natural, historical, religious, and cultural tourism splendour of the Gaurela-Pendra-Marwahi (GPM) district was showcased impressively at the 'Central India Connect Marketplace,' organized jointly by the Chhattisgarh Tourism Board and the Chhattisgarh Travel Trade Association in the capital, Raipur. A special stall has been set up at the event with the aim of effectively presenting the district's tourism potential to the tourism fraternity of the state and the country. Through this special stall, the district's scenic beauty, lush green forest



regions, historical and archaeological heritage, centers of religious faith, and key tourist attractions are being presented in an engaging manner. Representatives from the tourism sector, travel trade professionals, and visitors are being informed about the district's major tourist sites and their unique features.

Bhilai



“Resolve family disputes through dialogue and legal counsel, or seek guidance at women’s police stations and family counselling cells.”

Vijay Agrawal
(SSP, Durg).

Public participation key to realizing Viksit Bharat: Savitri

Union MoS for Women and Child Development Savitri Thakur honoured Anganwadi workers, helpers, and Mitans for exemplary service under the Seva Sankalp Abhiyan.

Central Chronicle News

BHILAI: Under the Seva Sankalp Abhiyan, an ‘Aangan Milan’ program was organized at the Sector-7 Anganwadi Centre, with Union Minister of State for Women and Child Development Savitri Thakur attending as the chief guest alongside Durg Rural MLA Lalit Chandrakar.

Addressing the gathering, Minister Thakur commended Anganwadi workers, helpers, and Mitans for their dedication to grassroots healthcare, nutrition,



Union MoS offering food to a child.

and vaccination delivery. Emphasizing that community collaboration is vital for social progress, she urged parents to actively partner

with Anganwadi centers to track their children’s development. Underlining the ongoing Poshan Maah initiatives, she highlighted that proper

maternal nutrition, adolescent care, and environmental hygiene form the foundation of a disease-free, empowered family. She stressed that realizing the vision of a ‘Viksit Bharat’ requires active public participation in government welfare schemes.

During the event, workers Sangeeta Khadse, Gurmeet Kaur, Kamin Sahu, D. Mahalakshmi, Mitani Shaktantala, and Duleshwari were felicitated for outstanding service. Attendees also viewed an exhibition

FASTFACTS

● The event featured an exhibition of nutritious millet recipes, a community meal (Nyota Bhoj) for children, and a strong call for public participation to realize a ‘Viksit Bharat’.

of millet-based dishes promoting traditional nutrition, followed by a Nyota Bhoj organized for local children. Senior department officials, project supervisors, and self-help group members were present.

Ganesh idol immersion resumes at Shivrath



Central Chronicle News

BHILAI: The immersion of Lord Ganesh idols has officially recommenced at the Shivrath River after being temporarily halted due to incessant rains and surging water levels. On Sunday, Divisional Commissioner S.N. Rathore and District Collector Abhijit Singh visited the designated immersion ghats along the river to assess the current water flow and safety arrangements.

Following the on-site inspection, the officials directed administrative

and municipal teams to immediately resume the process and ensure the systematic, safe immersion of all pending idols. Adequate security personnel and rescue teams have been deployed along the banks to avert any untoward incidents.

Following their review of the riverfront, Commissioner Rathore and Collector Singh proceeded to the relief camp in Bhadrat to meet flood-affected residents and inspect basic facilities, including food, medical aid, and shelter arrangements.

NEWSLINE

WASTE VIOLATION

Urban company and hospital fined

BHILAI: The Bhilai Municipal Corporation has imposed fines totalling Rs 35,000 on Urban Company and Shankaracharya Hospital for violating Solid Waste Management and Biomedical Waste Management rules. Urban Company was penalized Rs 25,000 after its staff collected biomedical waste alongside solid waste from Shankaracharya Hospital and dumped it behind the local vegetable market, breaching contract terms. The fine will be deducted from the firm’s upcoming payment. Shankaracharya Hospital was fined Rs 10,000 for failing to segregate and handle biomedical waste properly.

ARREST

Bike lifter nabbed

BHILAI: Supela police arrested a 33-year-old man and recovered a stolen motorcycle following an investigation into a vehicle theft reported earlier this month. The complainant, Mohammad Shafiq, reported that his black Hero Honda Splendor Pro (CG-07-AE-044) was stolen from outside Shiv Prasad Hotel in Supela on the night of September 12, 2026. Acting on intelligence, police detained Abhishek Nagre, a resident of Jawahar Nagar, Bhilai. During interrogation, the accused confessed to the theft and led officers to RK Ground near the slaughterhouse.

THEFT

Scrap dealer arrested

BHILAI: Jamul police arrested a 42-year-old scrap dealer, Manoj Kumar Gupta alias Mannu, for purchasing stolen electrical wiring and air conditioner connections stripped from an under-construction house in Kailash Nagar, Bhilai. The theft of materials valued at approximately Rs 3 lakh occurred in mid-August. Police had earlier apprehended two juveniles who confessed to stealing the copper wiring, burning off the insulation to alter its appearance, and selling the metal to Gupta. Acting on this lead, investigators recovered the burnt electrical wires and AC connections.

BURGLARY

Jewellery and cash stolen

BHILAI: Anjora Chowki police registered a case under Section 305(a) after an unidentified thief broke into a home and decamped with cash and gold jewellery in broad daylight. According to the complaint filed by Saroj Nishad, a labourer at JD Ispat Company, she left for work on September 25 around 9 AM, leaving behind her husband Sunil and son Abhijit. When she returned at 5 PM, she found the main door open, her husband intoxicated and asleep, and their wardrobe rummaged. A pair of gold earrings, a gold bead necklace, and Rs 1,000 in cash were missing.

Honouring Physiotherapy Excellence

Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: Dr. Avula Prasad Yadav, a senior physiotherapist from Bhilai and the Director of Sri Ratnam RECKON Physiotherapy, was honored with the ‘Significant Contribution Award’ at the World Physiotherapy Asia West Pacific Region Conference 2026 in New Delhi, in recognition of his significant contributions to the fields of physiotherapy and rehabilitation. He received this honor for his sustained work in physiotherapy services and neuro-physical rehabilitation, his dedication to patient reha-



Dr. Avula Prasad Yadav receives prestigious physiotherapy award.

bilitation, and his professional and social contributions to the physiotherapy sector. Dr. Yadav holds BPT and MPT (Neuro) degrees and has been working in the fields of physiotherapy and neuro-rehabilitation for several years. He is associated

with the Indian Association of Physiotherapists (IAP), Chhattisgarh State Chapter, and plays an active role in various professional and social activities. He has contributed to initiatives such as raising awareness about physiotherapy, organizing free health and physiotherapy camps, and conducting activities related to patient rehabilitation. Upon receiving the award, Dr. Avula Prasad Yadav remarked that this honor represents not only a personal achievement but also an inspiration to continue striving for excellence in the fields of physiotherapy and rehabilitation.

Two held for knife attack

BHILAI: Vaishali Nagar police have arrested two men for allegedly attacking a youth with a sharp weapon over an old dispute in the Ramnagar Mohalla area. The incident occurred on Saturday night, September 26, 2026, around 9:30 PM, when the victim, Shivan-shakar, was confronted by Tekchand Sahu (alias Sonu, 24) and Vishal Singh (31). Following a heated argument, Sahu allegedly stabbed Shivanshakar in the abdomen with a sharp weapon.

Four nabbed for running over youth with pickup van following dispute

Central Chronicle News

BHILAI: The Jamul police have arrested four youths for allegedly mowing down a 23-year-old man with a pickup van following an altercation near a Durga Puja pandal in the Dhancha Bhavan area. The incident occurred late on September 25, while the victim, Ankit Singh, was celebrating his birthday. According to police, a verbal argument broke out between Ankit and



the key accused, Gurpreet Singh alias Gopi (23), who arrived at the scene with his associates in a pickup truck. As the dispute escalated, Gopi allegedly drove the vehicle recklessly and ran over Ankit before fleeing. Friends rushed to the critically injured victim to

a hospital, where doctors declared him dead on arrival. Following a complaint lodged by the victim’s father, police formed teams, cordoned off the area, and apprehended four accused: Gurpreet Singh alias Gopi, Gurpreet Singh alias Gagan (24), Milind Sahu (21), and Shubham Sharma (21). The pickup van involved in the crime was seized, and all accused have been remanded to judicial custody.

MP Vijay Baghel honoured for championing workers’ rights

Central Chronicle News

BHILAI: Durg Lok Sabha MP Vijay Baghel was felicitated by local labour unions at Engineering Bhavan, Civic Centre, Bhilai, on Sunday in recognition of his persistent efforts toward safeguarding workers’ welfare and rights. The program was presided over by Ujjwal

Dutta, President of the FSNL Employees Union, affiliated with the BSP



Workers Union. Addressing the gathering, union leaders commended MP

Baghel for championing key issues, including raising the retirement age from 58 to 60 years, reinstating retrenched workers, resolving CG-07 vehicle toll issues at Rajnandgaon, and ensuring timely wage disbursement. In his response, Baghel stated that the honour belonged to the collective struggle of the workforce, reiter-

Police fetch over Rs 12.26 lakh from e-auction of 343 two-wheelers

Central Chronicle News

BHILAI: In a major clearance drive, Durg Police generated Rs 12,26,950 through an online auction of 343 seized and abandoned two-wheelers stationed at Bhilai Nagar police station. The e-auction was conducted in compliance with established statutory procedures via the Metal Scrap



Trading Corporation Limited (MSTC) portal. According to official records, the two-wheelers were auc-

tioned across three distinct lots, yielding Rs 4,24,514, Rs 4,11,054, and Rs 3,91,382, respectively. The entire

revenue collected will be deposited directly into the government treasury. Police officials stated that efforts to clear remaining unclaimed vehicles across district police stations are ongoing. Meanwhile, authorities have urged citizens to maintain updated vehicle registration records and immediately report any suspicious or unclaimed vehicles.

Durga Sahu awarded PhD in Zoology

Central Chronicle News

BHILAI: Hemchand Yadav University, Durg, has declared Durga Prasad Sahu, a lecturer at Government High School Manghur in Uttar Bastar Kanker district, eligible for the award of Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Zoology under the Faculty of Life Science. Sahu completed his doctoral research on

the topic “A Correlational Study Between Ground-water Heavy Metals of



Rajnandgaon District and Related Human Health Problems.” He conducted the study at the research

center of Government V.Y.T. PG Autonomous College, Durg, under the supervision of Dr. Divya Kumudini Minj, Head of the Zoology Department. Following positive evaluations from external examiners and the successful completion of his viva-voce examination, the university issued an official notification confirming the award.

Free anti-rabies vaccination and pet health camp organized

Central Chronicle News

BHILAI: Ahead of World Rabies Day, a free anti-rabies vaccination and comprehensive pet health checkup camp was organized at Padmanabhpur to promote animal health and preventive care. During the camp, veterinarians administered free



anti-rabies vaccinations to 30 dogs and 20 cats, alongside providing complimentary deworming treatment to around 20 pets. Expert veterinary practitioners conducted

free general health evaluations and offered clinical consultations to visiting pet owners. Complimentary pet shampoos and select medicines were also distributed, along

with a 25 percent discount on annual vaccination packages. Led by Dr. Aditya Dubey, veterinary specialists emphasized that rabies is entirely preventable through timely vaccination, urging pet parents to prioritize routine health examinations to protect both animals and the wider community.

FELICITATION |

OA-BSP reaffirms commitment to welfare & higher pension

Central Chronicle News

BHILAI: The Bhilai Steel Plant Officers’ Association (OA-BSP) organized a felicitation ceremony at Pragati Bhavan, Civic Centre, to honor the long service and notable contributions of officers superannuating in September 2026. The ceremony was attended by SEFI Vice Chairman Ajay Kumar Pandey, SEFI Chairman and OA-BSP



President Narendra Kumar Banchor, and General Secretary Ankur Mishra.

Retiring senior executives—including General Managers Anil Kumar Jain, Arun Keshav Bedekar, Dinesh Kumar Agrawal,

Prakash, Subhash Chandra Chanwariya, and Tushar Kanti Mukherjee, alongside several Assistant General Managers and managers—were honoured together with their spouses with citation let-

ters and honorarium.

Addressing the gathering, Narendra Kumar Banchor praised the retirees for driving BSP’s success, reiterating the association’s welfare achievements regarding pay revisions, raising leave encashment limits to Rs 25 lakh, and pursuing post-retirement medical parity with other Maharatna PSUs. Banchor also briefed attendees on

the EPS-95 higher pension dispute, affirming that the BSP PF Trust has approached the Bilaspur High Court to secure equitable benefits following favourable legal precedents. General Secretary Ankur Mishra remarked that the dedication of these officers helped BSP clinch the Prime Minister’s Trophy 11 times, leaving an inspiring legacy for future generations.

Two held for illegally selling psychotropic capsules

Central Chronicle News

BHILAI: Continuing its crackdown on illicit narcotics, Newai police on Sunday arrested two men for illegally peddling psychotropic prescription capsules near Sheelta Pond in the Station Maroda area of Durg. Acting on a tip-off, a police team cordoned off the area and intercepted Bhojraj Markandey (alias Bhoju, 36) and Chandrashekhhar Sahu (alias Shekhar Sahu, 32). A search led to the seizure of

80 SPASMO capsules weighing 48 grams containing Tramadol, Dicyclomine, and Acetaminophen, alongside Rs 6,080 in alleged drug sale proceeds and two mobile phones. Unable to produce valid medical documentation or authorization for possessing the pharmaceutical drugs, both accused were booked under Sections 22(B) and 27(A) of the NDPS Act and remanded to judicial custody by a local court.

Fun & Focus



Daily Horoscope

ARIES

Extra careful about your health especially blood pressure patients. Although no one prefers to lend or give away their money to anyone, but you'll feel relieved by lending your money to a person in need. Children spend more time on sports and other outdoor activities.

Cosmic tip: Once upon a time it was deferred

Gemini

Maintain your mental health-which is prerequisite for spiritual life. Mind is the gateway of life because everything whether it is good/bad comes through mind. It helps in solving life problems and endows one with requisite light.

Cosmic tip: What you necessitate you ask.

Leo

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. People who had undertaken loans may experience troubles in repaying the amount today.

Cosmic tip: Make time for peace.

Libra

Your generous attitude would be a blessing in disguise as you are likely to be liberated from many vices like doubt, disloyalty, depression, lack of faith, greed, attachment, egoism, and jealousy. You may witness tremendous profit in business today.

Cosmic tip: Reach your victory post.

Sagittarius

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. You are most likely to attain financial profits today at night because as any money lent before will come back instantly.

Cosmic tip: Are you sure you are smart?

Aquarius

It is possible for your maternal uncle or maternal grandfather to help you financially. Family members will be very demanding. People who are still single are likely to meet someone special today. You will make great strides in your career if you move around with influential people. Your competitive nature will enable you to win.

Cosmic tip: Let the busy world be busy.

Taurus

Friends will introduce you to somebody special who would have a remarkable influence on your thoughts. You will possess a considerable amount of money today, and with it there will be peace of mind. Forcing your opinion on children could annoy them.

Cosmic tip: Be unfraid for divine intervention.

Cancer

You will be happy as people around you extend support. All commitments and financial transactions need to be handled carefully. Make sure you have approval of everyone before you make changes to your home environment.. You can plan on enjoying your free time with your closest today.

Cosmic tip: Let the bygones be gone.

Virgo

Don't allow unwanted thoughts occupy your mind. Try to remain calm and tension free that would enhance your mental toughness. You will come up with brilliant new ideas that will bring financial gains. An important message by post will bring in happiness for the entire family. Emotional disturbances could trouble you. You are likely to gain- if you present

Cosmic tip: Life is not a money back guarantee.

Scorpio

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. Control your tendency to live for the day and to spend too much time and money on entertainment.

Cosmic tip: Don't shoo away the mergers.

Capricorn

Elderly people need to take care of their health. Financial hassles seem to get over as your parents extend support. Make sure you have approval of others before you make changes to your home environment. Today venture into partnership with enterprising people.

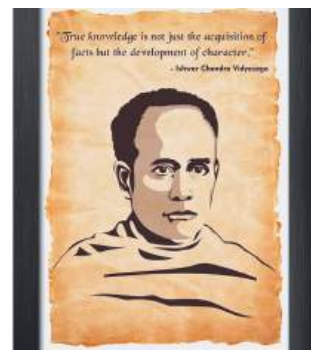
Cosmic tip: Make a way out.

Pisces

You are going to enjoy the pleasure of leisure. If you are traveling, then take special care of your valuables. Acting carelessly can increase the chances of theft or misplacing your items. Your family members are likely to create a mountain out of a molehill.

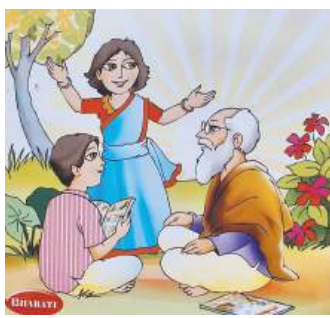
Cosmic tip: Write the story slowly.

Who was Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar?



Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar was an educator, social reformer, and "father of Bengali prose". He was born on September 26, 1820. He championed science education in school curriculums and himself was a very bright student as a child.

There are alphabets to his credit



Vidyasagar wrote many books, mainly the 'Borno Porichoy' (The basic book to learn the Bengali alphabet), which is still use din Primary schools of West Bengal. His inspiring life story and structural contributions are frequently tested in competitive exams like the AFCAT (Air Force Common Admission Test) in India.

Vidyasagar's milestone story



As a young child, he learned how to count numbers simply by looking at the distance markers (milestones) on the side of the road while walking to Calcutta with his father. He fought vigorously against child marriage and established 35 schools for girls.

THE LEGEND

Rajaraja I of the Chola Empire

1. Rajaraja I, also known as Rajaraja the Great, was one of the most powerful and famous kings of the Chola Empire, of India ruling from 985 to 1014 CE.
2. He was born as Arulmozhiarman (which means "whose tongue is graced with compassion").
3. When he inherited the throne, the Chola kingdom was quite small but Rajaraja built a massive and powerful navy. He used ships to cross the sea and capture islands like the Maldives and parts of Sri Lanka.
4. He defeated neighboring kingdoms like the Pandys, the Cheras, and parts of the Chalukyas, making his empire stretch very far along the southern coast of India.
5. He is best remembered for building the magnificent Brihadisvara Temple or Rajarajesvaram temple. It is now a famous UNESCO World Heritage Site.
6. He worked closely with his smart older sister, Kundavai, who helped him with important advice and supported temple building.
7. When Rajaraja I passed away, his brilliant son, Rajendra Chola I, became the next emperor and made the empire even bigger.



SEPTEMBER 28-THE DAY IN HISTORY

1. September 28 is a significant date in Indian history, most notably marked by the birth anniversary of Lata Mangeshkar, the iconic playback singer and Bharat Ratna recipient, often referred to as the "Melody Queen of India,".
2. Same day in 1827, the establishment of the Regiment of Artillery Raising Day for the Indian Army (celebrated as Gunners' Day) was done.
3. Also on this day in 1961, National Institute of Design (NID) was established in Ahmedabad, Gujarat.
4. On September 28, 1928, Alexander Fleming discovered penicillin, revolutionizing modern medicine.



IT'S QUIZ TIME

1. Neso is the most distant moon in the solar system, with its eccentric orbit taking it millions of miles from its planet. Which planet?
2. Name the blonde haired mouse that is the romantic interest of both Chip N Dale, the Rescue Rangers from the comic strip?
3. This American author's birth in 1835 coincided with the appearance of Halley's Comet in the same year. He died in the year of its next appearance in 1910. Identify?
4. Che Guevara became a global symbol of revolution and rebellion. He joined Fidel Castro's revolutionary movement and became one of the key figures in which revolution?
5. Which tennis legend, who won 20 Grand Slam singles titles and spent 237 consecutive weeks as World No. 1, was recently inducted into the International Tennis Hall of Fame?
6. India's first "Night Sky Sanctuary," established to promote astronomy tourism and protect dark skies from light pollution, is located in which region?
7. The traditional Tholu Bommalata shadow puppets of Andhra Pradesh are crafted from a specific material that gives them their translucent quality. What is the primary material used to create these puppets?

(1) Neptune (2) Gadget Hackwrench (3) Mark Twain (4) Cuban Revolution (5) Roger Federer (6) Hanle in Ladakh (7) Translucent leather

Answers RamaQuiz

TELL ME WHY?

Why do ants walk in a straight line?

Ants walk in a line because they follow a chemical scent trail left by other ants to navigate between their nest and a food source without getting lost.

A leader ant leaves a smelly chemical trail on the ground, called a pheromone, and the other ants follow the trail. This is how they walk in a line.



TOUR INDIA

The Tunnel with a Ghost

Shimla may be known for colonial charm, but its haunted stories add another layer of mystery. Tunnel No. 33 on the Kalka-Shimla railway is associated with Colonel Barog, an engineer who died here. Local lore says his presence still lingers around the tunnel. Some visitors report hearing laughter and conversations in darkness. Surrounded by hills and railway heritage, the tunnel remains, one of Shimla's most talked-about locations for visitors interested in history, mystery and folklore for many visitors.



WORD OF THE DAY

Kinetic

Meaning - Relating to or resulting from motion

Example - The kinetic sculpture moved gracefully in the wind.

Synonyms - Active, dynamic, moving

Antonyms - Static, inactive, inert



PHRASE FACT FINDER

"You can say that again"

Meaning: That's true, I agree

Example: "It's so hot today." "You can say that again!"

Origin: Historians suggest that this phrase was initially started in use in theatres or entertainment. Performers or audiences might have used it to prompt an actor to repeat a well-received line.



APTITUDE TEST

QUESTION - What is 20% of 50?

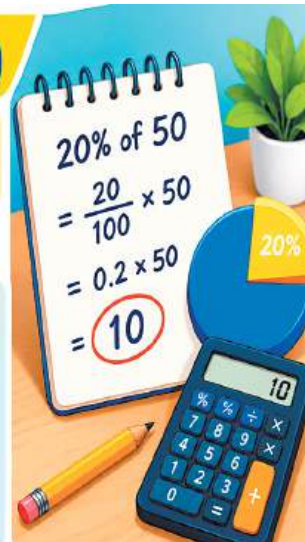
A - 5 B - 10 C - 15 D - 20

ANSWER - B - 10

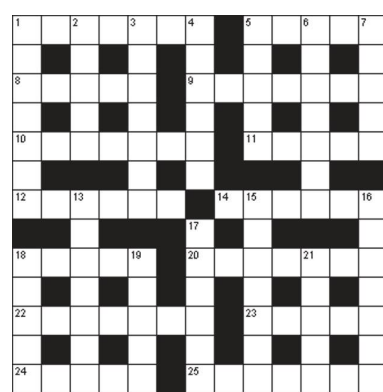
EXPLANATION - To find a percentage of a number, you multiply the number by the percentage expressed as a decimal or fraction:

1. Convert the percentage to a fraction or decimal:
 $20\% = \frac{20}{100} = 0.2$ 20 % equals 20 over 100 end-fraction equals 0.2

2. Multiply by the number:
 $50 \times 0.2 = 10$ 50 cross 0.2 equals 10



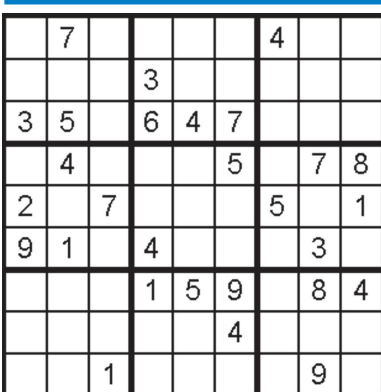
CROSSWORD -240



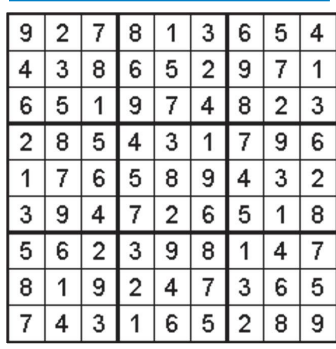
CROSSWORD SOLUTION- 239



SUDOKU- 240



SUDOKU SOLUTION- 239



DAILY WORD SEARCH

- Arena
- Feint
- Referee
- Bell
- Flyweight
- Ring
- Belt
- Gloves
- Ropes
- Bout
- Heavyweight
- Round
- Boxer
- Jab
- Second
- Champ
- Knockout
- Spar
- Count
- Match
- Uppercut
- Decision
- Points

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

Stone laid for country’s first port-based e-methanol plant

India has taken a major step towards becoming a global supplier of green maritime fuel with the foundation stone laid for the country’s first e-methanol plant in Kandla.



Press Trust Of India

AHMEDABAD: India has taken a major step towards becoming a global supplier of green maritime fuel with the foundation stone laid for the country’s first port-based e-methanol production facility at Deendayal Port Authority (DPA) in Kandla, Gujarat. Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel, Union Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways Sarbananda Sonowal and Assam Chief Minister Dr Himanta Biswa Sarma laid the foundation stone for the project. .

The facility will have a total production capacity of 150 tonnes of e-methanol per day and will use renewable power, water and biogenic carbon

dioxide to produce the green fuel. The e-methanol is intended to be supplied to vessels operating on the Asia-Europe International Trade Corridor, one of the world’s busiest maritime trade routes.

The project is expected to strengthen India’s position in the production and supply of green fuel for global shipping. The government said the plant is expected to produce green methanol at around US\$750 per tonne, compared with a global rate of about US\$1,300 per tonne. The e-methanol facility is a joint initiative of the Deendayal Port Authority and Assam Petro-Chemicals Ltd (APCL), based in Namrup, Assam.

The project will be developed in scalable

NUMBER

150

● **Gujarat CM Bhupendra Patel, Union Minister for Ports Sarbananda Sonowal and Assam CM Dr Himanta Biswa Sarma laid the foundation stone.**

● **The Plant will have a total production capacity of 150 tonnes of e-methanol per day.**

modules in two phases with a total investment of Rs 2,300 crore.

The first phase will add 50 tonnes per day of production capacity at an investment of Rs 1,200 crore and is targeted for completion by

January 2027. The second phase will add another 100 tonnes per day at an investment of Rs 1,100 crore, with completion targeted for March 2027. The capital contribution between DPA and APCL will be in a 76:24 ratio. DPA’s contribution includes Rs 567.32 crore in equity capital, 75 acres of land, desalinated water and renewable energy in the form of green hydro-gen.

The facility is expected to be among India’s largest e-methanol production plants and is projected to create more than 3,500 direct and indirect jobs. The project is also expected to stimulate a broader green energy ecosystem around Kandla, inclu ing transportation, storage, sup-

ply and other ancillary activities associated with the production of green molecules. The project is aligned with India’s target of achieving Net Zero emissions by 2070 and the government’s emphasis on energy self-reliance and Make in India, Make for the World.

The initiative comes amid a broader expansion of India’s maritime sector. The government plans to add 100 new ships to India’s merchant fleet over the next five years and aims to make the country one of the world’s top five ship-owning nations by 2047.

The government also noted that global shipping major Maersk has begun ordering containers manufactured in India.

| REVISED PLAN |

Govt borrowing plan revised for second half of fiscal year

Press Trust Of India

Government revised its borrowing schedule while maintaining the annual fiscal deficit target unchanged.

NEW DELHI: The Indian government has revised its borrowing programme for the second half of the 2026-27 financial year, planning to raise about Rs 7.86 lakh crore through bond sales between October and March.

The revised programme represents a reduction from the earlier borrowing schedule and comes amid changing market conditions, including movements in crude oil prices and global bond yields. The government’s overall net market borrowing requirement for the financial year remains at Rs 11.73 lakh crore, as estimated in the Union



HIGHLIGHT

● **The revised plan reduces fresh borrowing pressure during the second half significantly.**

Budget. The adjustment therefore concerns the timing and quantum of borrowing during the second half rather than a change in the annual fiscal-deficit estimate. Government securities remain an important source of financing for the Centre’s expenditure requirements. The borrowing programme also influences liquidity conditions, bond yields

and the broader financial market because large government securities issuances affect the supply of investible debt. The revised schedule comes at a time when investors are monitoring crude oil prices, US Treasury yields and global geopolitical developments. Higher international oil prices can affect India’s import bill and inflation outlook, while movements in global yields can influence domestic borrowing costs. The government has accordingly adjusted the second-half issuance programme while continuing to meet its financing requirements.

BizBriefs

BEST OF THE REST

COMMERCE MINISRTERS’ MEETING

Trade and Commerce Ministers of G-20 to hold crucial meeting in Milwaukee



WASHINGTON: The trade and commerce ministers of G20 countries are meeting in Milwaukee, about 1,200 kms from here, amid constant changes in US tariff policies and the challenges posed by the extended Iran war and the pressure on supply chains. Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal is scheduled to participate in the G20 trade ministerial hosted by US Trade Representative (USTR) Jamieson Greer from September 29 to October 1.

The G20 ministerial will feature discussions on a wide range of issues, from trade eliminating forced labour in global supply chains to addressing structural capacity and excess production - the two tariff tools used by the US after the Supreme Court struck down the levies imposed under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA). A USTR statement said Greer will lead the G20 discussions on a wide

range of issues, including eliminating forced labour in global supply chains, updating the Most-Favoured Nation (MFN) principle, denouncing the weaponisation of trade in food, and addressing structural excess capacity and production. Milwaukee is a major industrial and manufacturing hub in the US and home to several Fortune 500 companies in sectors such as food and beverage, mechanical manufacturing, energy, and water technology.

The city, located on the banks of Lake Michigan, is also home to the iconic Harley -Davidson, the renowned motorcycle maker, as well as Briggs & Stratton, the world’s largest producer of small gasoline engines for outdoor power equipment, and Rockwell Automation, an American provider of industrial automation and digital transformation technologies.

ELECTRONICS

Electronics PLI beneficiaries get Rs 19091 cr incentives

NEW DELHI: Large scale electronics manufacturing PLI beneficiaries have received the highest incentives of Rs 19,090.98 crore under the scheme till June this year, while the sector has attracted investments of Rs 20,580.20 crore. The government launched the PLI schemes in 2020 for 14 sectors, including electronics and pharmaceutical, with an approved outlay of Rs 1.91 lakh crore, to enhance manufacturing capabilities, attract investment, promote exports, generate employment, and reduce import dependence.

The government provides fiscal incentives to the eligible PLI beneficiary firms on incremental sales (over base year). The production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme for large scale electronics manufacturing (LSEM) was started in 2020 with an aim to boost domestic manufacturing of mobile phones in the country. As many as 32 beneficiary companies were approved under the scheme. India has emerged as a second largest mobile manufacturer in the world and smartphones have emerged as India’s one of the top exported commodity.

POLICY

After GST exemption, retail policy base rises 11pc for Star Health

KOLKATA: The exemption of individual health insurance premiums from GST appears to have encouraged both wider policy adoption and higher levels of protection, with Star Health reporting an 11 per cent rise in its retail policy base and an increase in the average cover on fresh policies in the 11 months since the tax was scrapped, an official said.

The average sum insured on fresh retail health indemnity policies rose by about Rs 1.4 lakh to Rs 13.7 lakh during October 2025-August 2026, compared to the year-ago period, the insurer said. Goods and Services Tax (GST) on individual health insurance premiums was brought to zero from 18 per cent with effect from September 22, 2025, as part of the government’s indirect tax rationalisation measures aimed at making insurance more affordable and widening coverage. “The GST reform has made health protection more affordable for Indian families. One year on, we are witnessing wider participation with customers choosing higher levels of protection,” Star Health whole-time director Himanshu Walia told PTI.

SME-IPO

Eventions SME IPO to open on Sep 30; Seeks to raise Rs 38.12 crore to boost capital

NEW DELHI: Event management player Eventions will open its Rs 38.12-crore initial public offering (IPO) for subscription on September 30, with the company looking to strengthen its finances and fund expansion of its MICE and corporate events business. The initial public offering (IPO) will conclude on October 5 and the shares will be listed on the NSE SME platform with a tentative listing date fixed on October 8. The public offer is entirely a fresh issue of up to 32.30 lakh equity shares priced in the range of Rs 112-118 per share, aggregating to Rs 38.12 crore.

The net proceeds from the offer, around Rs 18.80 crore will be used by Eventions to meet its working capital requirements, while Rs 7 crore will be utilised for repayment of debt, and Rs 1.40 crore will be invested in its subsidiary. Remaining balance has been earmarked for general corporate purposes. “As we enter the next phase of our growth, the IPO will strengthen our financial foundation, support our working capital needs and help us further build our capabilities,” said Ravi Rajak, Managing Director at Eventions Ltd. “We remain focused on deepening client relationships, expanding



our execution capabilities and creating a scalable platform to capture the growing opportunities in the MICE and corporate events space,” Rajak said.

Incorporated in 2020, Eventions is engaged in the meetings, incentives, conferences and exhibitions (MICE) and event management business, offering integrated solutions for corporate and institutional clients. It has delivered assignments across India and international destinations. Its subsidiary, Gantu Online Pvt Ltd, focuses on B2C travel and customised travel experiences.

The Gurugram-based company’s financial performance has strengthened over the past three years. Its total income rose from Rs 87.29 crore in FY24 to Rs 100.62 crore in FY26.

X-boom faces fine for selling anti-drone sans approvals

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) has imposed a penalty of Rs 10 lakh on Bengaluru-based e-commerce firm Xboom for illegally listing and advertising anti-drone systems, drone jammers and GPS jammers on its platform without the requisite regulatory clearances.

In an order issued recently, the CCPA directed Xboom (www.xboom.in) to stop listing, hosting, advertising, promoting or offering these products for sale unless accompanied by proper regulatory approvals and statutory disclosures. The company has been given 15 days from the date of the order to submit a compliance report. The CCPA’s investigation, initiated suo motu, found that Xboom had listed six products under



HIGHLIGHT

● **The CCPA has imposed a penalty of Rs 10 lakh on e-commerce firm Xboom for illegally advertising anti-drone systems sans approval.**

an “AntiDrone” category on its website, each carrying detailed technical specifications and marketing claims about their jamming and disruption capabilities.

The listings offered only an “Enquire on WhatsApp” mode of engagement, but carried no disclosure about licensing requirements, the restricted nature of the equipment, or the penal consequences of unauthorised possession or use.

| ELECTRONIC GOLD |

NSE empanels Augmont to promote e-gold

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The National Stock Exchange (NSE) has empanelled Augmont Gold Tech, a subsidiary of Augmont Enterprises as a key partner for promoting electronic gold (e-gold) receipts, aimed at deepening India’s organised gold market.

The strategic partnership is designed to simplify the creation and extinguishment of electronic gold receipts (EGR)



and promote their trading on the exchange, NSE said in a statement. Under the arrangement, Augmont will provide technical and on-ground support for the development of the

EGR product, drawing on its experience across the gold value chain. The partnership will facilitate conversion of physical gold into EGRs and their subsequent conversion

back into physical gold within the regulated ecosystem.

EGRs are dematerialised securities representing ownership of physical gold stored in Sebi-accredited vaults and held electronically through depositories. Each receipt is fully backed by physical gold and can be traded on the exchange. The exchange said the partnership is aimed at strengthening the gold trading ecosystem by improving price

discovery and market participation while enhancing transparency and trust among jewellers, refiners, traders and institutional investors.

“By combining NSE’s robust technology and liquidity framework with Augmont’s rich experience and on-the-ground presence across the gold value chain, we are simplifying the creation said NSE Chief Business Development Officer Sriram Krishnan.

UP rain fury leaves 56 dead in three days

Depression weakened, bringing some respite from rainfall.

Press Trust Of India

LUCKNOW: Fifty-six people were killed in rain- and storm-related incidents in Uttar Pradesh since Friday, while several districts were grappling with a flood-like situation after an intense three-day wet spell, officials said.

The depression over the state weakened into a well-marked low pressure area on Sunday, bringing some respite from rainfall, they said.

Rescue teams were conducting operations in waterlogged areas to evacuate stranded people to safer locations, the relief department said, as strong winds and heavy downpour uprooted trees and electric poles and inundated roads and villages, damaging over one thousand houses and standing crops.

The state received 45.1 mm rainfall in the 24 hours ending Sunday, against the normal 1.8 mm, officials said.

According to data shared by the office of the relief commissioner, between September 25 and the morning of September 27, 56 people had died and 46 were injured in rain and storm-related incidents in the state.



A large stretch of road caves in near the Bharat Ratna Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Ekana Cricket Stadium following continuous heavy rainfall, in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, Sunday.

Kanpur-Etawah highway damaged over 200 m

The Kanpur-Etawah highway was also reported to have suffered damage over a stretch of around 200 metres. The IMD had forecast heavy rainfall in parts of the state on Sunday. As many as 56 of the state's 75 districts recorded excessive rainfall, with Farrukhabad recording 7,385 per cent above normal, followed by Kannauj (5,664 per cent), Shahjahanpur

HIGHLIGHT

- 56 of the 75 districts recorded excessive rainfall

- Rescue teams evacuate stranded people to safety.

(4,408 per cent), Hamirpur (4,240 per cent) and Mahoba (4,100 per cent). The relief commissioner, Dr Hrishikesh Bhaskar Yashod, reviewed relief and

rescue operations with district magistrates and additional district magistrates on Sunday and directed them to remain in the field, maintain direct contact with affected people and ensure prompt assistance. He also directed officials to immediately assess crop damage and provide compensation as per rules, arrange alternative accommodation where required.

Folklore journey

KALLAKURICHI: Mumbai: Across a fourteen-year career and sixteen films, from Student of the Year and Ek Villain to Hasee Toh Phasee, Kapoor & Sons, Marjaavaan, the National Award-winning Shershaah, Mission Majnu and, most recently, Param Sundari, Sidharth Malhotra has built a filmography that moves easily between romance, action, family drama and real-life stories.

With The Vvaan, his next release, he adds a genre none of those films have touched: fantasy-folklore.

The Vvaan is different. It's Malhotra's first film in the folklore genre, a space Hindi cinema visits rarely, and almost never at the scale this film attempts. Folklore as a genre works on different rules than romance or action.

It asks the audience to accept a version of the world where belief systems, local deities and ancestral rules carry real weight, not as backdrop but as the engine of the plot. For an actor, that means playing scenes that have no equivalent in a standard thriller or romance, moments built on faith and dread rather than on the usual dramatic beats of conflict and resolution.

Malhotra plays Rishi, a practical, city-bred man who returns to his village and finds himself drawn into a sacred forest governed by an ancient deity.

Manik Sarkar faces protests

Press Trust Of India

CPI(M), Cong condemn attack, blame BJP govt.

AGARTALA: Former Tripura Chief Minister Manik Sarkar on Sunday faced protests and black flags by a group of villagers in West Tripura district while he was on his way to attend a DYFI programme, police said. Sarkar's party, the CPI(M), and the Congress condemned the attack and alleged that it reflects the prevailing law-and-order situation under the BJP-led government in the state.

Police said Sarkar was proceeding to attend the Mohanpur divisional committee conference of CPI (M)'s youth organisation, DYFI, at Kalibazar around 12 pm when protesters surrounded his vehicle and raised slogans asking him to go back. They also waved black flags at Sarkar who was the chief minister between 1998 and 2018.

"A strong contingent of police and CRPF personnel reached the spot after being alerted and escorted Sarkar safely to the local CPI(M) office. The ex-chief minister addressed the programme and safely returned to Agartala", Sub Divisional Police Officer (SDPO), Mohanpur, Asish Das Gupta,

said.

CPI(M) state secretary and Leader of the Opposition in the Tripura Assembly, Jitendra Chaudhury, condemned the incident and said he had spoken to Director General of Police (in-charge) GS Rao, who assured him that the matter would be looked into.

"It was a deliberate attempt to prevent the former chief minister from attending a party programme. The BJP leaders who had stopped him and staged

FASTFACTS

- Protesters surround Sarkar's vehicle, demand his return.

- Police, CRPF escort Sarkar safely to office.

protests will not be able to hide once the people hit the streets," Chaudhury said.

Senior Congress MLA Sudip Roy Barman also protested the incident and alleged that the attack on a former CM reflected the prevailing law-and-order situation under the BJP-led government.

He demanded action against those involved in the protest and alleged that the demonstrators had acted at the behest of local BJP leaders. The BJP's response to the allegations was not immediately available.

NEWSLINE

NEW DELHI

'Needs community dialogue'



Union minister Kiren Rijiju on Sunday said the warring communities in Manipur must talk to each other to ensure permanent peace in the troubled state, as the Centre cannot use the military to end the conflict, which has been going on intermittently for more than three years.

Addressing a conclave organised by the Assam-based Pratidin Media Network here, Rijiju also said that "humiliation and insult" towards small communities by successive governments since Independence led to the formation of a large number of militant groups in the Northeast.

Sharing his own experience of facing humiliation at the hands of then-Union Home Minister S B Chavan in the 1990s - when he and other students went to meet him as part of a student delegation - Rijiju said Chavan even insulted then-Union minister of state P K Thungon for accompanying the students, terming them "gunda" (rowdies).

'I love swimming in sea when it's rough'

Press Trust Of India

It teaches you that rough is just another kind of calm.

NEW DELHI: In a cryptic social media post on Sunday, senior Congress leader and Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi said he loves swimming in the sea when it is rough, as it teaches one that rough is just another kind of calm. "I love swimming in the sea when it's rough. It teaches you that rough is just another kind of calm," Gandhi posted on microblogging site X without giving context or further elaboration.

The post comes amid a political firestorm following a report published by The Indian Express on September 23 saying Election Commissioners Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Vivek Joshi had repeatedly raised questions on issues related to the Special Intensive



Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls.

The national rollout of SIR has been under the supervision of the three-member Election Commission. According to the report in the English daily, Sandhu and Joshi have formally objected, on record, at least 14 times over the last 10 months to decisions taken and orders issued, which they said were without their knowledge or recommendations.

Gandhi raised the issue of "vote chori" last year and alleged irregularities in elections, which he said the news report has corroborated.

Goa CM hails Modi's call for 'jan bhagidari'

Press Trust Of India

PM urges Jan Bhagidari for addiction-free India.

PANAJI: Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant on Sunday said Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call for people's participation in nation-building and a drug-free India resonated with the coastal state's efforts to promote its culture, heritage and tourism.

Sawant, after listening to the 138th episode of Modi's monthly radio programme 'Mann Ki Baat', said in an X post that the Prime Minister highlighted 'Jan Bhagidari' (people's participation) as a powerful force in nation-building.

"The Prime Minister highlighted Jan Bhagidari as a powerful force in nation-building and



Goa CM Pramod Sawant

FASTFACTS

- Sawant highlights Goa's heritage, culture, tourism

- Sawant links participation, culture to Viksit Bharat

called upon citizens to support the Nasha Mukta Bharat movement by guiding youth away from harmful habits and sup-

porting those striving to overcome addiction," Sawant said.

Modi also shared the story of Ganesha Himal Museum in Chiang Mai in Thailand, which showcases India's faith, art and the Ashtavinayak tradition, highlighting how Indian cultural traditions are reaching devotees across the world, the CM said. Sawant said the PM's message on promot-

ing India's rich heritage, culture and tourism was particularly relevant to Goa on World Tourism Day.

"On World Tourism Day, the message of promoting India's rich heritage, culture and tourism resonates strongly with Goa's own journey of showcasing its unique traditions to the world," he said. Sawant said the themes of people's participation, cultural pride and creating a drug-free younger generation are part of the collective effort towards building 'Viksit Bharat' (developed India).

Meanwhile, State Town and Country Planning Minister Vishwajit Rane said the Prime Minister's reflections on the 2016 surgical strike and India's approach towards terrorism are a reminder of the country's strength and determination.

Big Ambition

MUMBAI: Ujjivan Small Finance Bank Limited (Ujjivan SFB), serving over 1 crore customers through 800+ branches across 26 States and Union Territories, announced the launch of its new brand campaign 'Nothing Small About Us', featuring acclaimed actor and Padma Shri awardee R. Madhavan as its Brand Ambassador. The campaign is rooted in a key customer insight: the word 'Small' can sometimes create a perception that the Bank caters primarily to small-ticket financial needs, has a limited range of banking products and offerings, or operates at a smaller scale.

PUBLIC NOTICE	NAME CHANGE
It is hereby informed to the general public that my client, Mr. Vikas Singh, son of Mr. Ram Kuber Singh, resident of Dantewada, Chhattisgarh 494449, is the owner of the property bearing Kharsa No. 176/10, which was purchased from Mr. Ramesh Gupta. The previous Sale Deed relating to the said property, wherein the sellers were Mr. Ramesh Kumar Sugana and Mr. Ramesh Kumar Gupta, registered under Registration No. 424, Book No. 760, Pages 323 to 339, has been lost/misplaced near the Dantewada Collector's Office at around 5:00 PM. Information regarding the same has also been given at Dantewada Police Station. Therefore, if any person, institution, bank, or authority has any claim or objection regarding the said property, they may submit their claim/objection within 7 days from the date of publication of this Public Notice. After the expiry of the said period, any claim or objection raised thereafter shall not be binding upon or accepted by my client. Place: Jagdalpur, Bastar Date: 25/09/2026 Vipul Srivastava Advocate Maharani Ward, Jagdalpur	It is informed to the general public that I, KUMAR FATECHCHAND TAHILRAMANI S/O LATE FATECHCHAND MANGARAM TAHILRAMANI resident of Bunglow No. 31, Nehru Nagar (Old), Bhilai (Chhattisgarh) have changed my old name KUMAR FATECHCHAND TAHILRAMANI S/O LATE FATECHCHAND MANGARAM TAHILRAMANI, so in future I should be recognized by my new name that is KUMAR F. TAHILRAMANI S/O LATE F.M. TAHILRAMANI in all government and other documents. Kumar F Tahilramani Bunglow No 31, Nehru Nagar (Old), Bhilai (Chhattisgarh) Pin-490020

World Rabies Day 2026: 'Stronger Together'

Observed annually on September 28, World Rabies Day 2026 focuses on the theme "Stronger Together", highlighting the need for coordinated action to eliminate rabies.

The campaign emphasises a One Health approach, bringing together communities, veterinary professionals, healthcare workers, governments, educators and global partners. Key priorities include expanding dog vaccination, strengthening surveillance and reporting, improving public awareness, supporting protective policies and developing sustainable community-led solutions.

Communities can contribute through responsible animal care



and awareness initiatives, while veterinary professionals play a crucial role through mass dog vaccination. Healthcare workers help save lives through timely treatment and accurate diagnosis, while governments and policymakers provide essential legislation, investment and coordination.

The campaign encourages people to host awareness events, share educational resources, vaccinate dogs, partner with local organisations, share experiences on social media and advocate stronger rabies-prevention measures.

Coordinated action among people, animals and health systems is essential to achieving a rabies-free world.

AAVAS FINANCIERS LIMITED
(CIN:L65922RJ2011PLCO34297) Regd. & Corp. Office: 201-202, 2nd Floor, South End Square, Mansarovar Industrial Area, Jaipur. 302020

AUCTION NOTICE
Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules, 2002
Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of **AAVAS FINANCIERS LIMITED** Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" basis. The details of the cases are as under.

Name of Borrowers/Co-Borrowers/Mortgagors	Dues As on	Date & Amount of 13(2) Demand Notice	Date of Possession	Description of Property	Reserve Price For Property	Earnest Money For Property	Date & Time of Auction	Place of Tender Submission, Tender Open & Auction at Aavas Financials Ltd.
Anuj Ram Sahu, Manjusha Sahu (AC NO.) LNBMT17423-240305071	Rs. 946847/- Dues As On 26 Sep 26	08 Dec 24 Rs. 678958/- Dues As On 05 Dec 24	18 Jun 26	Part Of Survey No - 414/18 (New Survey No. 414/60), P.H.No- 03 R.J.C- Kawardha, Village- Kawardha Tahsil - Kawardha, District - Kabirdham. Chhattisgarh Admeasuring 654 Sq.Ft.	Rs. 1050000/-	Rs. 105000/-	11.00 Am To 01.00 Pm 29 Oct 26	Ground Floor, Sundar Nagar, Main Raipur Road, Bemetara, Chhattisgarh - 491335 - India

Terms & Conditions: 1). The person, taking part in the tender, will have to deposit his offer in the tender form provided by the AFL which is to be collected from the above branch offices during working hours of any working day, super scribing "Tender Offer for name of the property" on the sealed envelope along with the Cheque/DD/pay order of 10% of the Reserve Price as Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) in favour of AAVAS FINANCIERS LIMITED payable at Jaipur on/before time of auction during office hours at the above mentioned offices. The sealed envelopes will be opened in the presence of the available interested parties at above mentioned office of AAVAS FINANCIERS LIMITED The Inter-se bidding, if necessary will also take place among the available bidders. The EMD is refundable if the bid is not successful. 2). The successful bidder will deposit 25% of the bidding amount adjusting the EMD amount as initial deposit immediately or within 24hrs after the fall of the hammer towards the purchase of the asset. The successful bidder failing to deposit the said 25% towards initial payment, the entire EMD deposited will be forfeited & balance amount of the sale price will have to be deposited within 15 days after the confirmation of the sale by the secured creditor; otherwise his initial payment deposited amount will be forfeited. 3). The Authorised officer has absolute right to accept or reject any bid or adjourn/postpone the sale process without assigning any reason therefore. If the date of tender depositing or the date of tender opening is declared as holiday by Government, then the auction will be held on next working day. 4). For inspection and interested parties who want to know about the procedure of tender may contact AAVAS FINANCIERS LIMITED 201,202, 2nd Floor, South End Square, Mansarovar Industrial Area, Jaipur-302020 or Amit Sahu - 7374002263 or respective branch during office hours. Note: This is also a 15/30 days notice under Rule 9(1)(8)(6) to the Borrowers/Guarantors/Mortgagor of the above said loan accounts about tender inter se bidding sale on the above mentioned date. The property will be sold, if their out standing dues are not repaid in full.

Place : Chattisgarh Date : 28-09-2026
Authorised Officer Aavas Financials Limited



QUOTE FROM THE QUOTABLE

"The purpose of religion is to promote truth, justice, compassion, self-control, and the welfare of every living being."
[Swami Dayananda Saraswati]

| OUR VIEW |

Kharun Floods Expose Gaps in Urban Preparedness

The flooding of the Kharun river in Raipur has once again exposed the vulnerability of urban infrastructure to extreme rainfall. Although the rain has stopped and weather conditions have improved, the disruption caused by the flooding raises serious questions about disaster preparedness, drainage management and the ability of civic authorities to respond to emergencies. After nearly 36 hours of continuous rainfall, the Kharun river overflowed the Mahadev Ghat bridge, with water rising nearly three feet above its surface. The flooding severed the vital Raipur-Amleshwar-Patan road connection, leaving thousands of commuters stranded and disrupting daily life. The sight of submerged roads, long queues of vehicles and inundated residential areas highlighted the consequences of inadequate flood preparedness. The situation was particularly difficult for residents of Amleshwar and surrounding villages. Several low-lying localities were submerged, forcing families to abandon their homes or struggle to obtain essential supplies. Workers and daily commuters faced considerable hardship as alternative routes became congested. The suspension of idol immersion activities at Mahadev Ghat further illustrated the seriousness of the situation. The administration, police and State Disaster Response Force undertook evacuation and relief operations, shifting stranded residents to safer locations. Their intervention helped address the immediate emergency. However, responding to a disaster is only one aspect of effective governance. Preventing avoidable damage requires sustained investment in infrastructure, early warning systems and coordinated urban planning. The Kharun has overflowed before, notably during the floods of 2017. The recurrence of such flooding demonstrates the importance of learning from previous emergencies. Regular inspection of bridges, improved stormwater drainage, protection of natural waterways and stricter regulation of construction in flood-prone areas deserve urgent attention. With rainfall having subsided, the immediate priority must shift towards restoring connectivity, assessing damage, cleaning waterlogged neighbourhoods and preventing waterborne diseases. Families whose homes and livelihoods were affected also require timely assistance. Climate-related weather extremes make long-term preparedness increasingly important. Raipur and its neighbouring urban settlements need an integrated flood management strategy rather than temporary arrangements during every monsoon. The recent flooding should serve as a reminder that effective disaster management begins well before the first heavy downpour.

| GUEST VIEW |

Student safety demands more than criminal investigation

The Odisha Assembly's disclosure that 24 girl students residing in government-run school hostels became pregnant over two academic years raises serious concerns about institutional responsibility and child protection. Nine cases were reported in 2024-25 and 15 in 2025-26. FIRs have been registered against 13 individuals, resulting in nine arrests. Although reports suggest that several accused were not associated with the schools, the incidents highlight the urgent need to strengthen safeguards for vulnerable students. Criminal investigations alone cannot address the wider deficiencies that may expose children to exploitation and abuse. Authorities must undertake comprehensive reviews of hostel security, staff verification, visitor regulations and daily supervision. Regular safety audits and effective monitoring mechanisms should become mandatory across residential educational institutions. Equally important is establishing confidential complaint systems that allow students to report harassment, coercion or abuse without fear of intimidation or social stigma. Teachers and hostel employees must receive specialised training to identify warning signs and fulfil their legal reporting obligations. Affected students deserve immediate medical assistance, psychological counselling, legal support and uninterrupted education. Their privacy, dignity and long-term well-being must remain paramount throughout investigations and rehabilitation. The government must establish clear accountability and ensure regular independent inspections. Protecting children cannot remain a reactive administrative exercise; it must become the foundation of every residential educational institution.



Ananthapadmanabhan

Comment

A great personality, committed to nation-building

There is a beautiful saying, 'वृक्ष कबहुँ नहीं फल भले, नदी न संचौ नीर। परमात्मा के करने, साधुन धरा शरीर।' means the tree does not consume its own fruit, nor does the river retain its waters. Both exist for the benefit of others. Our saints and seers have long taught us that a life devoted to the welfare of those around us acquires a meaning far greater than individual achievement. If there is one person in whom this spirit was constantly reflected, it was Shri Ashok Singhal Ji. Starting 27th September, we mark his birth centenary to celebrate an outstanding personality who brought together spiritual pursuit, cultural awakening and decades of dedicated organisational work. I consider it a privilege that I had innumerable opportunities to interact with Ashok Ji and receive his affection. One of the earliest instances dates back to 1981, when I was a young Karyakarta going about the organisational duties given to me. I received a handwritten letter from him. Naturally, it was a noteworthy moment for me. He talked about an important upcoming programme and gave a few tasks to be done. Over several decades, I saw him work day and night. He would undertake long and often difficult travels to the remotest of areas. He was particularly passionate about travelling across tribal areas of Gujarat. His mind was constantly running, thinking about what more one can do for those on the margins of society. Whenever any part of the nation was affected by a natural disaster, Ashok Ji was either among the first to reach there himself or among those guiding Karyakartas to help those affected. My own

experience with him in the aftermath of the 2001 Kutch earthquake was unforgettable. This spirit of compassion and care for others is something that came to Ashok Ji very early in his life. He hailed from a very illustrious and prosperous family. His father, Shri Mahavir Ji, was a distinguished administrator. One of his brothers, Shri BP Singhal Ji, went on to become a police officer and later a Member of Parliament. Another brother, Shri VP Singhal Ji, was the Chief Secretary of Tripura when the state was just formed. Other family members succeeded in the world of commerce and agriculture. But from a young age, Ashok Ji was attracted to something else altogether... the revival of Bharat and bringing glory to Maa Bharti's children. Growing up in Prayagraj, Ashok Ji would sit for hours on the banks of the Sangam. The river naturally interested him, but so did the people who came, such as saints, seers and devotees. It nurtured an understanding of India's cultural ethos and strengthened his intention to do something for society. This desire to live for others drew him to the RSS. He embraced every responsibility that came his way with enthusiasm, discipline and a sense of duty. Shri Ashok Singhal Ji nurtured institutions and movements through persistence and hard work. He was blessed with a formidable voice and an oratory that could hold an entire gathering in its spell. Equally noteworthy was his care for fellow Karyakartas. Anyone who came into contact with him could not help but marvel at his remarkable simplicity. He shared a deep bond with the Sant Samaj and commanded immense respect among saints



Narendra Modi
Prime Minister of India

and seers across the country. They valued his counsel and listened to him with great regard. My mind goes back to two instances which brought out the legendary persona of Shri Ashok Singhal Ji. The first was in 1993, when the Vishwa Hindu Parishad organised a convention in the USA to mark 100 years since Swami Vivekananda's Chicago address. The vision to host such a conference overseas, the planning and the bringing together of diverse stakeholders revealed the organisational genius of Ashok Ji. The second instance is from the year 2000. The World Hindu Conference was organised in Port of Spain in Trinidad and Tobago. I could see how his presence ignited so much enthusiasm among other delegates. After my address, his words of appreciation were a very moving experience for me. I saw yet again how his encouragement filled every Karyakarta with so much energy. No mention of Shri Ashok Singhal Ji is complete without recalling his pivotal role in the Ram Janmabhoomi Movement. Who can forget his address at the Boat Club Rally in 1991? Or the defining image of an injured and bleeding Ashok Ji at the peak of the movement. Today, if there is a grand Ram Mandir in Ayodhya, it is because of stalwarts like him who selflessly immersed themselves in the effort to make it possible. He would have been the happiest person on seeing the Ram Mandir take shape in Ayodhya. Shri Ashok Singhal Ji was blessed with remarkable clarity of thought and one area where it was clearly seen was his belief that our society needs to be harmonious, that the message of brotherhood has to be reaffirmed. He worked towards strengthening social unity

and equality. He firmly believed that there could be no distinction of any kind in society and that every individual deserved equal dignity and respect. It was his thought that the first brick of the Ram Mandir in Ayodhya would be laid by Shri Kameshwar Choupal Ji, a grassroots VHP Karyakarta from Bihar who hailed from the marginalised sections of society. At a Dharm Sansad in Kashi, he decided that the Dom Raja would be honoured and went on to work with him as part of various community efforts. Beyond nation-building, Shri Ashok Singhal Ji had two areas that were very close to his heart: education (especially Vedic education) and music. As the MP from Varanasi, I feel very proud that the city I represent, the eternal Kashi, has played its part in Shri Ashok Singhal Ji's life. He was educated at BHU and was also known to be a good student. He was closely associated with the Ekal Vidyalaya initiative, which worked to extend basic education to remote villages, especially among tribal communities. He was a voracious reader as well as a good listener and he always told younger Karyakartas to read as much as possible. Those who knew Ashok Ji closely knew how well he sang! I recall meetings in Nagpur, where he would sing the Ekal Geet, leaving everyone mesmerised and setting the tone for the meeting. A video of him surprising everyone and singing 'हे मातृभूमि मेरी, हे पितृभूमि मेरी' during his 90th birthday celebrations in 2015 went viral. On his birth centenary let us ensure that more youngsters know about his greatness. And let us renew our pledge to realise his dreams for our nation and our people.

India's fearless football deserves greater recognition

India's spirited draw against higher-ranked Panama demonstrates growing confidence, renewed determination and the importance of giving football greater attention in our cricket-dominated sporting landscape.



BK Chatterjee

As a passionate admirer of football, the world's most popular and beautiful game, I was delighted by India's spirited performance against Panama. Ranked 138th in the world, the Blue Tigers held 44th-ranked Panama to a 1-1 draw, producing a performance that deserves appreciation. Ryan Williams gave India a first-half lead before Omar Valencia restored parity with a spectacular long-range strike after the interval. Yet the result could have been even more memorable. Two clear opportunities in the 79th and 81st minutes, involving Edmund Lalrindika and Manvir Singh, left supporters wondering what might have been. India had a genuine opportunity to secure

a famous victory. For those of us who remember Indian football's golden generation of the 1960s, featuring Chuni Goswami, Tulsidas Balam, P.K. Banerjee and Jarnail Singh, this performance carried special significance. India once commanded considerable respect in Asian football. Although today's team is still far from reclaiming that stature, its fighting spirit offers considerable encouragement. What impressed me most was the players' mentality. They refused to surrender psychologically before the opening whistle merely because their opponents possessed superior international rankings and World Cup experience. Instead, Khalid Jamil's men displayed determination, discipline and attacking ambition throughout the contest. Even after conceding the equaliser, they continued searching for a winning goal. Credit must go to coach Khalid Jamil for developing this fearless approach. Indian football needs players who believe they can compete against stronger opponents rather than approaching every difficult fixture with defen-



sive apprehension. The Panama encounter demonstrated what confidence, preparation and collective commitment can achieve. AIFF president Kalyan Chaubey also deserves appreciation for arranging challenging international fixtures against World Cup participants. Such opportunities are essential for developing a competitive national team. Playing stronger opponents exposes weaknesses, improves tactical awareness and prepares footballers for demanding international competitions. More importantly, this per-

formance underlines why India must look beyond cricket and extend greater institutional and public support to other sports. Football possesses enormous potential in a country blessed with passionate supporters and promising young talent. However, fulfilling that potential requires sustained investment in grassroots development, professional coaching, modern infrastructure and meaningful international exposure. The upcoming encounters against Brazil and Uruguay will provide further opportunities to

examine India's progress. These two footballing giants possess seven World Cup titles between them. Expecting miraculous victories would be unrealistic, but expecting courage, commitment and competitive performances is entirely reasonable. India must enter those matches determined to challenge its opponents rather than merely limit the margin of defeat. Every international encounter should become an opportunity to learn, improve and develop greater tactical maturity. The Panama result must not become an isolated moment of celebration. It should inspire a sustained transformation in Indian football, supported by administrators, coaches, players and supporters alike. As a lifelong football enthusiast, I believe the greatest achievement of this performance was not the solitary point earned but the confidence displayed. Indian football needs precisely this fighting spirit to rebuild its international standing. The Blue Tigers have shown that they possess the courage to compete. What they now require is consistency, meaningful exposure and unwavering support.

YOURLETTERS

Electoral roll controversy demands greater transparency

Reports of large-scale voter deletions and delays in appeals have raised concerns about electoral transparency. An investigation revealed that Election Commissioners Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Vivek Joshi reportedly recorded 14 objections concerning electoral decisions over ten months. However, Election Commission officials maintain that its decisions were unanimous. An independent examination of these conflicting accounts could clarify the situation. Electoral authorities must ensure timely appeals, transparent procedures and the protection of every eligible citizen's voting rights. Public confidence depends on accountability.

Sujit De, Kolkata

Messi Yamal and football's remarkable coincidence

Life sometimes produces extraordinary coincidences that appear almost unbelievable. In 2007, a young Lionel Messi famously bathed six-month-old Lamine Yamal during a Barcelona-UNICEF charity photoshoot at Camp Nou. Nineteen years later, their sporting journeys intersected in the 2026 World Cup final, with Messi representing Argentina and Yamal playing for Spain. Spain eventually defeated Argentina 1-0 through Ferran Torres' extra-time winner. That memorable childhood photograph has become a remarkable symbol of football's changing generations and life's unexpected twists of fate.

K. Chatterjee, Kolkata

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.



Ethnic conflict drastically reduces Manipur tourist inflow.
Y Khemchand Singh,
Manipur CM

Kapil Sibal slams CEC, seeks poll annulment

New law shields Kumar from prosecution, while Sibal demands Seema Khanna’s arrest and FIR over ECI operations.

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Rajya Sabha MP Kapil Sibal on Sunday accused Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar of taking “unilateral decisions” related to the SIR, demanding that he be removed from office and that the Supreme Court consider nullifying the elections conducted recently.

The former Union minister said while Kumar has been given immunity from criminal prosecution through a new law brought in by the Modi government, Seema Khanna, who managed ECI NET operations and does not possess statutory immunity, must be arrested and an FIR lodged against her.

Khanna’s role has come under scrutiny amid the row over The Indian Express report that questions were repeatedly raised on issues related to the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls within the three-member Election Commission (EC) by two of the three commissioners -- Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Vivek Joshi. The national rollout of the special intensive



revision (SIR) has been under the supervision of all three commissioners.

But Sandhu and Joshi have formally objected, on record, at least 14 times over the last 10 months to decisions taken and orders issued, they say, without their knowledge, according to the report in the English daily. Referring to the Election Commission statement on Saturday, Sibal claimed that the CEC acknowledged decisions were not taken unanimously over the past several months.

He alleged that actions were decided “unilaterally” by Gyanesh Kumar rather than by the full Commission.

Commission meetings operated without distributed agendas or recorded

minutes, preventing other commissioners from reviewing or commenting on decisions, he claimed at a press conference here.

Sibal noted that these unilateral practices spanned 10 months, covering state elections from June 2025 (Bihar) through April 2026 (West Bengal). Decisions regarding voter additions and deletions were centralised in Delhi via ECI NET under Seema Khanna, bypassing statutory Electoral Registration Officers (EROs), Sibal claimed.

Pointing out that Khanna managed ECI NET operations and does not possess statutory immunity, Sibal demanded an immediate FIR and her arrest.

Sibal said the modifica-

HIGHLIGHT

● All three commissioners supervised national SIR rollout.

● Sandhu, Joshi objected 14 times over decisions.

tions to Form 6 -- requiring parent or grandparent details -- were implemented without the required central government notification.

With election processes from Bihar to West Bengal violating statutory rules, Sibal claimed that all elections held during these 10 months are “illegal”.

Sibal called on the Supreme Court to examine EC records, dissent notes, and unilateral orders. He said the Supreme Court must take suo motu cognisance of these issues and consider that the recent elections be annulled.

Upping the ante over the SIR row, the Opposition has demanded Kumar’s immediate arrest, removal from office, and an independent review of all decisions and electoral roll changes made under him.

‘INLD to oust BJP’

NUH: Indian National Lok Dal chief Abhay Chautala on Sunday expressed confidence that his party will form the next government in Haryana by ousting the BJP, while the Congress, which he described as the BJP’s “B team”, will also be kept away from power.

He was addressing the ‘Samman Diwas’ rally organised here to mark the 113th birth anniversary of former deputy prime minister and former Haryana chief minister Devi Lal and to commemorate his legacy.

Chautala said people have gathered in large numbers to pay tribute to Devi Lal and send a message about the political change they want in Haryana. He said people came on their own to take part in the rally, which reflected their faith in Devi Lal and his political legacy. “The message is that the next government in Haryana is going to be formed by the Indian National Lok Dal (INLD). The BJP is going to be out of power, and the Congress party will also be kept away,” he said.

Recalling the 1989 gathering at Delhi’s Boat Club to mark Devi Lal’s birth anniversary, Chautala said lakhs of people had assembled there back then, with the Opposition also sharing the stage, triggering discussions about the Congress losing power at the Centre and the possible formation of a Janata Dal government.

Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

PROTEST BACKING

Sonam Wangchuk backs Oct 2 CJP protest against CEC, may not attend physically



NEW DELHI: Activist Sonam Wangchuk on Sunday backed the Cockroach Janta Party’s proposed October 2 protest against Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar, saying efforts to improve accountability in the country and the electoral process deserved support.

While he expressed his support for CJP’s proposed agitation, Wangchuk added that he might not be physically present during the protest.

His comments came amid a row over the functioning of the Election Commission following an Indian Express report’s revelation that Election Commissioners S S Sandhu and Vivek Joshi objected on record at least 14 times over the past 10 months to decisions concerning voter registration, dele-

tions and restoration of names and the Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls. The Election Commission on Saturday asserted that all decisions relating to SIR received the unanimous approval of all three commissioners.

It also announced measures to assist voters facing notices during the revision, including home visits by Booth Level Officers in cases involving unmapped electors and logical discrepancies, and said such people would generally not have to appear personally for hearings. Wangchuk expressed his support for CJP’s proposed protest but said he did not need to physically participate in every movement. “Backing definitely, anything to improve accountability in the nation, always with them,” he said. **PTI**

ALLEGATION

Jammu and Kashmir Assly has become a wrestling ring: NC rebel MP

JAMMU: Estranged National Conference (NC) MP Aga Syed Ruhullah Mehdi on Sunday alleged that the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly has failed to live up to the expectations of the people and has increasingly become an “wrestling ring” rather than a forum for resolving public issues. Talking to reporters after an interaction with youth in Kishtwar town, Mehdi, who has set November 3 as the deadline for his exit from the National Conference (NC), said the assembly was established to restore an elected system after six years of an “unaccountable” lieutenant governor’s administration. The Lok Sabha MP from Srinagar said people had elected representatives in 2024 with the expectation that the assembly would provide a platform for addressing their everyday concerns and finding solutions to issues ranging from water supply and healthcare to education and employment. **PTI**

EXPERTS OPINE

Screen time, poor posture may harm children’s spines

NEW DELHI: Excessive screen use, prolonged sitting and poor posture could be contributing to back, neck and other spinal issues among children and adolescents, physiotherapy experts said, and called for regular movement breaks, ergonomic awareness and preventive physiotherapy.

Experts from the Indian Association of Physiotherapists (IAP) raised the concern at the World Physiotherapy Asia Western Pacific (WPAWP) Regional Conference 2026 being held at Yashobhoomi in Delhi on Thursday. The conference brought together more than 10,000 physiotherapy professionals and delegates from India and 32 countries to discuss emerging challenges in physical health, rehabilitation and preventive care. “The concern is not simply the number of hours a child spends looking at a screen, but what happens to the body during those hours, said Dr Sanjiv K Jha, IAP president and Organising Chair, WPAWP Regional Conference 2026. **PTI**

FLOOD WATCH

CM inspects rain-hit areas in south Odisha; Mahanadi river may flood multiple districts



BHUBANESWAR: Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi on Sunday conducted an aerial survey of areas in Ganjam and Koraput inundated by rivers flowing in spate following heavy rain that has badly hit 13 districts, where local authorities have started moving people to safety. The Hirakud Dam on Sunday opened two more sluice gates to discharge additional water entering the reservoir. The excess water is now being discharged through 24 gates. The water level in the reservoir is at 628.29 feet against the full reservoir level of 630 feet.

Chief engineer of the water resources department, Dilip Kumar Rout, said 7 lakh cusec of water will flow down the Mahanadi river to reach

Mundali near Cuttack on Sunday night. It can increase to 8 lakh cusec by Monday morning, he said.

This would swell several of its tributaries and may flood Cuttack, Puri, Khurda, Jagatsinghpur and parts of Kendrapara districts, the chief engineer said.

By Saturday, the state government moved more than 70,000 people from low-lying areas and housed them in 395 relief camps as their villages came under water.

“Several areas of Banki, Atgah and Badamba in Cuttack district will be inundated today,” Rout said, adding that low-lying areas in Puri, Khordha, Jagatsinghpur and Kendrapara districts could also be inundated.

| NEW INITIATIVES |

Railway Urban Bank charts new course at landmark 97th AGM

Press Trust Of India

Parivartan Panel fulfils Mazdoor Congress commitments to shareholders.

KOLKATA: The 97th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the South Eastern Railway, South East Central Railway and East Coast Railway Employees’ Railway Employees’ Co-operative Credit Society Ltd. (Railway Urban Bank) was held in Kolkata on Friday under the chairmanship of S.P. Singh. The meeting was attended by union representatives, railway officials, directors, delegates and shareholders from all three railway zones. SECRMC GS Pitambar Laxminarayan, D K Swain, Indal Damahe



SECRMC GS Pitambar Laxminarayan addressing the meeting.

and B.D. Prasad were among those present. Addressing the gathering, Laxminarayan said the Parivartan Panel was implementing, in a phased manner, the commitments made to shareholders by the Mazdoor Congress. He said the panel was functioning with transparency and accountability and would continue with its present composition. He highlighted various initiatives aimed

at modernising the Bank and strengthening financial and welfare facilities for shareholders. For the first time in the Bank’s history, steps are being initiated to issue a staff recruitment notification. The possibility of providing reservation or special consideration to children of retired railway employees is also being examined in accordance with applicable rules. The AGM highlighted several key

FACTFILE

● Panel assures transparency, accountability and continuity.

● Bank initiates first-ever staff recruitment process.

decisions, including a special loan facility of up to Rs 10 lakh at 10% interest, enhancement of the renewal loan limit from Rs 6.50 lakh to Rs 7.50 lakh, introduction of online membership from October 2, 2026, and online loan application facilities. Members will also be able to check their CMPD balance and make voluntary CMPD payments online. A new CMPD slab will be introduced after implementation of the 8th Pay Commission.

| ‘POLITICAL LEANINGS’ |

‘CEC Kumar needs to resign now’

Press Trust Of India

MALAPPURAM: Congress MP Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Sunday reiterated her demand for the immediate resignation of CEC Gyanesh Kumar, alleging that he has political leanings and questioning how he could conduct fair elections.

Vadra was speaking to reporters while travelling as part of her constituency visit. Asked about the allegation that Kumar had urged former

Keralam Chief Secretary Jiji Thomson to contest the 2019 Lok Sabha elections on a BJP ticket, the Congress MP termed it “completely illegal and unethical”. She said the allegation showed that those at the highest levels of the election system and institutions responsible for conducting polls “have party leanings”.

“Not only do they have party leanings, but they are actively propagating those parties. How can they conduct fair elec-



tions? This is just one in a series of things that this gentleman (the chief election commissioner) has done, which are completely illegal and unconstitutional. He needs to resign, and he needs to



Election institutions have partisan leanings.

Priyanka Gandhi,
Congress MP

resign now,” she said.

Asked whether the Congress intended to protest against the CEC, the Congress MP from Wayanad Lok Sabha constituency said protests had already been held across the country over

the issue. “In every district we have had protests against him. In Delhi also there were protests,” she said.

Vadra has been calling for the CEC’s resignation and his criminal prosecution on charges of treason following reports that Election Commissioners Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Vivek Joshi had flagged multiple issues, including deletion of names, in various states during the voter roll revision under SIR.

“Unfortunately, when women are shown to be grey, you are a vixen or a chudail. We are still stuck in that vamp stereotype. I hope that it changes because you can have a wonderful woman character who is also confused. But we haven't even reached there. Hopefully, we'll get there soon.”

Fatima Sana Shaikh



&Glitters

CLOSE UP

Taapsee recalls being replaced for the ‘worst reason’

Taapsee Pannu recalls being replaced from films for unexpected reasons.

Central Chronicle News

The actress revealed the unusual reason behind one such replacement incident.

Taapsee Pannu has opened up about some uncomfortable experiences from her Bollywood journey, including being removed from a film without being given a clear explanation. The actress recalled how she was once replaced at the request of the film's male lead, leaving her to wonder about the actual reason behind the decision. Taapsee said she was told that the hero did not want her in the project. According to the actress, she kept asking why she had been removed but never received a convincing explanation. She said she could think of several possible reasons, including insecurity or the actor preferring to work with someone he was closer to, but none were confirmed to her. Taapsee also remembered another incident that she described as the “worst reason” she had ever received for being replaced. She said she was told that the hero's wife did not like her. “I don't know why she didn't like me,” Taapsee said while recalling the incident. The actress did not reveal the iden-



Taapsee Pannu was last seen in Gandhari.



ties of either the actor or his wife. The actress has also spoken about making conscious choices to avoid being typecast in Bollywood. Taapsee recently revealed publicly that she has started turning down certain projects when she feels audiences may easily predict the outcome based on the actress chosen for a particular kind of role.

She explained that the industry often relies on familiar groups of actresses for glamorous parts and issue-based films. Taapsee said she sometimes tells filmmakers not to cast her if her presence could make the story predictable, adding that she has even tried to “de-sell” herself from some projects. Taapsee was last seen in the Netflix film Gandhari.

| SMALL SCREEN |

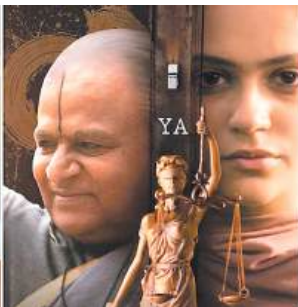
Raghubir Yadav recalls struggling with his Baapji look

Central Chronicle News

Raghubir Yadav underwent a dramatic physical transformation for his role as Baapji in Hunkkaar: The Roar, shaving his head to authentically portray the controversial spiritual leader. The actor admitted that seeing himself without hair for the first time was an unsettling experience and briefly made him uncomfortable with his own appearance. Yadav plays Sunil Chakosi, popularly known as Baapji, a powerful godman accused of sexually



assaulting a 17-year-old girl. Speaking about the role, the veteran actor revealed that he chose to shave his head instead of using a wig or prosthetic because he wanted the transformation to feel completely real. “When I saw myself for the first time without hair,



I almost started hating myself,” Yadav said. He recalled jokingly reacting to his new appearance by saying, “Bhai ab toh marr gaye,” as the change felt extremely unfamiliar. However, the transformation eventually helped him connect with Baapji. Yadav

HIGHLIGHT

● Raghubir Yadav reveals how shaving his head helped him completely transform into Baapji.

explained that once he moved away from his familiar appearance, the character's personality began taking over. He said the process helped him understand the character's pain and gave him a deeper perspective on how an actor can disappear into a role. The actor also described the atmosphere on Hunk-

Raghubir Yadav said shaving his head for Hunkkaar

kaar as different from his previous projects. The isolated nature of the set and the serious subject kept him immersed in the character for long periods. He described the experience as almost feeling “trapped in the character.”

Hunkkaar: The Roar is a six-episode courtroom crime drama streaming on JioHotstar. Created by Karan D Kapadia and Nitya Mehra, the series follows Meenu Rawat, played by Aneet Padda, as she takes legal action against Baapji.

CineBriefs

BEST OF THE REST

Web Series

The Family Man may soon enter theatres

Manoj Bajpayee's popular series The Family Man could soon make its way from OTT platforms to cinemas. Plans to develop the Raj & DK-created franchise as a film are currently being explored. A source said the idea has existed for some time and the team is actively working on the concept. However, the immediate focus remains on Season 4, for which the basic storyboard has reportedly been prepared. If plans proceed smoothly, filming could begin in early 2027. The series also stars Sharib Hashmi, Priyamani and Sharad Kelkar in key roles and has built a strong fan following through its previous seasons.

Hot Pair

Ali Fazal's journey makes Richa Chadha proud



Richa Chadha and Ali Fazal's relationship has grown alongside their careers, with Richa witnessing his journey through both struggles and successes. Recalling Ali's early days, Richa said she had seen him living in a modest home and owning just a bicycle. She also remembered being warned by people in the film industry that Ali's career would not go far. However, his subsequent work, including the Hollywood film Victoria & Abdul, proved those doubts wrong. Richa said watching his achievements after years of hard work brings her “pure happiness”. The couple first met on Fukrey's sets in 2012 and later married in 2020.



Music

Yami Gautam's Bhabhi Tabaahi is a festive treat

The new song Bhabhi Tabaahi from Nayvi Navelli brings together desi beats and contemporary sounds for a lively musical celebration. Featuring Yami Gautam Dhar as Mohini, the track plays out during her muh dikhayi and blends Bhangra, rap, classical influences and hip-hop. G. V. Prakash Kumar has composed and produced the song, while Vayu has penned the lyrics and Neeti Mohan lends her voice. The energetic arrangement gives the song a playful wedding vibe, while Yami's dance performance adds to its festive mood. Choreographed by Vijay Ganguly, Bhabhi Tabaahi introduces Mohini through music, movement and vibrant family celebrations

Trending on Insta

@kareenakapoorkhan

Kareena Kapoor shares her latest fitness routine

Kareena Kapoor gave fans a glimpse of her latest workout routine, sharing a detailed fitness chart featuring strength training, conditioning and cardio exercises. The actor posted the plan online, captioning it simply, “Loving it”.



Joanne and Noah begin living together

Netflix has unveiled the trailer for Nobody Wants This Season 3, with Joanne and Noah taking their relationship to the next stage as they move in together. Meanwhile, Sasha and Esther return to dating after their separation.



Kapil Sharma returns with season five

The Great Indian Kapil Show has returned for Season 5 on Netflix, with Ajay Devgn and the Drishyam: The Conclusion cast headlining the opening episode. The new season promises laughter, fun and candid conversations.



Mango Pachcha makes its OTT debut

Mango Pachcha is streaming on JioHotstar. Starring debutant Sanchith Sanjeev as Prashanth, the Kannada drama follows his quiet life in Mysuru, which takes an unexpected turn after his father's death, changing everything around him.



Himesh Reshammiya back on Indian Idol

Himesh Reshammiya returns as a judge on Sony Entertainment Television's Indian Idol: Legends Return. The new season features several former contestants, including Salman Ali, Abhijeet Sawant, Sayli Kamble and Rishi Singh.



Netflix's Love stars Aishwarya and Arjun

Netflix's Tamil series Love stars Aishwarya Lekshmi and Arjun Das as rival dating-app founders. Created by Soundarya Rajinikanth and directed by Balaji Mohan, the series explores love, ambition, relationships and digital-age connections.



Excursion

TRAVELOGUE

‘Chile’ The land of deserts, flamingos and volcanoes



Imagine waking up in a landscape so dry and vast that it feels more like Mars than Earth. Then, a few days later, finding yourself surrounded by pink flamingos, turquoise waters, colourful streets and snow-covered mountains. This is Chile, a country where every stop can feel like entering a completely different world. The adventure begins in the Atacama Desert, one of the dri-



est places on the planet. Its rugged valleys, endless salt flats and volcanic landscapes create an almost surreal setting. With very little rainfall in some areas, the terrain remains stark and dramatic, offering travellers a rare chance to experience nature in its most unusual form. But Atacama is not simply a land of sand and silence. Its salt lakes shimmer under the sun, while turquoise hot springs and geyser fields add unexpected bursts of colour. Around these waters, pink flamingos create striking scenes against the barren landscape. Llamas can also be spot-

HIGHLIGHT

● From Atacama's dryness to colourful streets, Chile feels wonderfully otherworldly.

ted across the high-altitude terrain, making the desert surprisingly rich in wildlife. As the journey continues, Chile changes its mood completely. Valparaíso brings a splash of colour with its steep hills, vibrant homes, street art and lively cafés. Walking through its winding streets feels like stepping inside a giant outdoor artwork, with

almost every corner offering a picture-perfect view. Then comes Santiago, where modern city life meets the mighty Andes. Snow-capped peaks rise dramatically beyond the capital, creating a spectacular natural backdrop.

From silent salt flats and star-filled desert skies to flamingos, volcanoes and colourful coastal neighbourhoods, Chile offers far more than a conventional holiday. It is a journey through landscapes that seem to belong to different corners of the world yet exist within one extraordinary country.



Nature paints a stunning picture in Chile

| TRAIL |

Umananda Island: A tiny gem amid the Brahmaputra

Central Chronicle News

Umananda Island blends spirituality, wildlife, and stunning Brahmaputra views in Assam.

In the middle of Assam's mighty Brahmaputra lies Umananda Island, a tiny destination where spirituality, wildlife and striking river views come together. Popularly known as Peacock Island, it offers travellers a peaceful escape just a short boat ride from Guwahati. Recognised by Assam Tourism and the Census of India as the world's smallest inhabited river island, Umananda proves that size is no measure of an experience. The journey begins with a ferry or boat ride across the Brahmaputra, offering beautiful views of the river and Guwahati's waterfront before reaching the island. The name Peacock Island is linked to the island's shape, which is said to resemble



Umananda Island in Assam is known for its tiny size.

HIGHLIGHT

● Peacock Island offers temples, mythology, wildlife, and peaceful river views for travellers.

a peacock spreading its feathers. Its appearance becomes particularly striking when viewed from the surrounding waters. The island's biggest attraction is the Umananda Temple, a revered shrine dedicated to Lord Shiva. Associated



with the Ahom period, the temple is believed to have been constructed during the reign of King Gadadhar Singha. Surrounded by the Brahmaputra, the ancient shrine has a distinctive setting that adds to its spiritual appeal. Umananda is also known for its association with the golden langur, an endangered primate found in parts of Assam and neighbouring regions. For wildlife enthusiasts, the possibility of seeing these unusual animals adds another dimension to the island visit. During Maha Shivratri, Umananda becomes particularly lively as devotees, tourists and sadhus gather at the temple. Outside the festival season, the island offers a quieter experience, allowing visitors to appreciate its natural surroundings, historic temple and expansive river views.

For travellers exploring Guwahati, Umananda Island offers a memorable combination of culture, mythology, nature and adventure in one compact destination.

Window View

CULTURAL GEMS ALONG INDIA'S GOLDEN QUADRILATERAL



Jaipur: Royal charm meets vibrant streets

Jaipur brings together Rajasthan's royal heritage, colourful markets and rich culinary traditions. As

a convenient stop along the Delhi-Mumbai stretch, the Pink City gives road-trippers plenty to explore. Walk through the grand Amber Fort, admire the distinctive Hawa Mahal and discover the elaborate City Palace. The city's bazaars are perfect for browsing handicrafts, textiles and jewellery, while local restaurants offer everything from dal baati churma to ghevar. Jaipur adds history, colour and a strong sense of Rajasthan to any Golden Quadrilateral journey.

Udaipur: Lakes, palaces and romance



Udaipur offers a refreshing change of scenery with its shimmering lakes, hilltop views and magnificent palaces. Travellers can explore the City Palace, enjoy a boat ride on Lake Pichola and wander through the old city's narrow lanes. The atmosphere

becomes especially beautiful around sunset, when the lake and surrounding architecture glow in warm light. From traditional Rajasthani food to colourful handicraft shops, Udaipur combines heritage with a relaxed pace. It makes an appealing detour for travellers seeking culture and scenic beauty.



Vadodara: Heritage at every turn

Vadodara is an inviting stop for travellers exploring Gujarat's cultural landscape. The city is known for the magnificent Laxmi Vilas Palace, one of its most recognisable

landmarks. History lovers can also explore museums, galleries and heritage sites reflecting the region's artistic traditions. Vadodara's food scene adds another reason to pause, with Gujarati favourites available across the city. Its relatively relaxed atmosphere makes it suitable for a leisurely road-trip break. The combination of royal architecture, art, food and local culture gives Vadodara a distinct character.



Nashik: Vineyards, temples and scenic escapes

Nashik offers road-trippers a blend of spirituality, nature and modern vineyard

experiences. Located along the Mumbai-side route, the city is known for its ancient temples and connection with the Godavari River. Travellers can visit Trimbakeshwar Temple, explore the Panchavati area or spend time among vineyards surrounding the city. The region's pleasant landscapes make it an enjoyable pause during a long drive. Local Maharashtrian food, riverside spots and nearby hills further add variety, making Nashik a destination that balances heritage with refreshing countryside experiences.

Bengaluru: Where modernity meets culture

Bengaluru brings together technology, green spaces, historic landmarks and a lively food scene. Travellers arriving along the southern stretch of the Golden Quadrilateral can explore attractions such as Bengaluru Palace, Cubbon Park and Lalbagh Botanical Garden. The city's café culture offers plenty of opportunities to relax after a long drive, while traditional South Indian eateries serve dosas, idlis and other regional favourites. With museums, markets, restaurants and cultural spaces spread across the city, Bengaluru offers road-trippers an energetic urban experience alongside pockets of greenery.



Sports



Recovery is the most important priority. Even though you think you are doing good, physically you might not be able to.

P V Sindhu
Indian badminton player

Kohli, Gill tons, Kuldeep's magic power India to emphatic victory

Virat Kohli's unbeaten 139 and skipper Shubman Gill's 110 powered India to an eight-wicket victory over West Indies, taking a 1-0 lead in the series.

Press Trust Of India

Kohli smashes 55th ODI century, crosses historic 15,000-run milestone in stunning chase.

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM:

Virat Kohli's magnificent unbeaten century and skipper Shubman Gill's commanding hundred powered India to an emphatic eight-wicket victory over the West Indies in the opening ODI on Sunday, giving the hosts a 1-0 lead in the three-match series.

Chasing 296, India cruised to 300/2 in 41.4 overs, riding on Kohli's unbeaten 139 off 88 balls, studded with 10 fours and nine sixes, and Gill's 110 off 107 deliveries. The duo stitched together a match-winning 150-run partnership for the second wicket.

Kohli reached another historic milestone, becoming only the second batter after Sachin Tendulkar to complete 15,000 ODI runs. His record-extending 55th ODI century also took his international hundred tally to 86.

Gill, meanwhile, registered his 10th ODI century after surviving an early chance on 11 when substitute fielder Keemo Paul dropped him off Jayden Seales.

The Indian captain combined elegant stroke-play with calculated



Virat Kohli completes 15,000 runs in ODI cricket

Batting maestro Virat Kohli on Sunday completed 15,000 runs in One-Day International cricket, becoming only the second batter in history after the legendary Sachin Tendulkar to achieve the feat. Kohli reached the landmark during the opening ODI between India and the West Indies here at the Greenfield International Stadium. He brought up his 15,000 runs with a majestic pull shot for a four off Alzarri Joseph towards midwicket, and celebrated with his arms aloft in air to acknowledge the crowd. Kohli has been the second highest run-scorer in the ODI format ever since he went past former Sri Lanka captain Kumar Sangakkara in October 2023, who scored 14,243 runs in 50-overs cricket and remains the third highest-ever scorer.



aggression, reaching his half-century in 49 balls before accelerating towards three figures.

After adding 75 runs with Rohit Sharma for the opening wicket, Gill joined Kohli in a partnership that effectively settled the contest.

Kohli displayed his trademark running between the wickets alongside breathtaking strokeplay. He attacked Alzarri Joseph with three consecutive boundaries and reached his half-cen-

tury in just 40 deliveries.

The former captain completed his century in 74 balls with a towering six over mid-wicket off Gudakesh Motie, triggering thunderous celebrations at Greenfield Stadium.

Gill eventually departed after his slog sweep off Roston Chase was caught by Jewel Andrew, but Kohli remained unbeaten to complete India's commanding victory.

Earlier, Kuldeep Yadav's outstanding spell of 4/40 prevented the West Indies from posting a considerably bigger total despite Justin Greaves' maiden ODI century.

Greaves struck 101 and shared a 135-run opening partnership with John Campbell, who scored an attacking 62 off 60 balls.

The visitors appeared firmly in control before Kuldeep dismissed Campbell and captain Shai Hope to halt their momentum.

The wrist-spinner then removed Greaves and Jewel Andrew off successive deliveries, leaving the West Indies struggling at 198/5 after reaching 176/1.

Amir Jangoo revived the innings with an unbeaten 58, adding valuable lower-order partnerships with Roston Chase and Matthew Forde.

His aggressive batting helped the visitors reach 295/7, setting India a competitive target.

Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

BOXING MEDAL RUSH

Three Indian boxers storm into Asian Games semifinals, assure medals



NISHIO: Indian boxers Parveen Hooda, Ankush Panghal and Narender Bernal secured three medals at the Asian Games on Sunday after winning their respective quarterfinal bouts. Parveen outclassed Uzbekistan's world championships silver medallist Navbakhor Khamidova 5-0 in the women's 65kg category. Returning after a 22-month suspension, she displayed excellent counter-punching and controlled the contest. Commonwealth Games

champion Ankush dominated Tajikistan's Nekruz Salimov 5-0 in the men's 80kg quarterfinal, advancing to the semifinals on his Asian Games debut. Narender (+90kg) overwhelmed Thailand's Adthapong Saengtep, forcing the referee to stop the contest within two minutes following three standing counts. However, Sachin Siwach bowed out after suffering a 0-5 defeat against Japan's Shunsuke Kitamoto in the men's 60kg quarterfinal. **PTI**

ALCARAZ CELEBRATES VICTORY

Carlos Alcaraz saves two match points to stun Fritz in London



LONDON: Carlos Alcaraz saved two match points before defeating Taylor Fritz 6-3, 4-6, 13-11 in a thrilling Laver Cup encounter, helping Team Europe establish a 7-5 lead over Team World. The Spaniard avenged last year's defeat against Fritz with exceptional drop shots at crucial moments. He fired an ace to save the first match point and produced a delicate drop shot to survive another before sealing victory on his third opportunity. Despite committing 30 unforced errors against Fritz's nine, Alcaraz dominated the winners count 42-20, delighting spectators, including Roger Federer and Andy Murray. Earlier, Alex de Minaur defeated Alexander Zverev, while Learner Tien overcame Flavio Cobolli. Zverev and Casper Ruud subsequently won their doubles encounter. **PTI**

OYARZABAL SEALS COMEBACK

Oyarzabal strikes late as Spain edge England in Wembley thriller



LONDON: World champions Spain extended their unbeaten streak to 39 matches with a thrilling 3-2 comeback victory over England in their Nations League opener at Wembley. Substitute Mikel Oyarzabal struck the winner in the 74th minute, once again breaking English hearts after scoring against them in the 2024 European Championship final. Lamine Yamal handed Spain an early lead before Antony Gordon equalised in the 36th minute. Harry Kane then put England ahead with a deflected header four minutes later. England squandered an opportunity to extend their advantage when Kane slipped while taking a second-half penalty. Alex Baena subsequently equalised before Oyarzabal completed Spain's comeback with a delicate chip over goalkeeper James Trafford. Elsewhere, Luka Modric scored as Croatia defeated the Czech Republic 2-1. **PTI**

INDIA'S CHESS TRIUMPH

Indian men clinch silver, women secure bronze at Chess Olympiad



SAMARKAND: India concluded the 46th Chess Olympiad with silver in the open section and bronze in the women's competition on Sunday. The Indian men drew with Hungary and finished with 18 points, securing silver ahead of Germany on a superior tie-break score. Uzbekistan claimed gold with 20 points after defeating Ukraine 2.5-1.5. In the women's section, India drew with Georgia to

clinch bronze, while China captured gold and Kazakhstan took silver. B Savitha Shri emerged as India's stand-out performer, scoring nine points from 10 games and winning individual gold. She secured a crucial draw against Georgia to ensure India's podium finish. Koneru Humpy and Vantika Agrawal earned individual bronze medals, while Divya Deshmukh claimed silver. **PTI**

PV Sindhu, Unnati Hooda exit as India end badminton medal hopes

Press Trust Of India

Indian shuttlers suffer disappointing quarterfinal exits, ending individual badminton medal hopes completely.

NAGOYA: India's individual badminton campaign at the Asian Games ended without a medal on Sunday after PV Sindhu and Unnati Hooda suffered hard-fought quarterfinal defeats against formidable opponents.

Two-time Olympic medallist Sindhu went down 21-11, 18-21, 10-21 to Tokyo Olympic champion Chen Yu Fei, while 19-year-old Hooda lost 16-21, 21-14, 17-21 to three-time world champion Akane Yamaguchi.

Playing her third match in less than 24 hours, Sindhu made an



Chen Yu Fei of China. Photo: PTI

impressive start, dominating the opening game with attacking strokes and excellent court coverage. However, Chen gradually regained control, winning the second game before overwhelming the Indian in the decider.

Hooda displayed remarkable determination against world No. 3 Yamaguchi. After los-

ing the opening game, the teenager fought back brilliantly to force a decider but eventually succumbed to the experienced Japanese shuttler.

India's disappointment extended to the doubles events. Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand lost 18-21, 9-21 to Malaysia's Pearly Tan and Thinaah Muralitharan in the wom-

HIGHLIGHT

● Sindhu loses three-game thriller against Chen despite dominating the opening game convincingly.

● Teenager Unnati stretches Yamaguchi to three games before suffering heartbreaking quarterfinal defeat.

en's doubles quarterfinals.

In mixed doubles, Dhruv Kapila and Tanisha Crasto produced a spirited performance before losing 14-21, 21-18, 18-21 to China's world No. 1 combination Feng Yan Zhe and Huang Dongping.

Tanisha expressed disappointment over missing a medal but praised their fighting spirit and improvement against elite opposition.

| IYER REMAINS CONFIDENT |

Rain cannot dampen India's Asian Games ambitions, says Iyer

Press Trust Of India

NAGOYA: India captain Shreyas Iyer has insisted that torrential rain and disrupted preparations will not become excuses when his team faces Afghanistan in Monday's Asian Games quarterfinal.

Persistent rainfall in Nagoya over the past two days has severely affected India's practice schedule. Their only recent competitive outing came against Japan in a rain-shortened five-over contest, which India nar-

rowly won by two runs.

However, Iyer stressed that professional cricketers must remain mentally prepared to overcome unexpected challenges. Despite limited practice, the team managed batting drills, warm-up sessions and bowling exercises during the downpour.

The skipper emphasised the importance of adapting quickly to unfamiliar pitches and warned against underestimating Afghanistan, despite



“We cannot cite the reason of rain because we are a bunch of professionals. Such hurdles keep coming and mentally we have to be prepared.”

Shreyas Iyer
India captain

India's recent 3-0 T20I series victory over them.

He also praised Japan's discipline and sporting environment, describing the team's experiences in Tokyo and Nagoya as memorable.

With India's women's team already securing gold, expectations surrounding the men's campaign have increased. Iyer believes such pressure should inspire players to perform rather than distract them from their immediate objectives.

Ancy, Sarvesh lead India's podium charge

India enjoyed a rewarding day in Asian Games athletics as Ancy Sojan and Sarvesh Kushare narrowly missed gold medals, while Parul Chaudhary and Harita Bhadra added bronzes to strengthen the country's overall medal tally.

Press Trust Of India

Ancy misses gold by two centimetres; Sarvesh, Parul secure crucial athletics medals.

NAGOYA: India collected four medals in athletics at the Asian Games on Sunday, with Ancy Sojan and Sarvesh Kushare claiming silver medals after narrowly missing gold, while Parul Chaudhary and Harita Bhadra contributed bronze medals.

Ancy came agonisingly close to winning the women's long jump title after producing an impressive leap of 6.53 metres on her fifth attempt. The Indian appeared set for gold until China's Huang Yingying delivered a decisive 6.55m jump, snatching victory by just two centimetres.

Ancy's performance highlighted her growing stature in Asian athletics, although the narrow defeat denied India another gold medal. Compatriot Shaili Singh also endured disappointment, finishing outside the podium despite a



India's Ancy Sojan competes in the women's long jump final event during the ongoing 20th Asian Games

competitive effort.

Shaili's best jump of 6.42m initially placed her in contention for bronze. However, China's Mengyi Tan registered 6.46m to move ahead of the Indian and claim the third position.

In the men's high jump, Sarvesh Kushare experienced a similarly frustrating finish after leading for much of the competition. He eventually settled for silver behind Chinese Taipei's Chao Hsuan-Fu following a closely contested final.

Both athletes cleared 2.25 metres, but Chao succeeded on his first attempt, while Kushare required two attempts to clear the same height. The earlier miss proved decisive, pushing the Indian into second place despite matching the winning height.

Meanwhile, experienced distance runner Parul Chaudhary continued her impressive Asian Games record by securing her second consecutive bronze medal in the women's 3000m steeplechase.

Parul clocked a personal best of 9:08.67,

Harita Bhadra wins bronze



India's Harita Bhadra clinched the bronze medal in the women's 200m at the Asian Games, clocking 23.20 seconds in the final here on Sunday. Bhadra finished third, just ahead of Japan's Ido Abigeirufuka, who clocked 23.21 seconds. Singapore's Shanti Pereira won the gold with a season-best 22.78 seconds, while China's Chen Yujie took the silver in 22.93 seconds. The other Indian in the final, Unnathi Aiyappa Bolland, finished sixth with a timing of 23.48 seconds.

improving on her previous performance and demonstrating remarkable consistency at the continental level.

Bahrain's Winfred Yavi captured gold, while Kazakhstan's Norah Jeruto Tanui secured silver with a timing of 9:06.82.

Harita Bhadra also contributed to India's

medal collection with a bronze, completing a productive day for the country's track and field contingent.

Despite narrowly missing two gold medals, the Indian athletes delivered encouraging performances against strong continental opposition.

The four-medal haul strengthened India's

overall position at the Games, taking the country's tally to 37 medals, including four golds and 16 bronzes.

With several athletics events still remaining, India's contingent will look to build on Sunday's performances and convert further medal opportunities into podium finishes.

Squash: Two silvers but no Olympic berth



There were high hopes from Anahat Singh and Abhay Singh to secure Olympic berths with gold-winning show in squash but the Indian players left with silver medals after straight-game defeats in both women's and men's singles finals. Abhay Singh, ranked 24th in the world, was beaten 11-9, 11-5, 11-5 by defending champion Ng Eain Yow in 44 minutes. After a tightly contested opening game, the Malaysian controlled the tempo and length and repeatedly forced Abhay into difficult retrievals. Abhay admitted that the Malaysian's experience in major matches made a difference and said he would return to the drawing board, while stressing that another route to Olympic qualification remains available. Anahat Singh, 18, also had to settle for silver after losing 4-11, 4-11, 7-11 to Malaysia's world No. 5 and defending champion Sivasangari Subramaniam in 27 minutes. The results extended India's wait for an individual Asian Games squash gold. Saurav Ghosal had also finished with silver at the 2014 and 2023 editions.

Ancy Sojan's parents celebrate silver, cherish daughter's Asian Games achievement

●**THRISSUR:** Joy and a touch of disappointment filled the home of long jumper Ancy Sojan on Sunday as her parents and a large gathering watched her win a silver medal for India at the Asian Games on a screen set up in Nattika here. The family had hoped Ancy would clinch gold, but the silver medal still brought immense happiness. As soon as she secured the medal, crackers were burst and people gathered around to congratulate the family. Rajya Sabha MP Jebi Mather was also present to watch the event with them. "We have received a silver medal. We were expecting gold. The weather affected us very adversely. Even so, we are happy to get the silver medal; after all, we were able to win a medal for India. That is very gratifying," Ancy's father Sojan told reporters. Sojan, an autorickshaw driver by profession, said the family had worked and hoped for the moment for nearly 10 to 15 years. "Usually, in competitions like this, the final jump tends to be an improved jump. Unfortunately, for some reason, that didn't happen. We had to be content with second place. Nevertheless, we are happy," he said. He said the family's next goal was for Ancy to reach the World Championship level. "Our desire now is that we need to reach the World Championship level. Next year's World Championship is our next goal," he said. Sojan said the weather conditions had a major impact on Ancy's performance. "The truth of the matter is that the weather did not favour us as expected," he said.

Tejaswin claims bronze medal in men's decathlon



Star Indian track and field athlete Tejaswin Shankar claimed the bronze medal in men's decathlon after he won the 1500m race -- the last event of a highly taxing competition -- at the Asian Games here on Sunday. Shankar won the bronze after finishing third with 7,934 points. National record holder Shankar entered the second day at the top of the standings with 4,338 points after a strong opening day across the 100m, long jump, shot put, high jump and 400m. Across 10 events over two days, Tejaswin saved his best for last, winning the 1500m in 4:33.09. Earlier this year, he won a bronze medal at the Glasgow Commonwealth Games.

| ASIAD HOCKEY |

Indian women beat Singapore 7-0 to finish unbeaten, to play Korea in semifinals

Press Trust Of India

KAKAMIGAHARA: Sunelita Toppo scored a brace as the Indian women's hockey team trounced Singapore 7-0 in their final Pool B match to set up the Asian Games semifinal against Korea here Sunday.

India topped Pool B with five wins from as many games. The semifinal is scheduled for September 30.

Skipper Salima Tete (17th minute), Sunelita (22nd, 24th), Lalremsiami (26th), Rutuja Dadaso Pisal (29th), Nikki Pradhan (35th) and Deepika (55th) scored for India.

Defending champions and reigning Olympic silver medallist China will take on hosts Japan in the other semifinal.

Unfancied Singapore gave India a run for their money in the first quarter even though the Salima Tete-led side dominated the proceedings.



Singapore were particularly brilliant in their penalty corner defence as they denied India as many as eight penalty corners.

The play was mostly in the Singapore half with India mounting attacks after attacks and in the process earning innumerable penalty corners but the Singaporeans defended with heart to deny their opponents.

But two minutes into the second quarter, skipper Salima finally gave India the lead with a fine field goal.

In the 22nd minute, Sunelita doubled India's

lead scoring from a botched up penalty corner effort.

Sunelita again registered her name in the score sheet, again directing in a Deepika's flick from a penalty corner from a variation.

Lalremsiami then extended the lead deflecting in another Deepika flick from a penalty corner three minutes later.

Rutuja made the scoreline 5-0 with a fine field goal in the 30th minute.

But the Indians were quite sloppy from penalty corners as they converted just three from 15 they earned in the first two quarters.

The Indians continued to earn penalty corners a galore but failed to convert them from direct tries.

Four minutes into the third quarter, India extended their lead through Nikki Pradhan, who pushed home a loose ball from another messed up set piece.

The Indians secured five more penalty corners in the third quarter but failed to convert them as the Singaporeans defended in numbers.

Fo records, India had 24 penalty corners in the first three quarters out of which they converted just three, that too from variations and a rebound.

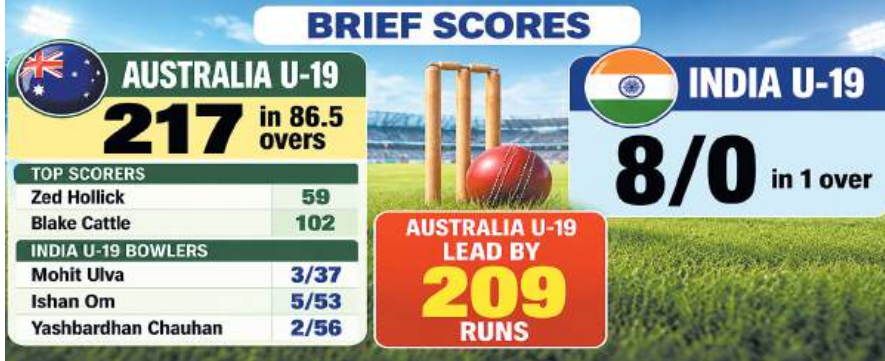
Five minutes from the hooter, India secured two back-to-back penalty corners and Deepika finally scored with a powerful flick to the left of the Singapore goalkeeper.

Forgettable domestic return for Babar Azam

KARACHI: Babar Azam endured a disappointing return to Pakistan's domestic first-class cricket, failing in both innings of an Abbottabad Presidents Cup match on Sunday in his first red-ball appearance at this level in more than six years. Babar was dismissed for four on the fourth and final day, trapped leg before wicket by Pakistan teammate Faheem Ashraf while playing for Oil and Gas Development Company Limited (OGDCL) against Khan Research Laboratories (KRL). The former Pakistan captain had also failed in the first innings, scoring 12 before being caught at short mid-wicket off a short-pitched delivery from pacer Arshad Iqbal. Babar's twin failures triggered sharp reactions on social media, with critics questioning his form and approach while his supporters defended the star batter.

| YOUTH TEST |

Ishan Om's five-for helps India U-19 bundle out Australia for 217



Press Trust Of India

RAJKOT: Left-arm orthodox spinner Ishan Om claimed a superb five-for to help India U-19 bundle Australia out for a mere 217 on the opening day of the 1st four-day Youth Test, with the hosts trailing by 209 runs in the first innings.

India U-19 were 8 for no loss after batting for one over before the close of play to continue dominating the proceedings against the visitors, for whom Blake Cattle's 102 (198 balls; 14 fours) and

a half-century from Zed Hollick (59) were the only bright spots.

It proved to be a wrong call from Australia captain Matthew Lough to bat after winning the toss as the visitors slipped to 27 for three in initial exchanges.

Mohit Ulva (3/37) struck twice in the first five overs while Om got into the act after pinning Neel Patel (11) in front of the wickets as India U-19 took control of the proceedings.

Hollick and Cattle carried out a fine recovery

job for their side as the two batters put on 147 runs for the fourth wicket.

Hollick became Ulva's third victim when he fell for a patient knock of 59 (160 balls, 7 fours), and Cattle was cleaned up by Yashbardhan Chauhan (2/56), as Australia collapsed on either side of their fourth-wicket association.

From 174 for four, Australia were bowled out for 217 in the 87th over as Om ran through their batting line-up to return 5/53.



“Moral cowards are those who refuse to negotiate peace, deny humanitarian aid, and violate international law.”
Thorgerdur Katrin Gunnarsdottir
Foreign Minister of Iceland

Eviction of 87-year-old sparks housing protests in Madrid

Protesters camped out in Madrid’s Puerta del Sol following the forced eviction of an 87-year-old woman over an unaffordable rent hike.



People set up tents during a protest following the eviction last Wednesday of 87-year-old Maricarmen to demand stronger laws to protect renters at Sol square in Madrid, Spain. (AP Photo)

Press Trust Of India

MADRID: Protesters outraged by the eviction of an 87-year-old woman spent the night camped in Madrid’s historic Puerta del Sol plaza, where more people – including multigenerational families – joined them Sunday for a second day of demonstrations over Spain’s housing crisis.

Tens of thousands of people marched in Madrid on Saturday to protest the eviction of Maria del Carmen Abascal from an apartment in the upscale Retiro neighbourhood, which had been her home for decades. Protesters are demanding protective measures for tenants, anti-fraud rules and a ban on evictions without alter-

native housing. Many protesters refused to go home at the end of Saturday’s march, pitching tents in Puerta del Sol to stay through the night.

“We will remain here” until the government passes new laws, including indefinite rental contracts, and stops evictions like Abascal’s, Alicia del Rio, spokesperson of the Tenants’ Union, which led the protests, told journalists on Sunday from the plaza. Del Rio said they would camp at least until next Tuesday, when Spain’s Socialist-led government will hold a cabinet meeting and is expected to announce new measures.

Rising costs and a housing shortage are pricing many Spaniards out

FASTFACTS

● **The Tenants’ Union is demanding indefinite rental contracts, anti-fraud rules, and an end to evictions without alternative housing.**

● **A severe shortage of over 500,000 homes in Spain has driven up rental costs far beyond local income and pension levels.**

of the market, despite strong economic growth in Europe’s fourth-largest economy. Incomes have not kept pace with the rising housing costs, and analysts say tourism and immigration-driven population growth in cities have placed further pressure

on the limited housing supply. The Bank of Spain estimated that the country had a shortage of about 550,000 homes last year, with Madrid, Barcelona and Valencia accounting for a substantial share.

The weekend demonstrations in the symbolic Madrid plaza reminded many in Spain of the historic demonstrations starting May 15, 2011, when members of the “indignados movement” camped for 28 days straight, sparking similar sit-ins across the country and the world. That movement was a reaction to evictions and other economic problems following a global economic crisis, including unemployment, austerity measures and corrup-

tion. Estefania Molina, a political scientist and columnist, said the stakes of popular frustration are growing. In 2011, “people protested because they couldn’t buy an apartment.” “Today, the protest is about not being able to rent a room in someone else’s home,” she said on Spain’s public broadcaster, RTVE.

Taken out of her apartment on a stretcher, Abascal, referred to by protesters as “Maricarmen,” was greeted by supporters as she was loaded into an ambulance. Spanish media reported that Abascal’s father first rented the apartment in 1956 and that she remained there as a tenant under rent controls after her parents died.

Azerbaijani woman allegedly gang-raped in Lahore

LAHORE: A 20-year-old Azerbaijani woman was allegedly gang-raped by three men in Pakistan’s Lahore after being taken to a flat in the Defence Housing Authority area, police said on Sunday. Police have registered a case against the three suspects and identified the main accused, while raids are underway to arrest them. Police officer Anjum Bashir said the woman had arrived in Pakistan from Baku more than two weeks ago for business purposes and was staying in Lahore’s Raiwind area. ccording to police, two women took her to a cafe in the Defence Housing Authority area around 11 pm on Sept 25.

Rising seas erode California beach town and threaten rail line

Press Trust Of India

Coastal erosion in San Clemente is destroying public beaches, damaging oceanfront property, and repeatedly disrupting the nation’s second-busiest passenger rail line.

SAN CLEMENTE : For years, residents of this Southern California beach town could walk a mile along a stretch of cream-colored sand and dip their toes in the waves lapping ashore. That trip has been cut short.

Coastal erosion has been eating away at the



Oceanfront homes sit along the coastline near North Beach in San Clemente, Calif.

beach in San Clemente, known for nearly a century as a “Spanish village by the sea.” The rising sea and crashing waves have pushed the shoreline landward, splitting the city’s picturesque North Beach. Crumbling seaside bluffs have damaged oceanfront homes

and forced the repeated closure of a passenger rail line considered the second busiest in the country. It’s one of many California coastal communities grappling with the effects of sea level rise. Nearly a decade ago, scientists forecast that more than half of South-

FASTFACTS

● **Climate change, rising sea levels, stronger El Niño events, and urban development blocking natural sediment flow are accelerating shoreline loss across Southern California.**

ern California’s beaches could significantly erode by 2100, radically altering how people live and recreate along the state’s famed coast.

“The constant pressure is sea level rise,” said Sean Vitousek, research oceanographer with the US Geological Survey.

| UK US AIRBASE |

UK counter-terror Police probe RAF base threat

Press Trust Of India

LONDON: The UK’s counter-terror police are leading an investigation on Sunday after several men were arrested on suspicion of offences under the Explosives Act near a Royal Air Force (RAF) base in a UK village.

Gloucestershire Constabulary declared a “major incident” as the British Army sent in its bomb squad and homes were evacuated in Whelford, south-west England, near RAF Fairford. A UK government spokesperson said British Prime Minister Andy Burnham was receiv-



ing updates on the incident at the air base, which hosts a large number of US Air Force personnel and operations.

After the start of the US-Israeli war on Iran on February 28, the UK government allowed the American military to use the Fairford base to strike

Iranian missile sites. “The Army’s specialist explosive ordnance disposal team are currently examining a number of vehicles,” Gloucestershire police said.

“The local residents are being evacuated to a nearby leisure centre. A cordon is currently in

place, but we’d like to reassure people that we believe this incident is contained,” it stated.

According to the government officials, the investigation into the incident is being led by counter-terror police and UK Defence Secretary Wes Streeting praised the “specialist teams” for acting “swiftly” as the “Armed Forces are on standby 24/7”. “We are grateful to the emergency services, who have acted quickly to detain several suspects and put measures in place to keep the community safe. “It would be inappropriate to comment further

whilst investigations are ongoing,” a UK government spokesperson said.

RAF Fairford has been used to launch US operations against Iran during the ongoing war in West Asia.

A spokesperson for the US Air Force declined to discuss specific force protection measures, but stated that the “501st combat support wing and our fellow UK-based wings remain vigilant and will take appropriate actions to ensure the safety and security of our US service members, civilians, contractors, and their families.”

Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

BRAZIL ELECTION RIO CRIME

Rio residents find their own way to tackle gangs as crime dominates Brazil’s election



RIO DE JANEIRO: Crime is the top concern for Brazilians ahead of October’s presidential election, with candidates competing to offer the toughest – and most effective – approach to the deep-seated problem. Senator Flávio Bolsonaro, son of ex-President Jair Bolsonaro, is seeking to defeat President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, with a promise to loosen organised crime’s grip on Brazil, particularly in Rio de Janeiro.

After Rio’s deadliest-ever police operation last year, in which more than 120 people were killed, polls indicated that the hard-line policies Sen. Bolsonaro touts are popular. Lula, meanwhile, has argued for a more prominent role of the federal government in the fight against organised crime as well as greater coordination between governmental institutions. But while

politicians trade barbs, residents in Rio de Janeiro have been designing their own responses, with ex-traffickers launching podcasts and grieving mothers stepping up to stop youth recruitment. Many residents, community leaders and experts say that the current approach – which favours armed confrontations between police and the groups – is inefficient and often results in indiscriminate loss of life. They’re taking on crime on their own to bridge that gap.

Once a week, a group of former drug-traffickers gather in a small recording studio on the outskirts of Rio to dissect their past lives of crime and those of their guests. They air the episodes of 01 Sobreviventes, or 01 Survivors, on YouTube and streaming platforms.

NEPAL AVALANCHE STRIKE

12 missing after avalanche strikes Himlung Himal peak

KATHMANDU: Twelve people, including climbers, went missing on Sunday after an avalanche struck the Himlung Himal peak in Nepal’s Manang district, police said. The avalanche at the base camp of the 7,126 metre Himlung Himal peak in the Nar Phu area buried a tent where nine climbers and 13 support staff, were taking shelter. Around a dozen people are missing after the incident, said Deputy Superintendent of Police of the Armed Police Force Shailendra Thapa. Some human casualties are also feared in the incident, Thapa said, highlighting that all those missing are Nepali nationals.

A helicopter has been dispatched to the incident site for a rescue operation, and further information is awaited, he said. The missing belong to Himalayan Holidays Nepal (HHN) and Imagine Nepal Treks, who lost contact with their people after the avalanche struck, according to an official at HHN. “One of the expedition members telephoned and informed that their friends have gone missing after the avalanche hit the base camp,” the official said.

CONGO BOAT CAPSIZE

At least 12 dead as boat capsizes in Congo’s Lake Kivu

BUKAVU: A vessel carrying traders capsized in Lake Kivu in eastern Congo, killing at least 12 and leaving dozens missing, authorities said Sunday. The vessel was carrying more than 50 people when it capsized on Saturday night on Idjwi Island, in South Kivu province, said Félix Habiragi, chief of the village of Kisheke near the scene of the accident. He said that about 15 people have been rescued. The cause of the accident was not immediately clear.

Deadly boat accidents are common in Congo, where rivers and lakes are a major means of transport for its more than 100 million people. The vessel was transporting fish traders and goods from Idjwi Island’s Bwina to Boza, according to Muhindo Ntambuka Pascal, the local administrator. Videos that appear to be from the scene showed villagers and other passengers pulling bodies from the lake. Christian Amini Ndahira, a resident of Ijwi, said he lost a friend on the boat. “We had even spoken in the evening, before he boarded that boat. It’s so sad for his family and for me.”

UK NORTHERN IRELAND

Tensions run high in Northern Ireland after contentious march given go-ahead



LONDON: British Prime Minister Andy Burnham called for calm in Northern Ireland on Sunday after a contentious parade was given the go-ahead by the High Court in Belfast in a late-night sitting. Thousands of protesters, many wearing balaclavas, gathered to block the marchers from the Orange Order, a group hugely supportive of Northern Ireland being part of the UK, from proceeding down a street in the town of Portadown where many favor unification with the Republic of Ireland.

Fireworks were set off nearby about five minutes before its 8 am start time, and protesters were notified on a loudspeaker that they will be liable for arrest for taking part in an

unlicensed counter parade. Burnham appealed for “calm on all sides” over the parade, saying there have been “big gains made in Northern Ireland, and we don’t want to see things go backwards.” Sunday’s march marks the first time in almost 30 years that an Orange Order parade has been allowed to go down Garvaghy Road.

The road was a notorious flashpoint before the Good Friday Agreement of 1998 largely ended bloodshed that left 3,600 people dead, some 50,000 wounded and thousands bereaved. In the years before the agreement, there were violent clashes on Garvaghy Road over several summers and requiring major security operations.